

Every generalized quadrangle of order 5 having a regular point is symplectic

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Abstract

For already many years now one of the most important open problems in the theory of generalized quadrangles is whether other classes of generalized quadrangles exist besides those that are currently known. This paper reports on an unsuccessful attempt to construct a new generalized quadrangle. As a by-product of our attempt, we however obtain the following new characterization result: every generalized quadrangle of order 5 that has at least one regular point is isomorphic to the quadrangle $W(5)$ arising from a symplectic polarity of $\text{PG}(3, 5)$. During the classification process we used the computer algebra system GAP to do certain computations or to experiment about an optimal strategy for the proof.

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1 Introduction

A partial linear space \mathcal{Q} is called a *generalized quadrangle of order* (s, t) for some $s, t \in \mathbb{N}^* := \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$ if the following three properties hold:

- (1) every line is incident with precisely $s + 1$ points;
- (2) every point is incident with precisely $t + 1$ lines;
- (3) for every line L and every point x not incident with L , there exists a unique point on L collinear with x .

If $s = t$, then the generalized quadrangle \mathcal{Q} is also said to be of *order* s . Generalized quadrangles were introduced by Jacques Tits in [19].

Suppose \mathcal{Q} is a generalized quadrangle of order (s, t) with point set \mathcal{P} . For every point x of \mathcal{Q} , we denote by x^\perp the set of all points of \mathcal{Q} collinear with x (including the point x itself). If X is a set of points of \mathcal{Q} , then we define $X^\perp := \bigcap_{x \in X} x^\perp$ and $X^{\perp\perp} := (X^\perp)^\perp$,

hereby following the convention that $\emptyset^\perp = \mathcal{P}$. A *hyperbolic line* of \mathcal{Q} is any set of the form $\{x, y\}^{\perp\perp}$ where x and y are two noncollinear points of \mathcal{Q} . Every hyperbolic line of \mathcal{Q} has size at most $t + 1$. If all hyperbolic lines through a point x of \mathcal{Q} have size $t + 1$, then x is called a *regular point*.

Let ζ be a symplectic polarity of $\text{PG}(3, q)$. Let $W(q)$ denote the subgeometry of $\text{PG}(3, q)$ defined by those points and lines of $\text{PG}(3, q)$ that are totally isotropic with respect to ζ . Then $W(q)$ is a generalized quadrangle of order q all whose points are regular. The generalized quadrangle $W(q)$ is called a *symplectic quadrangle*. The following is the main result of this paper.

Theorem 1.1 *Every generalized quadrangle of order 5 having at least one regular point is symplectic.*

As Theorem 1.1 indicates, the current paper is concerned with the problem of classifying all GQ's of order (s, t) for some specific values of s and t . In the literature, a complete classification of all GQ's of order (s, t) has been obtained whenever $s \in \{1, 2, 3\}$, $t \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ or $(s, t) = (4, 4)$, see [8, 13, 14, 15]. The GQ's with the smallest number of points for which the mentioned classification problem is still unsolved are those for which the order is equal to $(4, 6)$ or $(5, 5)$ (respectively corresponding to 125 and 156 points). Theorem 1.1 gives a complete classification of those GQ's of order $(5, 5)$ that contain at least one regular point. Theorem 1.1 is equivalent with the statement that every generalized quadrangle of order $(4, 6)$ having a regular spread is isomorphic to the GQ $AS(5)$ (see Section 2.1 for definitions).

Theorem 1.1 is also concerned with the problem of characterizing symplectic GQ's by means of suitable sets of regular points. One of the earliest combinatorial characterizations of GQ's ([2, 16, 17], [15, 5.2.1]) states that every GQ of order $s \geq 2$ for which every point is regular is symplectic (and so s is a prime power). In [5], the author showed that a GQ of order $s \geq 2$ is symplectic as soon as there is some hyperbolic line that entirely consists of regular points. Other characterizations of symplectic GQ's in terms of suitable sets of regular points can be found in [15] (see Theorems 1.3.6, 5.2.5 and 5.2.6). In [18, Theorem 4.3], it was shown that a generalized quadrangle of order $s \geq 2$ is symplectic as soon as there are two noncollinear regular points x and y such that the projective plane π_x (as defined in Section 2.1) is Desarguesian. This implies that every generalized quadrangle of order 5 is symplectic as soon as there are two noncollinear regular points ([18, Corollary 4.4]). Theorem 1.1 improves this by saying that the existence of one regular point is already sufficient. Note that this cannot be further improved. The GQ $Q(4, 5)$, which is the point-line dual of $W(5)$, is nonisomorphic to $W(5)$ and has no regular points at all. In fact, there is a conjecture in the area of generalized quadrangles which states that every GQ of order 5 is isomorphic to either $W(5)$ or $Q(4, 5)$.

