

Axiomatizing changing conceptions of the geometric continuum II: Archimedes – Descartes – Tarski – Hilbert

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Abstract

In Part I of this paper [Bal16] we argued that the first-order systems HP5 and EG (defined below) are modest complete descriptive axiomatization of most (described more precisely below) of Euclidean geometry. In this paper we argue: 1) that Tarski's first-order axiom set \mathcal{E}^2 is a modest complete descriptive axiomatization of Cartesian geometry; 2) that the theories $EG_{\pi,C,A}$ and $\mathcal{E}_{\pi,C,A}^2$ are modest complete descriptive axiomatizations of the extensions of these geometries obtained to include area and circumference of the circle; and 3) that Hilbert's full second-order system in the Grundlagen is an immodest axiomatization of any of these geometries but a modest descriptive axiomatization the late 19th century conception of the real plane.

In Part I [Bal16], we expounded the following historical description. Euclid founds his theory of area (of circles and polygons) on Eudoxus' theory of proportion and thus (implicitly) on the axiom of Archimedes. Hilbert shows any 'Hilbert plane' interprets a field and recovers Euclid's theory for polygons in a first-order theory. The Greeks and Descartes dealt only with geometric objects. The Greeks regarded multiplication as an operation from line segments to plane figures. Descartes interpreted it as an operation from line segments to line segments. In the late 19th century, multiplication becomes an operation on points (that is 'numbers' in the coordinatizing field).

We built on Detlefsen's notion of complete descriptive axiomatization and defined a *modest complete descriptive axiomatization* of a data set Σ (of facts in the sense of Hilbert) to be a collection of sentences that imply all the sentences in Σ and 'not too many more'. Of course, there will be further results proved about this topic. But if this

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set of axioms introduces essentially new concepts to the area and certainly if it contradicts the understanding of the original era, we deem the axiomatization immodest. We explain the role of these definitions in terms of specific axiomatizations of various areas of geometry that we now describe.

1 Background and Definitions

We begin by distinguishing several topics in plane geometry¹ that represent distinct data sets in Detlefsen's sense. In cases where *certain axioms are explicit, they are included in the data set.*

Notation 1.1. (*5 data sets of geometry*)

Euclid I, polygonal geometry: *Book I (except I.22), Book II.1-II.13, Book III (except III.1 and III.17), Book VI.*)

Euclid II, circle geometry: *Add I.22, II.14, III.1, III.17 and Book IV.*

Archimedes, arc length and π : *Add XII.2, Book IV, (area of circle proportional to square of the diameter), approximation of π , circumference of circle proportional to radius, Archimedes axiom.*

Descartes, higher degree polynomials: *n th roots; coordinate geometry; multiplication of line segments gives a line segment.*

Hilbert: *The 19th century analysis of real numbers*

The division of the data set is somewhat arbitrary and made with the subsequent axiomatizations in mind. We explain placing the Axiom of Archimedes in the Archimedes data set in discussing Hilbert's analysis of the relation between axiom groups in Sections 3 and 4. Further, we distinguish the Cartesian data set, in Descartes's historical sense, from Hilbert's identification of Cartesian geometry with the Dedekind line and explain the reason for that distinction in Section 3.

We formulate our formal system in a two-sorted vocabulary τ chosen to make the Euclidean axioms (formulate either as in Euclid or Hilbert) easily translatable into first-order logic. This vocabulary includes unary predicates for points and lines, a binary incidence relation, a ternary collinearity relation, a quaternary relation for line congruence and a 6-ary relation for angle congruence. The *circle-circle intersection postulate* asserts if the interiors of two circles (neither contained in the other) have a common point, the circles intersect in two points.

¹In the first instance we draw from Euclid: Books I-IV, VI and XII.1, 2 are clearly plane geometry; XI, the rest of XII and XIII are solid geometry; V and X deal with a general notion proportion and with incommensurability. Thus, below we partition Books I-IV, VI, XII.1,2 and consider certain geometrical aspects of V and X.

The field F is *associated* with a plane Π if Π is the Cartesian plane on F^2 .

Notation 1.2. Consider the following axiom sets².

1. first-order axioms

HP, HP5: We write HP for Hilbert’s incidence, betweenness³, and congruence axioms. We write HP5 for HP plus the parallel postulate. A *Hilbert plane* is any model of HP. A *Pythagorean field* is any field associated with a model of HP5; such fields are characterized by closure under $\sqrt{(1 + a^2)}$.

EG: The *axioms for Euclidean geometry*, denoted EG⁴, consist of HP5 and in addition the circle-circle intersection postulate. A *Euclidean plane* is a model of EG; the associated *Euclidean field* is closed under \sqrt{a} ($a > 0$).

\mathcal{E}^2 : Tarski’s axiom system [Tar59] for a plane over a real closed field (RCF⁵).

EG_π and \mathcal{E}_π : Two new systems extend EG and \mathcal{E}^2 .

2. Hilbert’s continuity axioms, infinitary and second-order

AA: The sentence in $L_{\omega_1, \omega}$ expressing the Archimedean axiom.

Dedekind: Dedekind’s second-order axiom that there is a point in each cut in the line.

Notation 1.3. Closing a plane under ruler and compass constructions corresponds to closing the coordinatizing ordered field under square roots of positive numbers to give a Euclidean field⁶. As in Example 4.3.4 of [Bal16], F_s (surd field) denotes the minimal field whose geometry is closed under ruler and compass construction. Having named 0, 1, each member in F_s is definable over the emptyset⁷ in EG .

We referred to [Har00] to assert in [Bal16] the sentences of Euclid I are provable in HP5 and the additional sentences of Euclid II are provable in EG. Here we consider the data sets of Archimedes, Descartes, and Dedekind and argue.

Claim 1.4. 1. *Tarski’s axioms \mathcal{E}^2 are a modest descriptive axiomatization of the Cartesian data set.*

²The names HP, HP5, and EG come from [Har00] and \mathcal{E}^2 from [Tar59].

³These include Pasch’s axiom (B4 of [Har00]) as we axiomatize *plane* geometry. Hartshorne’s version of Pasch is that any line intersecting one side of triangle must intersect one of the other two.

⁴In the vocabulary here, there is a natural translation of Euclid’s axioms into first-order statements. The construction axioms have to be viewed as ‘for all– there exist sentences. The axiom of Archimedes is of course not first-order. We write Euclid’s axioms for those in the original [Euc56] vrs (first-order) axioms for Euclidean geometry, EG. Note that EG is equivalent to (i.e. has the same models) as the system laid out in Avigad et al [ADM09], namely, planes over fields where every positive element has a square root. The latter system builds the use of diagrams into the proof rules.

⁵RCF abbreviates ‘real closed field’; these are the ordered fields such that every positive element has a square root and every odd degree polynomial has at least one root.

⁶We call this process ‘taking the Euclidean closure’ or adding *constructible* numbers.

⁷That is for each point a constructible by ruler and compass there is a formula $\phi_a(x)$ such that $EG \vdash (\exists!x)\phi(x)$.

2. EG_{π}^2 (\mathcal{E}_{π}) are a modest descriptive axiomatization of Euclidean Geometry (Cartesian geometry) extended by the Archimedean data set.
3. Hilbert's axioms groups I-V give a modest descriptive axiomatization of the second-order geometrical statements concerning the plane \mathbb{R}^2 but the system is immodest for even the Cartesian data set.

