

MATHEMATISCHES FORSCHUNGSINSTITUT OBERWOLFACH

Tagungsbericht 14/1969

Gruppen und Geometrie

18.5. bis 24.5.1969

Die diesjährige Tagung "Gruppen und Geometrie" stand unter der Leitung von Prof.H.Salzmann (Tübingen) und Prof.D.G.Higman (Ann Arbor, USA). In Vorträgen, Diskussionen und Einzelgesprächen wurden neue Ergebnisse bekannt und besprochen. Neben der Beschreibung von Geometrien mit Hilfe ihrer Kollineationsgruppen interessierte eine umgekehrte Fragestellung: Man bestimme die Automorphismengruppe einer fest vorgegebenen "geometrischen Struktur" und finde in dieser neue einfache Gruppen (Conway, Fischer). In langen Gesprächen wurde versucht, allgemeine Beziehungen zwischen neuen einfachen Gruppen zu finden.

Teilnehmer

E.F.Assmus, London	E.Johnsen, Santa Barbara (USA)
R.Baer, Frankfurt	W.J.Jonsson, Montreal
D.W.Barnes, Tübingen / Sydney	H.Karzel, Hannover
H.Bender, Mainz	O.Kegel, London
F.Buekenhout, Brüssel	P.Kirkpatrick, Gießen/Sydney
P.Breuning, Gießen	H.Kurzweil, Tübingen
J.H.Conway, Cambridge	J.E.McLaughlin, Ann Arbor (USA)
J.Cofman, London	V.C.Mavron, London
P.Dembowski, Tübingen	H.Salzmann, Tübingen
W.Ellers, Fredericton (Kanada)	R.Schmidt, Kiel
J.Fink, Tübingen	Ch.C.Sims, New Brunswick (USA)
B.Fischer, Frankfurt	K.Sörensen, Hannover
W.Hauptmann, Gießen	K.Strambach, Tübingen
D.G.Higman, Ann Arbor (USA)	G.J.Thompson, Cambridge
D.R.Hughes, London	A.Wagner, London

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7

1



VortragsauszügeE. F. Assmus, Jr.: Sphere packing over finite fields and multiply transitive groups

Let V be the space of n tuples over a finite field, $GF(q)$. If $A = (a_0, \dots, a_{n-1})$ and $B = (b_0, \dots, b_{n-1})$ are elements of V , set $\beta(A, B) = |\{i \mid a_i \neq b_i\}|$. Then β is a metric on V . Given a positive integer, e , a subset S of V is called a perfect e -packing if the closed balls of radius e about the elements of S disjointly cover V . The existence of such a packing implies the existence of a solution to the diophantine equation $1 + (q-1)n + \dots + (q-1)^e \binom{n}{e} = q^{n-k}$, where $|S| = q^k$. To avoid certain trivial cases we assume $k > 1$. All known solutions to the equation and all perfect packings were written down in 1949 by M. J. E. Golay. Four of them are of quadratic residue type and deserve special attention because of their large automorphism groups. The parameters are: $q = 4, n = 5, e = 1$. $q = 2, n = 7, e = 1$. $q = 3, n = 11, e = 2$. $q = 2, n = 23, e = 3$. The groups: $Alt(6), A_3(GF(2)), M_{12}, M_{24}$.

D. W. Barnes: Blockfunctors, cohomology and transfers

Let U be a subgroup of the finite group G of index n . Let p be a prime, b_1 the functor which assigns to each $Z_p G$ -module, the component in the principal block, B_1 the category of $Z_p G$ -modules in the principal block.

Theorem The following conditions are equivalent:

- (a) $H^r(G, A) \cong H^r(U, b_1(A))$ for all $r \geq 0$ and all $Z_p G$ -modules A .
- (b) $p \nmid n$ and $\text{rescor} = n^x: H^*(U, _) \rightarrow H^*(U, _)$ on B_1 .
- (c) If χ is an ordinary non-trivial G -character in the principal p -block, then $\chi|_U$ does not contain the trivial U -character.