2 Preliminaries

2.1 Further notions regarding GQ's

Let \mathcal{Q} be a generalized quadrangle (GQ) of order (s, t) , where $s, t \in \mathbb{N}^*$. If L_1 and L_2 are two disjoint lines of \mathcal{Q} , then $\{L_1, L_2\}^\perp$ denotes the set of all lines meeting L_1 and L_2 , and $\{L_1, L_2\}^{\perp\perp}$ denotes the set of all lines meeting every line of $\{L_1, L_2\}^\perp$. A *spread* of \mathcal{Q} is a set S of lines having the property that every point of \mathcal{Q} is incident with a unique line of S . A spread S of \mathcal{Q} is called *regular* if for every two distinct lines $L_1, L_2 \in S$, the set $\{L_1, L_2\}^{\perp\perp}$ has size $s + 1$ and is contained in S . A spread S is called a *spread of symmetry* if for every line $L \in S$ and all $l_1, l_2 \in L$, there exists an automorphism of \mathcal{Q} fixing each line of S and mapping l_1 to l_2 . Every spread of symmetry is a regular spread. If S is a spread of a GQ of order (s, t) with $t \neq 1$, then by [3, Theorem 4.1]), there are at most $s + 1$ automorphisms of \mathcal{Q} that fix each line of S , and equality holds if and only if S is a spread of symmetry.

If x is a point of a GQ \mathcal{Q} of order (s, t) with $s > 1$, then there are at most t automorphisms of \mathcal{Q} that fix each point of x^\perp , see [15, 8.1]. If there are precisely t such automorphisms, then x is called a *center of symmetry*. Every center of symmetry is a regular point.

If x is a regular point of a GQ of order $s \geq 2$, then the geometry defined on x^\perp by the sets $\{y_1, y_2\}^{\perp\perp}$ where y_1 and y_2 are two distinct points of x^\perp is a projective plane π_x of order s , see e.g. [15, 1.3.1].

From every GQ \mathcal{Q} of order $s > 1$ having a regular point x , a GQ $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Q}, x)$ of order $(s - 1, s + 1)$ can be derived, see [11, Theorem 5.1] or [15, 3.1.4]. This new GQ is called the *expansion of \mathcal{Q} about x* . The points of $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Q}, x)$ are the points of \mathcal{Q} noncollinear with x and the lines of $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Q}, x)$ are on the one hand the lines of \mathcal{Q} nonincident with x and on the other hand the hyperbolic lines through x (natural incidence). The set $S(\mathcal{Q}, x)$ of all hyperbolic lines through x is a regular spread of $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Q}, x)$. By De Soete and Thas [7, Theorems 2.7 and 2.8], this regular spread is a spread of symmetry if and only if x is a center of symmetry. By [12, Theorem 1.1], for every GQ \mathcal{Q}' of order $(s - 1, s + 1)$, $s \geq 2$ having a regular spread, there exists a generalized quadrangle \mathcal{Q} of order s and a regular point x in \mathcal{Q} such that $\mathcal{Q}' \cong \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Q}, x)$.

As told before, all points of the symplectic GQ $W(q)$ are regular. As the automorphism group of $W(q)$ is point-transitive there is essentially one GQ that arises by expanding $W(q)$ about one of its points. This GQ, which we denote here by $AS(q)$, was first constructed by Ahrens and Szekeres [1] and (only for q even) by Hall [10].

2.2 Generalized admissible triples

Definition 2.1 Let $s, t \in \mathbb{N}^*$. A *Steiner system of type $S(2, s + 1, st + 1)$* is a point-line geometry $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B})$ having precisely $st + 1$ points, $s + 1$ points on each line and a unique line through every pair of distinct points. Every point of such a Steiner system is incident with precisely t lines.

