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Christin Bibby, Department of Mathematics, London, Ontario N6A5B7, Canada, **Graham C Denham*** (gdenham@uwo.ca), Department of Mathematics, London, Ontario N6A5B7, Canada, and **Eva Maria Feichtner**, Dept. of Mathematics and Computer Science, 28359 Bremen, Germany. *Combinatorics and rational models*. Preliminary report.

Although hyperplane arrangement complements are rationally formal, we note that they have non-minimal rational (CDGA) models which are topologically and combinatorially significant, in light of recent ideas of Bibby and Dupont, as well as foundational results of De Concini and Procesi. As an application, we revisit and extend the formulas of Manin, Yuzvinsky, Callegaro and Gaiffi for the Betti numbers of certain families of wonderful compactifications. (Received February 02, 2016)