If U is a Hall π -subgroup of G and has a normal complement, then the conditions (a) - (c) are satisfied for all $p \in \pi$. The converse is true for the case where U is a Sylow p -subgroup, but not for general Hall subgroups.

3

F. Buekenhout: On affine spaces as 2-designs

The following result is due to recent work by W. M. Kantor and the author.

Let D be a 2-design whose blocks are lines i.e. any 2 distinct points x, y are on one and only one block xy ; moreover let $2 < |block| < |D|$.

Let G be a group of automorphisms of D such that

- (i) $G_{x,y}$ fixes xy pointwise for each $x \neq y \in D$
- (ii) G is transitive on couples of distinct secant lines.

Then D is an affine space or D is a projective space of order 2. 10

J. G. Conway: The new groups

All but three or possibly just two of the known simple groups, which are not yet fitted into natural infinite families are involved in one or the other of the new groups $\cdot O$ and F_{24} . The group $\cdot O$ and its lattice of subgroups were described in some detail. It is the group of automorphisms of the 24-dimensional lattice, discovered by J. Leech, and many of its subgroups are obtained by stabilising sublattices of this lattice. The group F_{24} (Fischer's $M(24)$) would seem to be in some sense a 'twin' of $\cdot O$ and perhaps a proper understanding of this relationship might 'explain' the existence of the new groups. 10

J. Cofman: Eine Kennzeichnung von endlichen desarguesschen projektiven Ebenen

Sei \mathbb{P} eine endliche projektive Ebene gerader Ordnung n und sei S eine Menge von $n+1$ Punkten in \mathbb{P} . Wenn \mathbb{P} eine Kollineationsgruppe Δ zulässt, die auf S dreifach transitiv operiert, dann ist \mathbb{P} desarguessch, Δ enthält eine Untergruppe $\cong PSL(2, m)$ und die Punkte aus S bilden entweder eine Gerade, oder ein Oval.

Bemerkung: Wenn Δ auf den Punkten von S nur zweifach transitiv operiert, braucht \mathbb{P} nicht notwendig desarguessch zu sein. (siehe z.B. die Ebenen von Lüneburg).

P. Dembowski: Gruppentreue quadratischer Erweiterungen endlicher desarguesscher Ebenen

Folgender Satz wurde bewiesen:

Es sei \mathbb{E} eine endliche projektive Ebene quadratischer Ordnung $n = q^2$ und \mathbb{P} eine Unterebene der Ordnung q von \mathbb{E} .

Genau dann ist \mathbb{E} eine Hughes-Ebene (über einem Fastkörper des Ranges ≤ 2 über seinem Kern; im Fall des Ranges 1 ist \mathbb{E} die desarguessche Ebene der Ordnung n), wenn die Kollineationsgruppe von \mathbb{E} eine \mathbb{P} invariant lassende und auf \mathbb{P} treu operierende Untergruppe $\cong \text{PGL}_3(q)$ enthält.

E. W. Ellers: Coproducts of Motion Groups

A motion group B is a group G together with an invariant subset D of involutory elements of G , for which the three reflection theorem is true. A geometric structure can be attached to G in which the elements of D are the lines.

Motion morphisms are homomorphisms of G that preserve also the geometric structure. The motion groups together with the motion morphisms form a category. It is proved that coproducts exist in this category.

B. Fischer: Erweiterungen einfacher Gruppen

Sei $G = M(21) \cong \text{PSU}(6, 2)$. Es gibt Gruppen $M(22)$, $M(23)$, $M(24)$, die eine Involution d enthalten, so dass $C_{M(i)}(d)/\langle d \rangle \cong M(i-1)$. Die Ordnungen sind $2^{17} \cdot 3^9 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 7 \cdot 11 \cdot 13$, $2^{18} \cdot 3^{13} \cdot 5^2 \cdot 7 \cdot 11 \cdot 13 \cdot 17 \cdot 23$, $2^{22} \cdot 3^{16} \cdot 5^2 \cdot 7^3 \cdot 11 \cdot 13 \cdot 17 \cdot 23 \cdot 29$. Diese Gruppen haben eine einfache Kommutatorgruppe, $[M(24) : (M(24))'] = 2$ nach J. G. Thompson, $[M(i) : (M(i))'] = 1$ in den anderen Fällen.