Definition 2.2 A *generalized admissible triple* (GAT for short) is a triple $\mathcal{T} = (\mathcal{S}, X, \Delta)$ for which:

- X is a finite set whose size $s + 1 := |X|$ is at least 2.
- \mathcal{S} is a Steiner system of type $S(2, s + 1, st + 1)$ for some $t \in \mathbb{N}^*$.
- If \mathcal{P} denotes the point set of \mathcal{S} , then Δ is a map from $\mathcal{P} \times \mathcal{P}$ to $Sym(X)$ satisfying the following:

(GAT1) if p, q and r are collinear, then $\Delta(p, q) \cdot \Delta(q, r) = \Delta(p, r)$;

(GAT2) if p, q and r are not collinear, then the permutation $\Delta(p, q) \cdot \Delta(q, r) \cdot \Delta(r, p)$ has no fixpoints.

Above, $Sym(X)$ denotes the group of all permutations of X and we follow the convention here that $x^{\sigma_1 \sigma_2} = (x^{\sigma_1})^{\sigma_2}$ for all $x \in X$ and all $\sigma_1, \sigma_2 \in Sym(X)$. We denote the trivial permutation of X by 1. If $\mathcal{T} = (\mathcal{S}, X, \Delta)$ is a GAT, then by putting successively $q = p$ and $r = p$ in (GAT1), we see that $\Delta(p, p) = 1$ and $\Delta(q, p) = \Delta(p, q)^{-1}$ for every two points p and q of \mathcal{S} . Generalized admissible triples were introduced in [5].

Proposition 2.3 ([5, Theorem 7]) *Let $\mathcal{S}_1 = (\mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{B}_1)$ and $\mathcal{S}_2 = (\mathcal{P}_2, \mathcal{B}_2)$ be two isomorphic Steiner systems and X_1, X_2 two sets of the same cardinality. Let α be an isomorphism between \mathcal{S}_1 and \mathcal{S}_2 and for every point p of \mathcal{S}_1 let θ_p be a bijection between X_1 and X_2 . Suppose $\mathcal{T}_1 = (\mathcal{S}_1, X_1, \Delta_1)$ is a GAT for a certain map $\Delta_1 : \mathcal{P}_1 \times \mathcal{P}_1 \rightarrow Sym(X_1)$. Then also $\mathcal{T}_2 = (\mathcal{S}_2, X_2, \Delta_2)$ is a GAT, where Δ_2 is the map from $\mathcal{P}_2 \times \mathcal{P}_2$ to $Sym(X_2)$ defined by*

$$\Delta_2(p^\alpha, q^\alpha) := \theta_p^{-1} \Delta_1(p, q) \theta_q, \quad \forall p, q \in \mathcal{P}_1.$$

Definition 2.4 We say that two GAT's $\mathcal{T}_1 = (\mathcal{S}_1, X_1, \Delta_1)$ and $\mathcal{T}_2 = (\mathcal{S}_2, X_2, \Delta_2)$ are *equivalent* if there exists an isomorphism α from \mathcal{S}_1 to \mathcal{S}_2 and bijections $\theta_p : X_1 \rightarrow X_2$ for points p of \mathcal{S}_1 such that $\Delta_2(p^\alpha, q^\alpha) = \theta_p^{-1} \Delta_1(p, q) \theta_q$ for all points p and q of \mathcal{S}_1 .

2.3 GQ's from GAT's

Proposition 2.5 ([5, Theorem 4]) *Suppose $\mathcal{T} = (\mathcal{S}, X, \Delta)$ is a GAT where $\mathcal{S} = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B})$ is a Steiner system of type $S(2, s + 1, st + 1)$. Let Γ be the simple graph with vertex set $X \times \mathcal{P}$, where two distinct vertices (x_1, p_1) and (x_2, p_2) are adjacent whenever either*

- (a) $p_1 = p_2$ and $x_1 \neq x_2$, or
- (b) $p_1 \neq p_2$ and $x_2 = x_1^{\Delta(p_1, p_2)}$.

Then Γ is the collinearity graph of a GQ $\mathcal{Q}_{\mathcal{T}}$ of order (s, t) . For every point p of \mathcal{S} , the set $L_p := \{(x, p) \mid x \in X\}$ is a line of $\mathcal{Q}_{\mathcal{T}}$ and the set $S_{\mathcal{T}}$ of all lines obtained in this way is a regular spread of $\mathcal{Q}_{\mathcal{T}}$.

Definition 2.6 For every GAT \mathcal{T} , we define $\Omega(\mathcal{T}) := (\mathcal{Q}_{\mathcal{T}}, S_{\mathcal{T}})$, where $\mathcal{Q}_{\mathcal{T}}$ and $S_{\mathcal{T}}$ are as in Proposition 2.5.