2 From Descartes to Tarski

Descartes and Archimedes represent distinct and indeed orthogonal directions for making the geometric continuum precise. Archimedes goes directly to transcendental numbers while Descartes investigates curves defined by polynomials. Of course, neither thought in these terms, although Descartes' resistance to squaring the circle shows his awareness of the problem. Thus we deviate from chronological order and discuss Descartes before Archimedes, as in Section 3, we will extend both Euclidean and Cartesian geometry by adding π .

As we highlighted in Notation 1.1, the most important aspects of the Cartesian data set are: 1) to explicitly (on page 1 of [Des54]) define the multiplication of line segments to give a line segment, which breaks with Greek tradition⁸ and 2) on the same page to announce constructions for the extraction⁹ of n th roots for all n . Marco Panza [Pan11] formulates in terms of ontology a key observation,

The first point concerns what I mean by 'Euclid's geometry'. This is the theory expounded in the first six books of the Elements and in the Data. To be more precise, I call it 'Euclid's plane geometry', or EPG, for short. It is not a formal theory in the modern sense, and, a fortiori, it is not, then, a deductive closure of a set of axioms. Hence, it is not a closed system, in the modern logical sense of this term. Still, it is no¹⁰ more a simple collection of results, nor a mere general insight. It is rather a well-framed system, endowed with a codified language, some basic assumptions, and relatively precise deductive rules. And this system is also closed, in another sense ([Jul64] 311-312), since it has sharp-cut limits fixed by its language, its basic assumptions, and its deductive rules. In what follows, especially in section 1, I shall better account for some of these limits, namely for those relative to its ontology. More specifically, I shall describe this ontology as being composed of objects available within this system, rather than objects which are required or purported to exist by force of the assumptions that this system is based on and of the results proved within it. This makes EPG radically different from modern mathematical theories (both formal and

⁸His proof is still based on Eudoxus.

⁹This extraction cannot be done in EG, since EG is satisfied in the field which has solutions for all quadratic equations but not those of odd degree. See section 12 of [Har00].

¹⁰There appears to be a typo. Probably 'more a' should be deleted. jb

informal). One of my claims is that Descartes geometry partially reflects this feature of EPG.

In our context we interpret ‘composed of objects available within this system’ model theoretically as the existence of certain starting points and the closure of each model of the system under admitted constructions.

We take Panza’s ‘open’ system to refer to Descartes’ ‘linked constructions’¹¹ which greatly extend the ruler and compass constructions licensed in EG. Descartes endorses such ‘mechanical’ constructions as the duplication of the cubic as geometric. According to Molland (page 38 of [Mol76]) “Descartes held the possibility of representing a curve by an equation (specification by property)” to be equivalent to its “being constructible in terms of the determinate motion criterion (specification by genesis)”. But as Crippa points out (page 153 of [Cri14a]) Descartes did not prove this equivalence and there is some controversy as to whether the 1876 work of Kempe solves the precise problem. Descartes rejects as non-geometric any method for quadrature of the circle.

Descartes’ extension to organize geometry via the degree of polynomials (page 48 of [Des54]) is reflected in the modern field of ‘real’ algebraic geometry: the study of polynomial equalities and inequalities in the theory of real closed ordered fields. To justify this geometry we adapt Tarski’s ‘elementary geometry’. This move makes a significant conceptual step away from Descartes whose constructions were on segments and who did not regard a line as a set of points while Tarski’s axioms are given entirely formally in a one sorted language of relations on points. In our modern understanding of an axiom set the translation is routine, but anachronistic.

Theorem 2.1. *Tarski [Tar59] gives a theory equivalent to the following system of axioms \mathcal{E}^2 . He proves the theory is first-order complete for the vocabulary τ .*

1. *Euclidean plane geometry*¹² (HP5 or EG)
2. *Either of the following two sets of axioms which are equivalent over 1):*
 - (a) *An infinite set of axioms declaring the field is formally real and that every polynomial of odd-degree has a root.*
 - (b) *The axiom schema of continuity described just below.*

Tarski’s system differs from Descartes in that with Tarski’s model theory we can specify a minimal model, the plane over the *real algebraic numbers*¹³ of the theory, one that contains exactly (as we now understand) the objects Descartes viewed as solutions of those problems that it was ‘possible to solve’ (Chapter 6 of [Cri14b]).

¹¹The types of constructions allowed are analyzed in detail in Section 1.2 of [Pan11] and the distinctions with the Cartesian view in Section 3. See also [Bos01].

¹²I can write either HP5 or EG since circle-circle intersection holds in the plane over a real closed field.

¹³That is, a real number that satisfies a polynomial with rational coefficients. A real number that satisfies no such polynomial is called *transcendental*.

The connection with Dedekind’s approach is seen by Tarski’s actual formulation as in [GT99]; the first-order completeness of the theory is imposed by an **Axiom Schema of Continuity** - a definable version of Dedekind cuts:

$$(\exists a)(\forall x)(\forall y)[\alpha(x) \wedge \beta(y) \rightarrow B(axy)] \rightarrow (\exists b)(\forall x)(\forall y)[\alpha(x) \wedge \beta(y) \rightarrow B(xby)],$$

where α, β are first-order formulas, the first of which does not contain any free occurrences of a, b, y and the second any free occurrences of a, b, x . This schema allow the solution of odd degree polynomials. By the completeness of real closed fields, this theory is also complete¹⁴.

In Detlefsen’s terminology we have found a *Gödel complete* axiomatization, that is the consequences of the axioms are a complete first order theory of (in our terminology) Cartesian plane geometry. This completeness guarantees that if we keep the vocabulary and continue to accept the same data set no axiomatization¹⁵ can account for more of the data. There are certainly open problems in plane geometry [KW91]. But however they are solved the proof will be formalizable in \mathcal{E}^2 . Thus, in our view, the axioms are descriptively complete.

The axioms \mathcal{E}^2 assert, consistently with Descartes conceptions and theorems, the solutions of certain equations. So they provide a *modest* complete descriptive axiomatization of the Cartesian data set. In the case at hand, however, there are more specific reasons for accepting the geometry over real closed fields as ‘the best’ descriptive axiomatization. It is the only one which is decidable and ‘constructively justifiable’.

Remark 2.2 (Undecidability and Consistency). Ziegler [Zie82] has shown that every nontrivial finitely axiomatized subtheory of RCF¹⁶ is not decidable. Thus both to more closely approximate the Dedekind continuum and to obtain decidability we restrict to the theory of planes over RCF and thus to Tarski’s \mathcal{E}^2 [GT99]. The biinterpretability between RCF and the theory of all planes over real closed fields yields the decidability of \mathcal{E}^2 . The crucial fact that makes decidability possible is that the natural numbers are *not first-order definable* in the real field.

The crucial contribution of Descartes is coordinate geometry. Tarski provides a converse; his interpretation of the plane into the coordinatizing line [Tar51] unifies the study of the ‘geometry continuum’ with axiomatizations of ‘geometry’. We have used Tarski’s axioms for plane geometry from [Tar59]. However, they extend by a family of axioms for higher dimensions [GT99] to ground modern real algebraic geometry. This natural extension demonstrates a fecundity of Cartesian geometry. Descartes used

¹⁴Tarski [Tar59] proves that planes over real closed fields are exactly the models of his elementary geometry, \mathcal{E}^2 .

¹⁵Of course, more perspicuous axiomatizations may be found. Or one may discover the entire subject is better viewed as an example in a more general context.

