

CONTENTS

PART I. INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1. Finite fields	1
1.1. Definitions and existence	1
1.2. Automorphisms	1
1.3. Functions	2
1.4. Quadratic equations	3
1.5. n -th roots	4
1.6. Primitive and subprimitive roots of polynomials	6
1.7. Notation for small finite fields	8
1.8. Invariants of polynomials	10
1.9. Some equations with few terms	14
1.10. Cubic equations	18
1.11. Quartic equations	22
1.12. Notes and references	27
Chapter 2. Projective spaces	29
2.1. $PG(n, K)$	29
2.2. Incidence structures	36
2.3. Canonical forms for projectivities in $PG(n-1, q)$	40
2.4. Projectivities with subprimitive characteristic polynomial	46
2.5. Orders of projectivities	48
2.6. Varieties	49
2.7. Linear systems of primals	53
2.8. A generalization of the theorem of Menelaus	54
2.9. Notes and references	60

PART II. ELEMENTARY PROPERTIES OF $PG(n, q)$

Chapter 3. Subspaces of $PG(n, q)$	65
3.1. Numbers	65
3.2. Characterization of subspaces	67
3.3. Sets of subspaces	69
3.4. Notes and references	71

Chapter 4. Partitions of $PG(n, q)$	72
4.1. Partitions of $PG(n, q)$ by r -spaces	72
4.2. Cyclic projectivities	74
4.3. Partitions of $PG(n, q^k)$ by subgeometries $PG(n, q)$	85
4.4. Notes and references	96
Chapter 5. Canonical forms for varieties and polarities	97
5.1. Quadric and Hermitian varieties	97
5.2. Projective classification of quadrics	104
5.3. Polarities	110
5.4. Notes and references	115
PART III. $PG(1, q)$ AND $PG(2, q)$	
Chapter 6. $PG(1, q)$	119
6.1. Harmonic tetrads	119
6.2. Quadric and Hermitian varieties	122
6.3. $PGL(2, q)$	124
6.4. $PG(1, q)$ for $q = 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9$	129
6.5. Notes and references	136
Chapter 7. First properties of $PG(2, q)$	137
7.1. Preliminaries	137
7.2. Conics	140
7.3. Hermitian curves	146
7.4. $PGL(3, q)$	149
7.5. Perspectivities	157
7.6. Notes and references	161
Chapter 8. Ovals	163
8.1. k -arcs	163
8.2. Ovals for q odd	165
8.3. Polarities	169
8.4. Ovals for q even	174
8.5. Translation ovals	182
8.6. q -arcs for q odd	186
8.7. q -arcs for q even	197
8.8. Notes and references	199

Chapter 9. Arithmetic of k-arcs	201
9.1. The basic equations	201
9.2. Small arcs	208
9.3. Uniform arcs	212
9.4. Examples of complete arcs	214
9.5. Notes and references	219
Chapter 10. Arcs in ovals	221
10.1. Plane curves	221
10.2. The Hasse-Weil theorem	225
10.3. Complete arcs for q even	232
10.4. Complete arcs for q odd	235
10.5. Notes and references	239
Chapter 11. Cubic curves	241
11.1. Configurations	241
11.2. Double points, points of inflexion, and nuclei	245
11.3. Classification of singular cubics	254
11.4. Properties of non-singular cubics	270
11.5. Non-singular cubics with nine inflexions	278
11.6. Non-singular cubics with three inflexions	280
11.7. Non-singular cubics with one inflexion	282
11.8. Non-singular cubics with no inflexions	308
11.9. Numbers of points on cubic curves	311
11.10. Classification of non-singular cubics	313
11.11. Notes and references	313
Chapter 12. Plane $(k;n)$-arcs	320
12.1. Diophantine equations	320
12.2. Maximal arcs	324
12.3. Complete arcs of type (m,n)	335
12.4. Arcs with small deficiency	345
12.5. Arcs and algebraic curves	357
12.6. Notes and references	364
Chapter 13. Blocking sets	366
13.1. Definitions and examples	366
13.2. Bounds for blocking sets with q square	372

13.3.	Bounds for blocking sets with q non-square	374
13.4.	Blocking sets in planes of small order	376
13.5.	Further examples	384
13.6.	Notes and references	385
Chapter 14.	$PG(2, q)$ for small q	387
14.1.	$PG(2, 2)$	387
14.2.	$PG(2, 3)$	390
14.3.	$PG(2, 4)$	392
14.4.	$PG(2, 5)$	397
14.5.	$PG(2, 7)$	398
14.6.	$PG(2, 8)$	401
14.7.	$PG(2, 9)$	406
14.8.	$PG(2, 2^h)$ for $h = 4, 5, 6, 7, 8$	413
14.9.	Notes and references	418
Appendix I.	Orders of the semi-linear groups	419
	$DX(n, q)$, $q = p^h$, $n \geq 2$	
Appendix II.	Addition tables for $GF(2^h)$, $h \leq 8$	425
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	430
	INDEX OF NOTATION	460
	GENERAL INDEX	469