Definition 2.7 Let \mathcal{Q}_1 and \mathcal{Q}_2 be two generalized quadrangles and let S_i , $i \in \{1, 2\}$, be a regular spread of \mathcal{Q}_i . Then (\mathcal{Q}_1, S_1) and (\mathcal{Q}_2, S_2) are said to be *equivalent* if there exists an isomorphism from \mathcal{Q}_1 to \mathcal{Q}_2 mapping S_1 to S_2 .

Proposition 2.8 ([5, Theorem 6]) *Let \mathcal{Q} be a generalized quadrangle of order (s, t) having a regular spread S . Then there exists a GAT \mathcal{T} such that $\Omega(\mathcal{T})$ is equivalent with (\mathcal{Q}, S) .*

Proposition 2.9 ([5, Theorem 8]) *Let \mathcal{T}_1 and \mathcal{T}_2 be two GAT's. Then $\Omega(\mathcal{T}_1)$ and $\Omega(\mathcal{T}_2)$ are equivalent if and only if \mathcal{T}_1 and \mathcal{T}_2 are equivalent.*

2.4 Admissible triples

Definition 2.10 A GAT $\mathcal{T} = (\mathcal{S}, X, \Delta)$ is called an *admissible triple* (AT for short) if there exists a binary operation \cdot on X such that

(AT1) (X, \cdot) is a group;

(AT2) $x^{-1} \cdot x^{\Delta(p_1, p_2)}$ only depends on the points p_1 and p_2 of \mathcal{S} and not on the element x of X .

Now, let G denote the subgroup of $Sym(X)$ consisting of the elements σ_y , $y \in X$, where each σ_y maps the element $x \in X$ to the element $x \cdot y \in X$. If p_1 and p_2 are two points of \mathcal{S} , then putting $x_{p_1, p_2} := x^{-1} \cdot x^{\Delta(p_1, p_2)}$ (with $x \in X$ arbitrary), we see that $x^{\Delta(p_1, p_2)} = x \cdot x_{p_1, p_2}$ for every $x \in X$, showing that $\Delta(p_1, p_2) \in G$. The conditions (GAT1) and (GAT2) can thus be replaced by the following condition: three points p , q and r of \mathcal{S} are collinear if and only if $x_{pq} \cdot x_{qr} = x_{pr}$. This shows that the definition of AT as given here is equivalent with the definition of admissible triple as given in [3]. Indeed, in [3] this notion was defined as a triple (\mathcal{S}, G, Δ) satisfying:

- G is a nontrivial finite group;
- \mathcal{S} is a Steiner system of type $S(2, s + 1, st + 1)$ where $s := |G| - 1$ and $t \in \mathbb{N}^*$;
- if \mathcal{P} denotes the point set of \mathcal{S} , then Δ is a map from $\mathcal{P} \times \mathcal{P}$ to G such that if $x, y, z \in \mathcal{P}$, then x, y, z are incident with the same line of \mathcal{S} if and only if $\Delta(x, y) \cdot \Delta(y, z) = \Delta(x, z)$.

We end this subsection with stating two results that we will need to invoke later.

Proposition 2.11 ([5, Theorems 11 and 12]) *Let $\mathcal{T} = (\mathcal{S}, X, \Delta)$ be a GAT, where the Steiner system \mathcal{S} is not a line. Then \mathcal{T} is a AT if and only if $Im(\Delta)$ generates a subgroup of size $|X|$ of $Sym(X)$.*

Proposition 2.12 ([3, Theorem 3.2]) *If $\mathcal{T} = (\mathcal{S}, X, \Delta)$ is an AT, then the spread $S_{\mathcal{T}}$ of $\mathcal{Q}_{\mathcal{T}}$ is a spread of symmetry.*

3 Proof of Theorem 1.1

3.1 Sets of permutations of $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ satisfying Property (*)

Definition 3.1 Let Σ be a set of permutations of $X := \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$. We say that Σ satisfies *Property (*)* if the following hold:

- $|\Sigma| = 4$;
- no element of Σ has fixpoints;
- no permutation $\sigma_1\sigma_2^{-1}$ has fixpoints, where σ_1, σ_2 are two distinct elements of Σ .

