

The celebrated Erdős–Ko–Rado theorem determines the maximum size of a  $k$ -uniform intersecting family. The Hilton–Milner theorem determines the maximum size of a  $k$ -uniform intersecting family that is not a subfamily of the so-called Erdős–Ko–Rado family. In turn, it is natural to ask what the maximum size of an intersecting  $k$ -uniform family that is neither a subfamily of the Erdős–Ko–Rado family nor of the Hilton–Milner family is. For  $k \geq 4$ , this was solved (implicitly) in the same paper by Hilton–Milner in 1967. We give a different and simpler proof, based on the shifting method, which allows us to solve all cases  $k \geq 3$  and characterize all extremal families achieving the extremal value.