¹⁶The geometric version of this result was conjectured by Tarski in [Tar59]. The theory RCF is complete and recursively axiomatized so decidable. By nontrivial subtheory, I mean one satisfied by one of \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{R} , or a p -adic field Q_p . For the context of Ziegler result and Tarski’s quantifier elimination in computer science see [Mak13].

polynomials in at most two variables. But once the field is defined, the semantic extension to spaces of arbitrary finite dimension, i.e. polynomials in any finite number of variables is immediate. Thus, every n -space is controlled by the field so the plane geometry determines the geometry of any finite dimension. Although the Cartesian data set concerns polynomial of very few variables and arbitrary degree, all of real algebraic geometry is latent.

3 Archimedes: π , circumference and area of circles

We describe the rationale for placing various facts in the Archimedean data set¹⁷. Three propositions encapsulate the issue: Euclid VI.1, Euclid XII.2, and Archimedes proof that the circumference of a circle is proportional to the diameter. Hilbert showed [Bal16], VI.1 is provable already in HP5. While Euclid implicitly relies on the Archimedean axiom, Archimedes makes it explicit in the modern form. Euclid does *not* discuss the circumference of a circle. For that problem Archimedes must develop his notion of arc length. By beginning to calculate approximations of π , Archimedes is moving towards the treatment of π as a number. Thus we distinguish VI.1 from the Archimedean axiom and the theorems on measurement of a circle and place the latter in the Archimedean data set. The validation below in the theories EG_π and \mathcal{E}_π^2 of the formulas $A = \pi r^2$ and $C = \pi d$ are answering the questions of Hilbert and Dedekind not questions of Euclid or even Archimedes. But the theory EG_π is closer to the Greek origins than to Hilbert's second-order axioms.

The geometry over a Euclidean field (every positive number has a square root) may have no straight line segment of length π , since the model over the surd field (Notation 1.3) does not contain π . We want to find a theory which proves the circumference and area formulas for circles. Our approach is to extend the theory EG so as to guarantee that there is a point in every model which behaves as π does. While for Archimedes and Euclid, sequences constructed in the study of magnitudes in the *Elements* are of geometric objects, not (even real) numbers, in a modern account, as we saw already while discussing areas of polygons in [Bal16], we must identify the proportionality constant and verify that it represents a point in any model of the theory¹⁸. Thus this goal diverges from a 'Greek' data set and indeed is orthogonal to the axiomatization of Cartesian geometry in Theorem 2.1.

This shift in interpretation drives the rest of this section. We search first for the solution of a specific problem, finding π in the underlying field. We established in [Bal16] that each model of EG has the surd field F_s embeddable in the field definable any line of the model. On this basis we can interpret Greek theory of limits in terms of

¹⁷It is not in any sense chronological as Archimedes attributes the method of exhaustion to Eudoxus who precedes Euclid. Post-Heath scholarship by Becker, Knorr, and Menn [Men] have identified four theories of proportion in the generations just before Euclid. [Men] led us to the three propositions.

¹⁸For this reason, Archimedes needs only his postulate while Hilbert would also need Dedekind's postulate to prove the circumference formula.

cuts in the ordered surd field F_s .

Euclid's 3rd postulate, "describe a circle with given center and radius", entails that a circle is uniquely determined by its radius and center. In contrast Hilbert simply defines the notion of circle and (Lemma 11.1 of [Har00]) proves the uniqueness. In either case we have: two segments of a circle are congruent if they cut the same central angle. As the example of geometry over the real algebraic numbers shows, there is no guarantee that there is a straight line segment whose 'length' is π . We remedy this with the following extension of the system.

Definition 3.1 (Axioms for π). *Add to the vocabulary a new constant symbol π .*

1. Let i_n (c_n) be the perimeter of a regular $3 \cdot 2^n$ -gon inscribed¹⁹ (circumscribed) in a circle of radius 1. Let $\Sigma(\pi)$ be the collection of sentences (i.e. a type²⁰)

$$i_n < 2\pi < c_n$$

for $n < \omega$.

2. EG_π denotes deductive closure of the following set of axioms in the vocabulary τ augmented by constant symbols $0, 1, \pi$.
 - (a) the axioms EG of a Euclidean plane.
 - (b) $\Sigma(\pi)$
3. $\mathcal{E}^2(\pi)$ is formed by adding $\Sigma(\pi)$ to \mathcal{E}^2 and taking the deductive closure.

Dicta 3.2 (Constants 2). *Here we named a further single constant π . But the effect is much different than naming 0 and 1 (Compare Dicta 4.3.7 of [Bal16].) The new axioms specify the place of π in the ordering of the definable points of the model. So the data set is seriously extended.*

Theorem 3.3. EG_π is a consistent but not finitely axiomatizable²¹ incomplete theory.

Proof. A model of EG_π is given by closing $F_s \cup \{\pi\} \subseteq \mathfrak{R}$ to a Euclidean field. To see the theory is not finitely axiomatizable, for any finite subset Σ_0 of Σ choose a real algebraic number p satisfying Σ_0 ; close $F_s \cup \{p\} \subseteq \mathfrak{R}$ to a Euclidean field to get a model of EG which is not a model of EG_π . $\square_{3.3}$

¹⁹I thank Craig Smorynski for pointing out that it is not so obvious that the perimeter of an inscribed n -gon is monotonic in n and reminding me that Archimedes started with a hexagon and doubled the number of sides at each step.

²⁰Let $A \subset M \models T$. A type over A is a set of formulas $\phi(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{a})$ where \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{a} is a finite sequence of variables (constants from A) that is consistent with T . Taking T as EG , a type over all F_s is a type over \emptyset since each element is definable without parameters in EG .

²¹Ziegler ([Zie82], Remark 2.2) gives that EG is undecidable. Almost surely his proof can be modified to show the undecidability of EG_π , but I haven't done so.

Dicta 3.4 (Definitions or Postulates I). We now extend the ordering on segments by adding the lengths of ‘bent lines’ and arcs of circles to the domain. Two approaches²² to this step are a) our approach to introduce an explicit but inductive definition or b) add a new predicate to the vocabulary and new axioms specifying its behavior. This alternative reflects in a way the trope that Hilbert’s axioms are *implicit definitions*. Our choice a) is available only because we have already established a certain amount of geometric vocabulary Crucially the definition of bent lines (and thus the perimeter of certain polygons) is not a single definition but a schema of formulas ϕ_n defining the property for each n .

Definition 3.5. Let $n \geq 2$. By a bent line²³ $b = X_1 \dots X_n$ we mean a sequence of straight line segments $X_i X_{i+1}$ such that each end point of one is the initial point of the next.

1. Each bent line $b = X_1 \dots X_n$ has a length $[b]$ given by the straight line segment composed of the sum of the segments of b .
2. An approximant to the arc $X_1 \dots X_n$ of a circle with center P , is a bent line satisfying:
 - (a) $X_1, \dots, X_n, Y_1, \dots, Y_n$ are points such that all PX_i are congruent and each Y_i is in the exterior of the circle.
 - (b) Each of $X_1 Y_1, Y_i Y_{i+1}, Y_n X_n$ is a straight line segment.
 - (c) $X_1 Y_1$ is tangent to the circle at X_1 ; $Y_{n-1} X_n$ is tangent to the circle at X_n .
 - (d) For $1 \leq i < n$, $Y_i Y_{i+1}$ is tangent to the circle at X_i .