Note that if $\sigma_1\sigma_2^{-1}$ has fixpoints, then each of the permutations $\sigma_2\sigma_1^{-1}$, $\sigma_1^{-1}\sigma_2$, $\sigma_2^{-1}\sigma_1$ also has fixpoints. If Σ is a set of permutations of X satisfying Property (*), then for every $\sigma \in \text{Sym}(X)$ also $\Sigma^\sigma := \{\sigma^{-1}\sigma'\sigma \mid \sigma' \in \Sigma\}$ satisfies Property (*). We call Σ^σ the *conjugation of Σ by σ* .

Lemma 3.2 *Up to conjugation, there are precisely three sets of permutations of X satisfying Property (*). These three sets are:*

- (1) $\Sigma_1^* := \{(12345), (13524), (14253), (15432)\}$;
- (2) $\Sigma_2^* := \{(123)(45), (135)(24), (253)(14), (152)(34)\}$;
- (3) $\Sigma_3^* := \{(12345), (13)(254), (14352), (15324)\}$.

Proof. Put $\Sigma = \{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3, \sigma_4\}$. Since no σ_i has fixpoints, each σ_i has shape $(*, *, *, *, *)$ or $(*, *)(*, *, *)$. Observe that the sets Σ_1^* , Σ_2^* , Σ_3^* defined above are mutually non-conjugate as they contain a different amount of cycles of length 5 (4, 0 and 3, respectively). We will consider three cases.

(1) Suppose $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3$ and σ_4 are all cycles of length 5. As we classify sets of permutations up to conjugacy, we may without loss of generality suppose that $\sigma_1 = (12345)$ and that $\sigma_2, \sigma_3, \sigma_4$ are of the following form: $\sigma_2 = (13***), \sigma_3 = (14***), \sigma_4 = (15***)$. The fact that $\sigma_2\sigma_1^{-1}$ has no fixpoints implies that $\{\sigma_1, \sigma_2\}$ is equal to either $\{(12345), (13254)\}$, $\{(12345), (13524)\}$ or $\{(12345), (13542)\}$. Together with the facts that also $\sigma_3\sigma_1^{-1}$ and $\sigma_3\sigma_2^{-1}$ have no fixpoints, we see that $\{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3\}$ is equal to $\{(12345), (13254), (14352)\}$ or $\{(12345), (13524), (14253)\}$. If we now try to find σ_4 such that none of $\sigma_4\sigma_1^{-1}$, $\sigma_4\sigma_2^{-1}$, $\sigma_4\sigma_3^{-1}$ has fixpoints, we see that one possibility remains: $\sigma_1 = (12345)$, $\sigma_2 = (13524)$, $\sigma_3 = (14253)$ and $\sigma_4 = (15432)$.

(2) Suppose none of $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3, \sigma_4$ is a cycle of length 5. Then without loss of generality we may suppose that $\sigma_1 = (123)(45)$, $1^{\sigma_2} = 3$, $1^{\sigma_3} = 4$ and $1^{\sigma_4} = 5$. If σ_2 is of the form $(13)(*, *, *)$, then $\sigma_2\sigma_1^{-1}$ would fix 3, which is impossible. So, σ_2 is of the form $(13*)(**)$. As $\sigma_2\sigma_1^{-1}$ has no fixpoints, $\sigma_2 \neq (132)(45)$. Using the remaining freedom (given by the fact that we classify up to conjugacy), we may suppose that $\sigma_2 = (135)(24)$. Then σ_3

and σ_4 are uniquely determined by the fact that $\{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3, \sigma_4\}$ satisfies Property (*). We should have $\sigma_3 = (14)(253)$ and $\sigma_4 = (152)(34)$.

(3) Suppose that among $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3, \sigma_4$, there are permutations of shape $(*, *, *, *, *)$ and permutations of shape $(*, *, *)(*, *)$. Without loss of generality, we may suppose that σ_1 has shape $(*, *, *, *, *)$ and that σ_2 has shape $(*, *, *)(*, *)$. Since $\sigma_2\sigma_1^{-1}$ has no fixpoints, we may without loss of generality (we classify up to conjugacy) suppose that $\sigma_1 = (12345)$, $\sigma_2 = (13)(254)$, $1^{\sigma_3} = 4$ and $1^{\sigma_4} = 5$. The fact that $\{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3, \sigma_4\}$ satisfies Property (*) now implies that σ_3 and σ_4 are uniquely determined. We should have $\sigma_3 = (14352)$ and $\sigma_4 = (15324)$. ■