D. G. Higman: Coherent configurations

If G is a finite group, X is a finite G -space and \mathcal{U} is the set of all G -orbits in $X \times X$ under componentwise action, then, regarding \mathcal{U} as a set of relations on X ,

- (1) \mathcal{U} is a partition of $X \times X$,
- (2) the identity relation I_X is a union of members of \mathcal{U} ,

(3) if $f \in \mathcal{V}$, then the converse f^\vee of f is in \mathcal{V} ,
and

(4) given $f, g, h \in \mathcal{V}$, and $(x, z) \in h$, the number of $y \in Y$ such that $(x, y) \in f$ and $(y, z) \in g$ is independent of the choice of $(x, z) \in h$.

We call a system (X, \mathcal{O}) satisfying (1) through (4) a coherent configuration; it is essentially an association scheme in case $I_X \in \mathcal{O}$ and $f \equiv f^\vee$ for all $f \in \mathcal{O}$. The purpose of this lecture was to introduce some of the many invariants which can be associated with a coherent configuration, and to outline the first steps of a systematic investigation of these configurations and the more general ones obtained by replacing "number" by "existence" in (4).

D. R. Hughes: Free extensions and completions and their
finite collineation groups

A configuration (a set of points and lines such that two distinct points are on at most one common line) is confined if every element is incident with at least three elements. The union of confined configurations is confined, so the confined core $Q(C)$ is the largest confined configuration in C . If C is finite, with n_1 points, n_2 lines, and n_3 incidences, the rank of C is $r(C) = 2(n_1 + n_2) - n_3$. C_1 and C_2 are free equivalent if they have isomorphic free completions. M. Hall has proved: Theorem. If C_1 and C_2 are finite and if $Q(C_1) = Q(C_2) = \emptyset$, then C_1 is free equivalent to C_2 if and only if $r(C_1) = r(C_2)$. We extend this to: Theorem. If C_1 and C_2 are finite, then C_1 and C_2 are free equivalent if and only if $r(C_1) = r(C_2)$ and $Q(C_1) \cong Q(C_2)$. Suppose C is finite and $Q(C) \neq \emptyset$, and let G be the collineation group of the free completion of C , and N the kernel of its representation on $Q(C)$. Then $G/N \cong \text{Aut } Q(C)$, and if B is a finite subgroup of N , there exists a symmetric group S_t of degree $t = r(C) - r(Q(C))$, such that $B < S_t < N$. In addition, G splits over N .

10

H. Karzel: Hyperbolische Gruppenräume

Eine Kennzeichnung des Gruppenraums einer verallgemeinerten absoluten Ebene lässt sich angeben, wenn man jedem Paar G, E , bestehend aus einer Gruppe G und einem Erzeugendensystem E mit ' $\alpha E = \beta E \Rightarrow \alpha = \beta$ ' eine geometrische Struktur $E(G)$ wie folgt zuordnet: Es sei $[\delta] = \{\alpha \in E^2; \delta \alpha \in E\} \quad \forall \delta \in E^3$,
 $(\overline{\alpha, \beta}) = \cap \{[\delta]; \alpha, \beta \in [\delta], \delta \in E^3\}$ für $\alpha, \beta \in E^2$ mit $\alpha \neq \beta$ und
 $O = \{(\overline{\alpha, \beta}); \alpha, \beta \in E^2, \alpha \neq \beta\}$. Die Elemente aus E^2 nennt man Punkte, die aus G Geraden.

