

**Hilbert's axioms for (two dimensional) neutral geometry.**

We spell these out below. It will take a while. There will be several groups of axioms: the **incidence** axioms; the **betweenness** axioms; the **continuity** axiom; and the **congruence** axioms.

**The Incidence Axioms.** There are a set whose members we call **points** and a family of sets of points whose members we call **lines** such that

(I1) if  $a$  and  $b$  are distinct points there is one and only one line

$$l(a, b),$$

the **line determined by  $a$  and  $b$** , such that  $\{a, b\} \subset l(a, b)$ ;

(I2) any line contains at least two points.

If  $p$  is a point and  $L$  is a line we say  $p$  **lies on**  $L$  if  $p \in L$ .

**Theorem.** If  $L$  and  $M$  are lines and  $L$  intersects  $M$  then either  $L = M$  or  $L \cap M$  contains exactly one point.

**Proof.** This follows directly from (I1).  $\square$

If  $L$  and  $M$  are lines and  $L$  does not intersect  $M$  we say  $L$  **and**  $M$  **are parallel**.

**Definition.** Suppose  $S$  is a set of points. We say  $S$  is **collinear** if  $S$  is a subset of some line. We say  $S$  is **noncollinear** if  $S$  is not collinear.

Note that a subset of a collinear set is collinear and that a superset of a noncollinear set is noncollinear.

(I3) There is a noncollinear set of points.

An obvious consequence of (I3) is the following.

**Theorem.** Suppose  $L$  is a line. Then there is a point which does not lie on  $L$ .