Definition 3.3 Let \mathcal{G} denote the set of all ordered quadruples $G = (\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3, \sigma_4)$ for which $\tilde{G} := \{\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3, \sigma_4\}$ is a set of four permutations satisfying Property (*). We have $|\mathcal{G}| = 1344$. Indeed, a straightforward argument shows that there are 144 elements $G \in \mathcal{G}$ for which \tilde{G} is conjugate with Σ_1^* , 240 elements $G \in \mathcal{G}$ for which \tilde{G} is conjugate with Σ_2^* and 960 elements $G \in \mathcal{G}$ for which \tilde{G} is conjugate with Σ_3^* .

Definition 3.4 For every permutation $g \in \text{Sym}(X)$ having no fixpoints, let $\mathcal{G}(g)$ denote the set of all $(\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3, \sigma_4) \in \mathcal{G}$ for which $\sigma_1 = g$. If g has shape $(*, *, *, *, *)$, then $|\mathcal{G}(g)| = 36$. If g has shape $(*, *)(*, *, *)$, then $|\mathcal{G}(g)| = 24$.

3.2 Determination of all GQ's of order 5 with a regular point

Suppose \mathcal{Q} is a generalized quadrangle of order 5 having a regular point x . Put $\mathcal{Q}' = \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{Q}, x)$. Then \mathcal{Q}' is a GQ of order $(s, t) = (4, 6)$ having a regular spread S' and so by Proposition 2.8 there exists a GAT $\mathcal{T}' = (\mathcal{S}, X, \Delta')$ such that $\Omega(\mathcal{T}')$ is equivalent with (\mathcal{Q}', S') . As $|X| = 5$, we may without loss of generality suppose that $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$. The Steiner system $\mathcal{S} = (\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{B})$ has type $S(2, s+1, st+1) = S(2, 5, 25)$ and hence is an affine plane of order 5. Let o be a fixed point of \mathcal{S} and define $\Delta(x, y) := \Delta'(o, x)\Delta'(x, y)\Delta'(o, y)^{-1}$ for all points x and y of \mathcal{S} . By Proposition 2.3 and Definition 2.4, $\mathcal{T} := (\mathcal{S}, X, \Delta)$ is a GAT equivalent with \mathcal{T}' . Hence $\Omega(\mathcal{T})$ is also equivalent with (\mathcal{Q}', S') by Proposition 2.9. Observe also that $\Delta(o, x) = \Delta'(o, o)\Delta'(o, x)\Delta'(o, x)^{-1}$ is the identical permutation of X for every point x of \mathcal{S} .

Lemma 3.5 *Let L be a line of \mathcal{S} not containing o and let x be a point of L . Then $\Sigma_{x,L} := \{\Delta(x, y) \mid y \in L \setminus \{x\}\}$ is a set of four permutations of X satisfying Property (*) and hence is conjugate to either Σ_1^* , Σ_2^* or Σ_3^* .*

Proof. If y_1 and y_2 are two distinct points of L , then $\Delta(y_1, y_2) = \Delta(o, y_1)\Delta(y_1, y_2)\Delta(y_2, o)$ has no fixpoints by (GAT2). Hence:

- $\Delta(x, y)$ has no fixpoints for every $y \in L \setminus \{x\}$.
- Since $\Delta(x, y_1)^{-1}\Delta(x, y_2) = \Delta(y_1, y_2)$ (by (GAT1)), $\Delta(x, y_1)$ and $\Delta(x, y_2)$ are distinct and also $\Delta(x, y_1)\Delta(x, y_2)^{-1}$ has no fixpoints. ■

Lemma 3.6 *Let L be a line of \mathcal{S} containing o and let x be a point not on L . Then $\{\Delta(x, y) \mid y \in L \setminus \{o\}\}$ is a set of four permutations of X satisfying Property (*) and hence is conjugate to either Σ_1^* , Σ_2^* or Σ_3^* .*

Proof. If $y \in L \setminus \{o\}$, then $\Delta(x, y) = \Delta(y, o)\Delta(o, x)\Delta(x, y)$ has no fixpoints by (GAT2). If y_1 and y_2 are two distinct points of $L \setminus \{o\}$, then $\Delta(y_1, y_2) = \Delta(y_1, o)\Delta(o, y_2) = 1$ by (GAT1). Moreover, $\Delta(x, y_1)\Delta(y_1, y_2)\Delta(y_2, x) = \Delta(x, y_1)\Delta(x, y_2)^{-1}$ has no fixpoints by (GAT2). ■

