1017-57-176 **Richard Randell*** (randell@math.uiowa.edu), Department of Mathematics, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242. *Configurations of points in R^3.*

We consider the space C(n) of n-tuples of points in three-space, no four of which lie on a plane. Our main interest is the collection of path components of this space, and their adjacency relationships. The configuration space C(n) may be studied via Plucker-type relations and also via iterated "fibrations" with the tools of arrangement theory. Further, several constructions permit the assignment of polynomial type invariants (Kauffman bracket, Jones) to path components of C(n). (Received February 20, 2006)