Wenn $E(G)$ eine Inzidenzstruktur ist und weiteren Axiomen genügt, so ist G die Bewegungsgruppe einer verallgemeinerten absoluten Ebene. Durch weitere Spezialisierung erhält man eine Beschreibung der hyperbolischen Gruppenräume und Bewegungsgruppen.

P. Kirkpatrick: Affinely transitive ovals

We are looking for ovals in finite projective planes of odd order n .

An example was presented of an oval which has the property of being 'affinely transitive' in the sense that there is an affine collineation group one of whose orbits is the set of

$(n+1, n$ or $n-1)$ affine points of the oval. In the plane over any regular nearfield $K(q^2, 2)$ (of order q^2 with centre $GF(q)$) the set of points

$\{(w^k, w^{-k}) \mid k = 0, \dots, q^2 - 2\} \cup \{(0)\} \cup \{(\infty)\}$

is a (affinely transitive) oval if w is a generator of the multiplicative group of the field $GF(q^2)$ from which $K(q^2, 2)$ is constructed and w^k denotes the k -th power of w in $GF(q^2)$.

Conics in field planes and the Wagner ovals $\{(x, y) \mid y = x^2\} \cup \{(\infty)\}$ in semifield planes are also affinely transitive.

J. E. McLaughlin: Unitary Transvections

Suppose V is a vector space of dimension at least 2 over the field of q^2 elements. Let f be a non-singular hermitian form on V and let GU be the group of f . For each absolute point P let $X(P)$ be the subgroup generated by the transvections at P . The following theorem is due to Alan Heezen: If G is generated by a set of $X(P)$ and G is free of normal unipotent subgroups $\neq 1$,

then unless $q = 2$, G is the direct product of a family of subgroups (H) with the property that for each H , (V^H) is non-singular and H induces either the special unitary group on $(V^H)^\perp$ or it induces a rational symplectic subgroup of this group, furthermore these effective spaces for distinct members of the family are perpendicular.

V. C. Mavron: Affine Designs

In an affine $2 - (\mu n^2, \mu n, \frac{\mu \cdot n - 1}{n - 1})$ design $\tilde{\pi}$, a good block "a" is defined as a block such that whenever $a \cap b \neq \emptyset$ where b is a block of $\tilde{\pi}$ then there are $n + 1$ blocks of $\tilde{\pi}$ containing $a \cap b$.

A good block class contains all good blocks by definition.

$\{A_i \mid i=1, \dots, n\}$ is an independent set of good block classes, if for some $a_i \in A_i$,

$$1 \leq i \leq n, \bigcap_{i=1}^n a_i \neq \emptyset \text{ and } \bigcap_{i=1}^n a_i \neq \bigcap_{i \in I} a_i \text{ if } I \neq \{1, \dots, n\}.$$

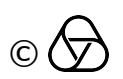
With those notions of independence and good block class one can decompose an affine design with good block classes into smaller designs. There is also a converse where one can build up a bigger/affine design from smaller ones using this decomposition. Affine Designs can be constructed over near-fields and Cartesian groups, and be characterized by their independent good block classes.

H. Salzmann: Homomorphisms of complex ternary rings

Ternaries coordinatising a 4-dimensional locally compact topological projective plane are homeomorphic to the field of complex numbers. A non-zero homomorphism $\sigma : K \rightarrow K'$ of such "complex" ternaries either is a continuous isomorphism or the image of any arc in K is everywhere dense in K' .

Ch. C. Sims: Permutation groups of small degree

This is a status report on a project to determine the primitive permutation groups of degree up to 50 being carried out with two students W. Quirin and J. Empoliti. It appears that excluding the alternating and symmetric groups of each degree there are about



300 primitive groups of degree up to 50. Of these slightly over half have an elementary abelian normal subgroup. In trying to show that our list is complete, we assume G is a primitive group of smallest degree and order not in the list and distinguish 3 cases:

- (1) G is uniprimitive
- (2) G is 2-transitive but not 2-primitive
- (3) G is 2-primitive

Case (1) has been handled and case (3) is almost settled. We are still working on case (2).