Definition 3.6. Let \mathcal{S} be the set (of equivalence classes of) straight line segments. Let \mathcal{C}_r be the set (of equivalence classes under congruence) of arcs on circles of a given radius r . Now we extend the linear order on \mathcal{S} to a linear order $<_r$ on $\mathcal{S} \cup \mathcal{C}_r$ as follows. For $s \in \mathcal{S}$ and $c \in \mathcal{C}_r$

1. The segment $s <_r c$ if and only if there is a chord XY of a circular segment $AB \in c$ such that $XY \in s$.
2. The segment $s >_r c$ if and only if there is an approximant $b = X_1 \dots X_n$ to c with length $[b] = s$ and with $[X_1 \dots X_n] >_r c$.

It is easy to see that this order is well-defined since each chord of an arc is shorter than any approximant to the arc and shorter than the arc.

²²We could define $<$ on the extended domain or, in style b), we could add an $<^*$ to the vocabulary and postulate that $<^*$ extends $<$ and satisfies the properties of the definition.

²³This is less general than Archimedes (page 2 of [Arc97]) who allows segments of arbitrary curves ‘that are concave in the same direction’.

Lemma 3.7 (Encoding a second approximation of π). *Let I_n and C_n denote the area of the regular 3×2^n -gon inscribed or circumscribing the unit circle.*

$$I_n < \pi < C_n$$

for $n < \omega$

Then EG_π proves²⁴ each of these sentences is satisfied by π .

Proof. The (I_n, C_n) define the cut for π in the surd field F_s reals and the (i_n, c_n) define the cut for 2π and it is a fact (i.e. for every natural number t , there exists an N_t such that if $k, \ell, m, n \geq N$ the distances between any pair of i_k, c_ℓ, I_m, I_n is less than $1/t$.) about the surd field that these are the same cut. $\square_{3.7}$

To argue that π , as implicitly defined by the theory EG_π , serves its geometric purpose, we add new unary function symbols C and A mapping our fixed line to itself and satisfying a scheme asserting that these functions do in fact produce the required limits. The definitions are identical except for the switch from the area to the perimeter of the approximating polygons. This strategy is analogous to that in an introductory calculus course of describing the properties of area and proving that the integral satisfies them.

Definition 3.8. *A unary function $C(r)$ ($A(r)$) mapping \mathcal{S} , the set of equivalence classes (under congruence) of straight line segments, into itself that satisfies the conditions below is called a circumference function (area function).*

1. $C(r)$ ($A(r)$) is less than the perimeter (area) of a regular 3×2^n -gon circumscribing circle of radius r .
2. $C(r)$ ($A(r)$) is greater than the perimeter (area) of a regular 3×2^n -gon inscribed in a circle of radius r .

We extend EG_π to include definitions of $C(r)$ and $A(r)$.

Definition 3.9. *1. The theory $EG_{\pi,A}$ is the extension of the $\tau \cup \{0, 1, \pi\}$ -theory EG_π obtained by the explicit definition $A(r) = \pi r^2$.*

2. *The theory $EG_{\pi,A,C}$ is the extension of the $\tau \cup \{0, 1, \pi, A\}$ -theory $EG_{\pi,A}$, obtained by the explicit definition $C(r) = 2\pi r$.*

In any model of $EG_{\pi,A,C}$ for each r there is an $s \in \mathcal{S}$ whose length²⁵ $C(r) = 2\pi r$ is less than the perimeters of all circumscribed polygons and greater than those of the inscribed polygons. We can verify that by choosing n large enough we can make i_n

²⁴Note that we have not attempted to justify the convergence of the i_n, c_n, I_n, C_n in the formal system EG_π . We are relying on mathematical proof, not logical deduction; see item 5 in Section 4.3 for elaboration.

²⁵A similar argument works for area and $A(r)$.

and c_n as close together as we like (more precisely, for given m differ by $< 1/m$). In phrasing this sentence I follow Heath's description²⁶ of Archimedes statements, "But he follows the cautious method to which the Greeks always adhered; he never says that given curve or surface is the *limiting form* of the inscribed or circumscribed figure; all that he asserts is that we can approach the curve or surface as nearly as we please".

Our definition of EG_π then makes the following metatheorem immediate. In the vocabulary with these functions named we have, since the $I_n(C_n)$ converge to one half of the limit of the $i_n(C_n)$ and we describe the same cut:

Theorem 3.10. *In $EG_{\pi,A,C}^2$, $C(r) = 2\pi r$ is a circumference function and $A(r) = \pi r^2$ is an area function.*

In an Archimedean field there is a unique interpretation of π and thus a unique choice for a circumference function with respect to the vocabulary without the constant π . By adding the constant π to the vocabulary we get a formula which satisfies the conditions in every model. But in a non-Archimedean model, any point in the monad of $2\pi r$ would equally well fit our condition for being the circumference.

We omit the technical details of 1) modifying the development of the area function of polygons described in Section 4.5 of [Bal16], by extending the notion of figure to include sectors of circles and 2) formalizing a notion of equal area, including a schema for approximation by finite polygons. These details complete the argument that formal area function $A(r)$ does indeed compute the area. We did the harder case of circumference to emphasize the innovation of Archimedes in defining arc length. Unlike area it is not true that the perimeter of a polygon containing a second is larger than the perimeter of the enclosed field. By dealing with special case, we suppressed Archimedes anticipation of the notion of bounded variation.

We have extended our descriptively complete axiomatization from the polygonal geometry of Hilbert's first-order axioms (HP5) to Euclid's results on circles and beyond. Euclid doesn't deal with arc length at all and we have assigned straight line segments to both the circumference and area of a circle. So this would not qualify as a modest axiomatization of Greek geometry but only of the modern understanding of these formulas. This distinction is not a problem for the notion of descriptive axiomatization. The facts are sentences. The formulas for circumference and area not the same sentences as the Euclid/Archimedes statement in terms of proportions, but they are implied by the modern equational formulations.

We now want to make a similar extension of \mathcal{E}^2 . Dedekind (page 37-38 of [Ded63]) observes that the field of real algebraic numbers is 'discontinuous everywhere' but 'all constructions that occur in Euclid's elements can ... be just as accurately effected as in a perfectly continuous space'. Strictly speaking, for *constructions* this is correct. But the proportionality constant between a circle and its circumference π is absent, so, even more, not both a straight line segment of the same length as the

²⁶Archimedes, Men of Science [Hea11], introduction Kindle location 393.

circumference and the diameter are in the model²⁷. We want to find a theory which proves the circumference and area formulas for circles and countable models of the geometry over RCF, where ‘arc length behaves properly’.

In contrast to Dedekind and Hilbert, Descartes eschews the idea that there can be a ratio between a straight line segment and a curve. As [Cri14b] writes, ”Descartes²⁸ excludes the exact knowability of the ratio between straight and curvilinear segments”:

... la proportion, qui est entre les droites et les courbes, nest pas connue, et mesme ie croy ne le pouvant pas estre par les hommes, on ne pourroit rien conclure de l qui fust exact et assur.

Hilbert²⁹ asserts that there are many geometries satisfying his axioms I-IV and V1 but only one, ‘namely the Cartesian geometry’ that also satisfies V2. Thus the conception of ‘Cartesian geometry³⁰’ changed radically from Descartes to Hilbert; even the symbol π was not introduced until 1706 (by Jones). Nevertheless, we now define a theory \mathcal{E}_π^2 analogous to EG_π which does not depend on the Dedekind axiom but can be obtained in a first-order way.

