

Avoding three points

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I will discuss an elementary geometric problem concerning the number of lines needed to avoid three points. The problem arose when trying to effectively describe a cover of certain open subscheme of the Hilbert scheme of three points in the plane. However the problem discussed in the talk can be stated, and proven, without any reference to the Hilbert scheme. The answer to the number of hyperplanes in projective n-space needed to avoid n+1 points is not known in general.