K. Jörnßen: Eine topologische Kennzeichnung des kinematischen Raumes von Blaschke und Grünwald

Def. Ein geschlitzter Raum (G, γ) mit $2 < \dim (G, \gamma) = u < \infty$ heisst topologischer geschlitzter Raum $(G, \tau, \mathcal{H}, \tau_1)$, wenn G mit einer Topologie τ , und die Menge \mathcal{H} der Hyperebenen von (G, γ) mit einer Topologie τ_1 versehen sind, so dass

$$\varphi : \begin{cases} G^{(n)} = \{(a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}) \in G^n : \overline{\{a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}\}} \in \mathcal{H}\} \rightarrow \mathcal{H} \text{ und} \\ (a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}) \xrightarrow{\quad\quad\quad} \overline{\{a_0, \dots, a_{n-1}\}} \end{cases}$$

$$\sigma : \begin{cases} \mathcal{H}^{(n)} = \{(H_0, \dots, H_{n-1}) \in \mathcal{H}^n : \bigcap_{i=0}^{n-1} H_i \in G\} \rightarrow G \\ (H_0, \dots, H_{n-1}) \xrightarrow{\quad\quad\quad} \bigcap_{i=0}^{n-1} H_i \end{cases} \text{ stetig sind}$$

(1) In einem top. geschl. Raum $(G, \tau, \mathcal{H}, \tau_1)$ ist τ_1 eindeutig bestimmt durch τ . Man schreibt deshalb kürzer (G, γ, τ) .

Def. Eine geschlitzte Inzidenzgruppe (G, γ) heisst topologische geschlitzte Inzidenzgruppe (G, τ) , wenn 1. (G, τ) topologischer Raum 2. (G, γ) topologische Gruppe 3. (G, γ, τ) top. geschl. Raum ist.

(2) Es sei (G, γ, τ) eine topologische (3,1). geschlitzte Inzidenzgruppe (G, τ) lokalkompakt und zusammenhängend und (G, γ) nicht kommutativ, dann ist (G, γ, τ) isomorph zum kinematischen Raum von Blaschke und Grünwald.

010



9

K. Strambach: Sphärische Kreisebenen mit dreidimensionaler
nichteinfacher Automorphismengruppe

Zeichnet man auf der 2-Sphäre ein System von Jordankurven (sogenannten Kreisen) so aus, dass mit je drei verschiedenen Punkten genau ein Kreis inzidiert, so erhält man eine sphärische Kreisebene; ihre volle Automorphismengruppe ist eine Liegruppe. Es wurden alle sphärischen Kreisebenen bestimmt, die eine dreidimensionale nicht (~~abstrakt~~) ^{abstrakt} einfache Gruppe von Automorphismen zulassen.

G. J. Thompson: Lattices and finite Groups

To each lattice Λ is associated its theta-function Θ_Λ . Properties of the Θ -functions lead one to try to construct lattices with preassigned properties. In particular, if Λ is even, unimodular, 48-dimensional and $\lambda \cdot \lambda \geq 6$ for all $\lambda \in \Lambda \setminus \{0\}$, the Θ -function of Λ is uniquely determined. I have tried, so far unsuccessfully, to construct such a lattice.

A completely separate study, prompted by some remark of R. Steinberg, led to a basis $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{24}$ of the Leech-lattice such that

(i) λ_i is a minimal vector ($\lambda_i \cdot \lambda_i = 4$)

(ii) If λ is any minimal vector, then

$$\lambda = \pm \sum \chi_i \lambda_i, \text{ where the } \chi_i \text{ are non negative.}$$

A. Wagner: Kollineationsgruppen projektiver Räume

Es wurde gesprochen über:

- 1) Die Bahnen einer Kollineationsgruppe auf Unterräumen und deren Dualen.
- 2) Klassifikation von Involutionen in nicht notwendig endlichen projektiven Räumen.

Berichterstatter: H. Kurzweil (Tübingen)