Given Descartes proscription of π , the new system will be immodest with respect to the Cartesian data set. But we will argue at the end of this section that both of our additions of π are closer to Greek conceptions than the Dedekind axiom. At this point we need some modern model theory to guarantee the *completeness* of the theory we are defining. A first-order theory T for a vocabulary including a binary relation $<$ is *o-minimal* if every model of T is linearly ordered by $<$ and every 1-ary formula is equivalent in T to a Boolean combination of equalities and inequalities [dD99]. Anachronistically, the o-minimality of the reals is a main conclusion of Tarski in [Tar31].

Theorem 3.11. *Form \mathcal{E}_π^2 by adjoining $\Sigma(\pi)$ to \mathcal{E}^2 . \mathcal{E}_π^2 is first-order complete for the vocabulary τ augmented by constant symbols $0, 1, \pi$.*

Proof. We have established that there is definable ordered field with domain the line through 01 . By Tarski, the theory of this real closed field is complete. The field is bi-interpretable with the plane [Tar51] so the theory of the geometry T is complete as well. Further by Tarski, the field is o-minimal. Therefore, the type over the empty set of any point on the line is determined by its position in the linear ordering of the subfield F_s (Notation 1.3). Each i_n, c_n is an element of the field F_s . This position in the linear order of 2π in the linear order on the line through 01 is given by Σ . Thus $T \cup \Sigma(\pi)$ is a complete theory. $\square_{3.3}$

²⁷Thus, the protractor postulate derived from [Bir32] is violated. (See Remark 3.15.)

²⁸Descartes, Oeuvres, vol. 6, p. 412. Crippa also quotes Averros as emphatically denying the possibility of such a ratio and notes Vieta held similar views.

²⁹See pages 429-430 of [Hil04].

³⁰One wonders whether it had changed when Hilbert wrote. That is, had readers at the turn of the 20th century already internalized a notion of Cartesian geometry which entailed Dedekind completeness and so was at best formulated in the 19th century (Bolzano-Cantor-Weierstrass-Dedekind).

Building on Definition 3.5 we extend the theory \mathcal{E}_π^2 .

Definition 3.12. We define two new theories expanding \mathcal{E}_π^2 .

1. The theory $\mathcal{E}_{\pi,A}^2$ is the extension of the $\tau \cup \{0, 1, \pi\}$ -theory \mathcal{E}_π^2 obtained by the explicit definition $A(r) = \pi r^2$
2. The theory $\mathcal{E}_{\pi,A,C}^2$ is the extension of the $\tau \cup \{0, 1, \pi\}$ -theory $\mathcal{E}_{\pi,A}^2$ obtained by adding the explicit definition $C(r) = 2\pi r$.

Theorem 3.13. The theory $\mathcal{E}_{\pi,A,C}^2$ is a complete, decidable extension of $EG_{\pi,A}$ \mathcal{E}_π^2 that is coordinatized by an o-minimal field. Moreover, In $\mathcal{E}_{\pi,A,C}^2$, $C(r) = 2\pi r$ is a circumference function (i.e. satisfies all the ι_n and γ_n) and $A(r) = \pi r^2$ is an area function.

Proof. We are adding definable functions to \mathcal{E}_π^2 so o-minimality and completeness are preserved. The theory is recursively axiomatized and complete so decidable. The formulas continue to compute area and circumference correctly (as in Theorem 3.10) since they extend $EG_{\pi,A,C}$. $\square_{3.13}$

This theory is sufficient to prove π is transcendental. Lindemann proved that π does not satisfy a polynomial of degree n for any n . Thus for any polynomial over the rationals $\neg p(\pi) = 0$ is a consequence of the complete type generated by $\Sigma(\pi)$ and so a theorem of $\mathcal{E}_{0,1,\pi}^2$. We explore this type of argument in point 5 of Section 4.3.

We now extend the known fact that the theory of real closed fields is ‘finitistically justified’ (in the list of such results on page 378 of [Sim09]) to $\mathcal{E}_{\pi,A,C}^2$. For convenience, we lay out the proof with reference to results³¹ recorded in [Sim09].

Fact 3.14. The theory \mathcal{E}^2 is bi-interpretable with the theory of real closed fields. And thus it (as well as $\mathcal{E}_{\pi,A,C}^2$) is finitistically consistent, in fact, provably consistent in primitive recursive arithmetic (PRA).

Proof. By Theorem II.4.2 of [Sim09], RCA_0 proves the system $(Q, +, \times, <)$ is an ordered field and by II.9.7 of [Sim09], it has a unique real closure. Thus the existence of a real closed ordered field and so $Con(RCOF)$ is provable in RCA_0 . (Note that the construction will imbed the surd field F_s .)

Lemma IV.3.3 [FSS83] asserts the provability of the completeness theorem (and hence compactness) for countable first-order theories from WKL_0 . Since every finite subset of $\Sigma(\pi)$ is easily seen to be satisfiable in any RCOF, it follows that the existence of a model of \mathcal{E}_π^2 is provable in WKL_0 . Since WKL_0 is π_2^0 -conservative

³¹We use RCOF here for what we have called RCF before. Model theoretically adding the definable ordering of a formally real field is a convenience. Here we want to be consistent with the terminology in [Sim09]. Note that Friedman[Fri99] strengthens the results for PRA to exponential function arithmetic (EFA). Friedman reports Tarski had observed the constructive consistency proof much earlier.

over PRA , we conclude PRA proves the consistency \mathcal{E}_π^2 . As $\mathcal{E}_{\pi,C,A}^2$ is an extension by explicit definitions its consistency is also provable in PRA . $\square_{3.14}$

It might be objected that such minor changes as adding to \mathcal{E} the name of the constant π , or adding the definable functions C and A undermines the claim in Remark 2 that \mathcal{E}^2 was descriptively complete for Cartesian geometry. But adding π because the modern view of ‘number’ requires it, increases the data set to include propositions about π which are inaccessible to \mathcal{E}^2 .

We have so far tried to find the proportionality constant only for a specific situation. In the remainder of the section, we consider several ways of systematizing the solution of families of such problems. First, still in a specific case we look for models where every angle determines an arc that corresponds to the length of a straight line segment. Then we consider several model theoretic schemes to organize such problems.

Remark 3.15. Birkhoff [Bir32] introduced the following axiom in his system³².

POSTULATE III. The half-lines ℓ, m , through any point O can be put into $(1, 1)$ correspondence with the real numbers $a(\bmod 2\pi)$, so that, if $A \neq O$ and $B \neq O$ are points of ℓ and m respectively, the difference $a_m - a_\ell(\bmod 2\pi)$ is $\angle AOB$. Furthermore, if the point B varies continuously in a line r not containing the vertex O , the number a_m varies continuously also³³.

This is a parallel to his ‘ruler postulate’ which assigns each segment a real number length. Thus, Birkhoff takes the real numbers as an unexamined background object. At one swoop he has introduced addition and multiplication, and assumed the Archimedean and completeness axioms. So even ‘neutral’ geometries studied on this basis are actually greatly restricted. He argues that his axioms define a categorial system isomorphic to \mathfrak{R}^2 . So it is equivalent to Hilbert’s.

This particular postulate conflates three distinct ideas: i) the rectifiability of arcs – each arc of a circle has the same length as a straight line segment, ii) rectification of arcs, an algorithm for attaining i) and iii) the measurement of angles.

The next task is to find a more modest version of Birkhoff’s postulate: a first-order theory with countable models which assign to each angle a measure between 0 and 2π . Recall that we have a field structure on the line through $O1$ and the number π on that line.

Definition 3.16. A measurement of angles function is a map μ from congruence classes of angles into $[0, 2\pi)$ such that if $\angle ABC$ and $\angle CBD$ are disjoint angles sharing the side BC , $\mu(\angle ABD) = \mu(\angle ABC) + \mu(\angle CBD)$

³²This is the axiom system used in virtually all U.S. high schools since the 1960’s.

³³I slight modified the last sense, in lieu of reproducing the diagram. Birkhoff remarks that his sentences embodies the Archimedean axiom.

If we omitted the additivity property this would be trivial: Given an angle $\angle ABC$ less than a straight angle, let C' be the intersection of a perpendicular to AC through B with AC and let $\mu(\angle ABC) = \frac{BC'}{AB}$. (It is easy to extend to the rest of the angles.)

Here we use approach b) of Dicta 3.4 rather than the explicit definition approach a) used for $C(r)$ and $A(r)$. We define a new theory with a function symbol μ which is ‘implicitly defined’ by the axioms.

Definition 3.17. *The theory $\mathcal{E}_{\pi,A,C,\mu}^2$ is obtained by adding to $\mathcal{E}_{\pi,A,C,\mu}^2$, the assertion μ is a continuous³⁴ additive map from congruence classes of angles to $(0, 2\pi]$.*

Now we have to address the consistency and completeness of $\mathcal{E}_{0,1,\pi,A,C,\mu}^2$. Consistency is easy, we can easily define (in the mathematical sense, not as a formally definable function in $\mathcal{E}_{0,1,\pi,A,C}^2$) such a function μ^* on the real plane. So the axioms are consistent. And by taking the theory of this structure we would get a complete first-order theory. But, *a priori*, we don’t have an axiomatization³⁵.

Crippa describes Leibniz’s distinguish two types of quadrature,

‘universal quadrature of the circle, namely the problem of finding a general formula, or a rule in order to determine an arbitrary sector of the circle or an arbitrary arc; and on the other he defines the problem of the particular quadrature, . . . , namely the problem of finding the length of a given arc or the area of a sector, or the whole circle. . . (page 424 of [Cri14a])

Thus while we have solved i) the rectifiability problem, merely assuming the existence of a μ does not solve ii) as we have not idea how to compute μ . However the addition of the restricted cosine, as in footnote 35 does so by calculating arc length as in calculus. But a nice axiom system remains a dream.

Blanchette [Bla14] distinguishes two approaches to logic: deductivist and model-centric. Hilbert represents the deductivist school and Dedekind the model-centric. Essentially, the second comes to theories trying to describe an intuition of a particular structure. We briefly consider the opposite procedure; are there ‘canonical’ models of the various theories we have been considering.

By modern tradition, the continuum is the real numbers and geometry is the plane over it. Is there a smaller model which reflects the geometric intuitions discussed here? For Euclid II, there is a natural candidate, the Euclidean plane over the surd field F_s . Remarkably, this does not conflict with Euclid XII.2; the model is Archimedean. π

³⁴With a little effort we can express continuity of μ in $\mathcal{E}_{\pi,A,C,\mu}^2$ and it could fail in a non-Archimedean model so we have to require it to have chance at a complete theory.

³⁵In fact, by coding a point on the unit circle by its x -coordinate and setting $\mu((x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2)) = \cos^{-1}(x_1 - x_2)$ one gets such a function which definable in the theory of the real field expanded by the sin function restricted to $(0, 2\pi]$. This theory is known [dD99] to be o-minimal. But there is no known axiomatization and Marker tells me it is unlikely to be decidable without assuming the Schanuel conjecture.

is not in the model; but Euclid only requires a proportionality which defines a type, not a realization of the type. Plane geometry over the real algebraic numbers plays the same role for $\mathcal{E}_{0,1}^2$. Both are categorical in $L_{\omega_1,\omega}$. In the second case, the axiomatization is particularly nice. Add the Archimedean axiom³⁶.

Now we argue that the methods this section better reflect the Greek view that does Dedekind. Mueller (page 236 of [Mue06]) makes an important point distinguishing the Euclid/Eudoxus use from Dedekind's use of cuts.

One might say that in applications of the method of exhaustion the limit is given and the problem is to determine a certain kind of sequence converging to it, . . . Since, in the *Elements* the limit always has a simple description, the construction of the sequence can be done within the bounds of elementary geometry; and the question of constructing a sequence for any given arbitrary limit never arises.

But what if we want to demand the realization of various transcendentals? Mueller's description suggests the principle that we should only realize cuts in the field order that are recursive over a finite subset. So a candidate would be a recursively saturated model³⁷ of \mathcal{E}^2 . Remarkably, almost magically³⁸ this model would also satisfy $\mathcal{E}_{\pi,A,C,\mu}^2$. A recursively saturated model is necessarily non-Archimedean. There are however many different countable recursively saturated models depending on which transcendentals are realized

Here is a more canonical candidate for a natural model which admits the 'Eudoxian transcendentals'; take the smallest elementary submodel of \mathfrak{R} closed³⁹ under A, C, μ containing the real algebraic numbers and all realizations of recursive cuts in F_s . The Scott sentence⁴⁰ of this sentence is a categorical sentence in $L_{\omega_1,\omega}$.

The models in the last paragraph were all countable; we cannot do this with the Hilbert model; it has no countable $L_{\omega_1,\omega}$ -elementary submodel.

We turn to the question of modesty. Mueller's distinction can be expressed in another way. Eudoxus provides a technique to solve certain problems, which are specified in each application. In contrast, Dedekind's postulate provides solves 2^{\aleph_0} problems at one swoop. Both the theories $\mathcal{E}_{0,1,\pi}$, $\mathcal{E}_{\pi,A,C}$, $\mathcal{E}_{\pi,A,C,\mu}$ and the later search for canonical models reflect this concern. They solve at most a countable number of recursively stated problems. In summary, we regard the replacement congruence class of segment, by length represented by an element of the field as a modest reinterpretation

³⁶It is easy to see that any transcendental adds an infinitesimal to the field.

³⁷A model is recursively saturated if every recursive type over a finite set is realized. [Bar75]

³⁸The magic is called resplendency. Every recursively saturated model is resplendent [Bar75]. M is resplendent if any formula $\exists A\phi(A, c)$ that is satisfied in an elementary extension of M is satisfied by some A' on M . Examples are the formulas defining C, A, μ .

³⁹Interpret A, C, μ on \mathfrak{R} in the standard way.

⁴⁰For any countable structure M there is a 'Scott' sentence ϕ_M such that all countable models of ϕ_M are isomorphic to M ; see chapter 1 of [Kei71].

of Greek geometry. But it becomes immodest relative to even Descartes when this length is a transcendental. And most immodest is to demand arbitrary transcendentals.

4 And back to Hilbert

The non-first-order postulates of Hilbert play complementary roles. The Archimedean axiom is minimizing; each cut is realized by at most one point so each model has cardinality at most 2^{\aleph_0} . The Dedekind postulate is maximizing; each cut is realized, the set of realizations could have arbitrary cardinality.

4.1 The role of the Axiom of Archimedes in the Grundlagen

Recall the following from Hilbert's introduction, 'bring out as clearly as possible the significance of the groups of axioms.'. Much of his book is devoted to this meta-mathematical investigation. In particular this includes Sections 9-12 (from [Hil71]) concerning the consistency and independence of the axioms. Another example⁴¹, in Sections 31 to 34 shows that without the congruence axioms, the axiom of Archimedes is necessary to prove what Hilbert labels as Pascal's (Pappus) theorem. Moreover, in the Conclusion he explores the connection between the angle sum theorem (sum of the angles of a triangle is 180°) and the fifth postulate and reports on Dehn's result that Archimedes axiom behaves very differently in relating the sum of the angle to the hypotheses of no or more than one parallel to a given line through a fixed point. These sorts of results demonstrate the breadth of Hilbert's program. However, with respect to the problem studied here, they do not affect the conclusion that Hilbert's full axiom set is an immodest axiomatization⁴² of Euclid I or Euclid II or of the Cartesian data set since those data sets contain and are implied by the appropriate first-order axioms.

One further use of the Archimedean axiom by Hilbert does not affect this conclusion. In Sections 19 and 21, it is shown that the Archimedean axiom is necessary to show equicomplementable (equal content) is the same as equidecomposable (in 2 or more dimensions). These are all metatheoretical results. The use of the Archimedean axiom to prove equidecomposable is the same as equicomplementable is certainly a proof in the system. But an unnecessary one. As we argued in Section 4.4 of [Bal16], Hilbert could just have easily defined 'same area' as 'equicomplementable' (as is a natural reading of Euclid).

Thus, we find no geometrical theorems in the Grundlagen proved from extensions of the first-order axioms that essentially depend on the Axiom of Archimedes. Rather Hilbert's use of the axiom of Archimedes is i) to investigate the interaction

⁴¹I thank the referee for pointing to the next two examples and emphasizing Hilbert's more general goals of understanding the connections among organizing principles.

⁴²I could add the data set Archimedes, but that would be a cheat. I restricted to Archimedes on the circle; Archimedes proposed a general notion of arc length and studied many other transcendental curves.

of the various principles and ii) in conjunction with the Dedekind axiom, identify the field defined in the geometry with the independent existence of the real numbers as conceived by Dedekind. Hilbert wrote that V.1 and V.2 allow one ‘to establish a one-one correspondence between the points of a segment and the system of real numbers’. Archimedes makes the axiom 1-1 and the Dedekind axiom makes it onto. We have noted here that the grounding of real algebraic geometry (the study of systems of polynomial equations in a real closed field) is fully accomplished by Tarski’s axiomatization. And we have provided a first-order extension to deal with the basic properties of the circle. Since Dedekind and others pursued the ‘arithmetization of analysis’ precisely to ground the theory of limits, identifying the geometrical line as the Dedekind line reaches beyond the needs of geometry.

4.2 Hilbert and Dedekind on Continuity

Hilbert’s formulation of the completeness axiom reads [Hil71]:

Axiom of Completeness (Vollständigkeit): To a system of points, straight lines, and planes, it is impossible to add other elements in such a manner that the system thus generalized shall form a new geometry obeying all of the five groups of axioms. In other words, the elements of geometry form a system which is not susceptible of extension, if we regard the five groups of axioms as valid.

We have used in this article the following adaptation of Dedekind’s postulate for geometry (DG):

DG: Any cut in the linear ordering imposed on any line by the betweenness relation is realized.

While this formulation is convenient for our purposes, it misses an essential aspect of Hilbert’s version. DG implies the Archimedean axiom and Hilbert was aiming for an independent set of axioms. Hilbert’s axiom does not imply Archimedes. A variant VER⁴³ on Dedekind’s postulate that does not imply the Archimedean axiom was proposed by Veronese in [Ver89]. If we substituted VER for DG, our axioms would also satisfy the independence criterion.

⁴³ The axiom VER (see [Can99]) asserts that for a partition of a linearly ordered field into two intervals L, U (with no maximum in the lower L or minimum in the upper U) and third set in between at most one point, there is a point between L and U just if for every $e > 0$, there are $a \in A, b \in B$ such that $b - a < e$. Veronese derives Dedekind’s postulate from his plus Archimedes in [Ver89] and the independence in [Ver91]. In [LC93] Levi-Civita shows there is a non-Archimedean ordered field that is Cauchy complete. I thank Philip Ehrlich for the references and recommend section 12 of the comprehensive [Ehr06]. See also the insightful reviews [Pam14b] and [Pam14a] where it is observed that Vahlen [Vah07] also proved this axiom does not imply Archimedes.

Hilbert’s completeness axiom in [Hil71] asserting any model of the rest of the theory is maximal, is inherently model-theoretic. The later line-completeness [Hil62] is a technical variant⁴⁴. Giovannini’s account [Gio13] includes a number of points already made here; but he makes three more. First, Hilbert’s completeness axiom is not about deductive completeness (despite having such consequences), but about maximality of every *model* (page 145). Secondly (last line of 153) Hilbert expressly rejects Cantor’s intersection of closed intervals axiom because it relies on a sequence of intervals and ‘sequence is not a geometrical notion’. A third intriguing note is an argument due to Baldus in 1928 that the parallel axiom is an essential ingredient in the categoricity of Hilbert’s axioms⁴⁵.

Here are two reasons for choosing Dedekind’s (or Veronese’s) version. The most basic is that one cannot formulate Hilbert’s version as sentence Φ in second-order logic⁴⁶ with the intended interpretation $(\mathfrak{R}^2, \mathbf{G}) \models \Phi$. The axiom requires quantification over subsets of an extension of the model which putatively satisfies it. Here is a second-order statement⁴⁷ of the axiom, where ψ denotes the conjunction of Hilbert’s first four axiom groups and the axiom of Archimedes.

$$(\forall X)(\forall Y)(\forall \mathbf{R})[[X \subseteq Y \wedge (X, \mathbf{R} \upharpoonright X) \models \psi \wedge (Y, \mathbf{R}) \models \psi] \rightarrow X = Y]$$

This anomaly has been investigated by Väänänen who makes the distinction (on page 94 of [Vää12a]) between $(\mathfrak{R}^2, \mathbf{G}) \models \Phi$ and the displayed formula and expounds in [Vää12b] a new notion, ‘Sort Logic’, which provides a logic with a sentence Φ which by allowing a sort for an extension axiomatizes geometry formalizes Hilbert’s V.2. The second reason is that Dedekind’s formulation, since it is about the geometry, not about its axiomatization, directly gives the kind of information about the existence of transcendental numbers that we discuss in the paper.

In [Vää12a], Väänänen discusses the categoricity of natural structures such as real geometry when axiomatized in second-order logic (e.g. DG). He has discovered the striking phenomena of ‘internal categoricity’. Suppose the second-order categoricity of a structure A is formalized by the existence of sentence Ψ_A such that $A \models \Psi_A$ and any two models of Ψ are isomorphic. If this second clause is provable in a standard deductive system for second-order logic, then it is valid in the Henkin semantics, not

⁴⁴Since any point is in the definable closure of any line and any one point not on the line, one can’t extend any line without extending the model. Since adding either the Dedekind postulate and or Hilbert completeness gives a categorical theory satisfied by a geometry whose line is order isomorphic to \mathfrak{R} the two axioms are equivalent (over HP5 + Arch).

⁴⁵Hartshorne (sections 40–43 of [Har00]) gives a modern account of Hilbert’s argument that replacing the parallel postulate by the axiom of limiting parallels gives a geometry that is determined by the underlying (definable) field. With V.2 this gives a categorical axiomatization for hyperbolic geometry.

⁴⁶Of course, this analysis is anachronistic; the clear distinction between first and second-order logic did not exist in 1900. By \mathbf{G} , we mean the natural interpretation in \mathfrak{R}^2 of the predicates of geometry introduced in Section 1.

⁴⁷I am leaving out many details, \mathbf{R} is a sequence of relations giving the vocabulary of geometry and the sentence ‘says’ they are relations on Y ; the coding of the satisfaction predicate is suppressed.

just the full semantics.

Philip Ehrlich has made several important discoveries concerning the connections between the two ‘continuity axioms’ in Hilbert and develops the role of maximality. First, he observes (page 172) of [Ehr95] that Hilbert had already pointed out that his completeness axiom would be inconsistent if the maximality were only with respect to the first-order axioms. Secondly, he [Ehr95, Ehr97] systematizes and investigates the philosophical significance of Hahn’s notion of Archimedean completeness. Here the structure (ordered group or field) is not required to be Archimedean; the maximality condition requires that there is extension which fails to extend an Archimedean equivalence class⁴⁸. This notion provides a tool (not yet explored) for investigating the non-Archimedean models studied in Section 3.

In a sense, our development is the opposite of Ehrlich’s in [Ehr12], The absolute arithmetic continuum and the unification of all numbers great and small. Rather than trying to unify all numbers great and small, we are interested in the minimal collection of numbers that allow the development of a geometry according with our fundamental intuitions.

4.3 Against the Dedekind Postulate for Geometry

Our fundamental claim is that (slight variants on) Hilbert’s first-order axiom provide a modest descriptively complete axiomatization of most of Greek geometry.

As we pointed out in Section 3 of [Bal14] various authors have proved under $V = L$, any countable or Borel structure can be given a categorical axiomatization. We argued there that this fact undermines the notion of categoricity as an independent desiderata for an axiom system. There, we gave a special role to attempting to axiomatize canonical systems. Here we go further, and suggest that even for a canonical structure there are advantages to a first-order axiomatization that trump the loss of categoricity.

We argue then that the Dedekind postulate is inappropriate (in particular immodest) in any attempt to axiomatize the Euclidean or Cartesian or Archimedean data sets for several reasons:

1. The requirement that there be a straight-line segment measuring any circular arc clearly contradicts the intentions of Euclid and Descartes.
2. Since it yields categoricity, it is not part of the data set but rather an external limitative principle. The notion that there was ‘one’ geometry (i.e. categoricity) was implicit in Euclid. But it is not a geometrical statement. Indeed, Hilbert

⁴⁸In an ordered group, a and b are *Archimedes-equivalent* if there are natural numbers m, n such that $m|a| > |b|$ and $n|b| > |a|$.

described his metamathematical formulation of the completeness axiom (page 23 of [Hil62]), ‘not of a purely geometrical nature’.

3. As we have pointed out repeatedly, it is not needed to establish the properly geometrical propositions in the data set.
4. Proofs from Dedekind’s postulate obscure the true geometric reason for certain theorems. Hartshorne writes⁴⁹:

‘... there are two reasons to avoid using Dedekind’s axiom. First, it belongs to the modern development of the real number systems and notions of continuity, which is not in the spirit of Euclid’s geometry. Second, it is too strong. By essentially introducing the real numbers into our geometry, it masks many of the more subtle distinctions and obscures questions such as constructibility that we will discuss in Chapter 6. So we include the axiom only to acknowledge that it is there, but with no intention of using it.

5. The use of second-order logic undermines a key proof method – informal (semantic) proof. A crucial advantage of a first-order axiomatization is that it licenses the kind of argument⁵⁰ described in Hilbert and Ackerman⁵¹:

Derivation of Consequences from Given Premises; Relation to Universally Valid Formulas

So far we have used the predicate calculus only for deducing valid formulas. The premises of our deductions, viz Axioms a) through f), were themselves of a purely logical nature. Now we shall illustrate by a few examples the general methods of formal derivation in the predicate calculus It is now a question of deriving the consequences from any premises whatsoever, no longer of a purely logical nature.

The method explained in this section of formal derivation from premises which are not universally valid logical formulas has its main application in the setting up of the primitive sentences or axioms for any particular field of knowledge and the derivation of the remaining theorems from them as consequences . We will examine, at the end of this section, the question of whether every statement which would intuitively be regarded as a consequence of the axioms can be obtained from them by means of the formal method of derivation.

We exploited this technique in Section 3 to provide axioms for the calculation of the circumference and area of a circle. Väänänen⁵² makes a variant of this apply to those sentences in second-order logic that are internally categorical. He shows certain

⁴⁹page 177 of [Har00]

⁵⁰We noted that Hilbert proved that a Desarguesian plane embeds in 3 space by this sort of argument in Section 2.4 of [Bal13].

⁵¹Chapter 3, §11 Translation taken from [Bla14].

⁵²Discussion with Väänänen.

second-order propositions can be derived from the formal system of second-order logic by employing 3rd (and higher) order arguments to provide semantic proofs.

Venturi⁵³ formulates a distinction, which nicely summarises our argument: ‘So we can distinguish two different kinds of axioms: the ones that are *necessary* for the development of a theory and the *sufficient* one used to match intuition and formalization.’ In our terminology only the necessary axioms make up a ‘*modest* descriptive axiomatization’. For the geometry Euclid I (basic polygonal geometry), Hilbert’s first-order axioms meet this goal. With $\mathcal{E}_{\pi,A,C}^2$, a less immodest complete descriptive axiomatization is provided even including the basic properties of π . The Archimedes and Dedekind postulates have a different goal; they secure the 19th century conception of \mathbb{R}^2 to be the unique model and thus ground elementary analysis.

4.4 But what about analysis?

We expounded a procedure [Har00] to define the field operations in an arbitrary model of HP5. We argued that the first-order axioms of *EG* suffice for the geometrical data sets Euclid I and II, not only in their original formulation but by finding proportionality constants for the area formulas of polygon geometry. By adding axioms to require the field is real closed we obtain a complete first-order theory that encompasses many of Descartes innovations. The plane over the real algebraic numbers satisfies this theory; thus, there is no guarantee that there is a line segment of length π . Using the o-minimality of real closed fields, we can guarantee there is such a segment by adding a constant for π and requiring it to realize the proper cut in the rationals. However, guaranteeing the uniqueness of such a realization requires the $L_{\omega_1,\omega}$ Archimedean axiom.

Hilbert and the other axiomatizers of 100 years ago wanted more; they wanted to secure the foundations of calculus. In full generality, this surely depends on second-order properties. But there are a number of directions of work on ‘definable analysis’. One of the directions of research in o-minimality has been to prove the expansion of the real numbers by a particular functions (e.g. the Γ -function on the positive reals [SvdD00]).

Peterzil and Starchenko study the foundations of calculus in [PS00]. They approach complex analysis through o-minimality of the real part in [PS10]. The impact of o-minimality on number theory was recognized by the Karp prize of 2014. And a non-logician, suggests using methods of Descartes to teach Calculus [Ran14]. For an interesting perspective on the historical background of the banishment of infinitesimals in analysis see [BK12].

⁵³page 96 of [Ven11]

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