Lemma 3.7 *There are two possibilities for a line L of \mathcal{S} that does not contain o :*

(I) *For any point x of L , we have that $\Sigma_{x,L} \cong \Sigma_1^*$.*

(II) *There exists a unique point x on L such that $\Sigma_{x,L} \cong \Sigma_2^*$. If y is another point of L , then $\Sigma_{y,L} \cong \Sigma_3^*$.*

Proof. Let u be an arbitrary point of L . Observe that if we know all values $\Delta(u, u')$ where $u' \in L$, then we also know all values $\Delta(u_1, u_2)$ where $u_1, u_2 \in L$. Indeed, by (GAT1) we know that $\Delta(u_1, u_2) = \Delta(u, u_1)^{-1}\Delta(u, u_2)$. We distinguish three cases.

(1) Suppose $\Sigma_{u,L} \cong \Sigma_1^*$. Then without loss of generality we may suppose that $\Sigma_{u,L} = \Sigma_1^* = \{(12345), (13524), (14253), (15432)\}$. Using the above observation, one readily computes that also $\Sigma_{u',L} = \Sigma_1^*$ for every $u' \in L \setminus \{u\}$.

(2) Suppose $\Sigma_{u,L} \cong \Sigma_2^*$. Then without loss of generality we may suppose that $\Sigma_{u,L} = \Sigma_2^* = \{(123)(45), (135)(24), (253)(14), (152)(34)\}$. Let u' be an arbitrary point of $L \setminus \{u\}$. Using the above observation, one readily finds that $\Delta(u', u)$ has shape $(*, *, *)(*, *)$ and that $\Delta(u', u'')$ has shape $(*, *, *, *, *)$ for every $u'' \in L \setminus \{u, u'\}$. So, $\Sigma_{u',L} \cong \Sigma_3^*$ and $x = u$ is the unique point on L for which $\Sigma_{x,L} \cong \Sigma_2^*$.

(3) If $\Sigma_{u,L} \cong \Sigma_3^*$, then without loss of generality we may suppose that $\Sigma_{u,L} = \Sigma_3^* = \{(12345), (13)(254), (14352), (15324)\}$. If u' is the unique point of L for which $\Delta(u, u') = (13)(254)$, then one computes that $\Sigma_{u',L} = \{(12)(354), (13)(245), (14)(253), (15)(234)\} \cong \Sigma_2^*$. By part (2), we then know that $\Sigma_{u'',L} \cong \Sigma_3^*$ for every point $u'' \in L \setminus \{u'\}$. ■

Proposition 3.8 *If all lines of \mathcal{S} not containing o are of Type (I), then $\mathcal{Q} \cong W(5)$.*

Proof. Consider a line L of \mathcal{S} not containing o , let y_1, y_2 be two distinct points on L and define $\delta := \Delta(y_1, y_2)$. Since L is of Type (I), δ is a cycle of length 5. For every $y \in \mathcal{P} \setminus \{o\}$, we define $\Sigma_y := \{\Delta(y, z) \mid z \in \mathcal{P} \setminus oy\}$. Then Σ_y only consists of cycles of length 5. By Lemmas 3.5 and 3.6, we respectively have

- (a) if $\Delta(y, z) \in \{\delta, \delta^2, \delta^3, \delta^4\}$ for two distinct points y and z of \mathcal{S} , then $\Delta(y, z') \in \{\delta, \delta^2, \delta^3, \delta^4\}$ for any point $z' \in yz \setminus \{y\}$;
- (b) if $\Delta(y, z) \in \{\delta, \delta^2, \delta^3, \delta^4\}$ for two distinct points y and z of \mathcal{S} , then $\Delta(y, z') \in \{\delta, \delta^2, \delta^3, \delta^4\}$ for any point $z' \in oz \setminus \{o\}$.

(Note that $o \notin yz$ since $\Delta(y, z) \neq 1$.) Properties (a) and (b) imply the following:

- (c) Let y and z be two distinct points of \mathcal{S} such that $o \notin yz$, and let K be the unique line through o parallel to yz . If $\Delta(y, z) \in \{\delta, \delta^2, \delta^3, \delta^4\}$, then $\Delta(y, z') \in \{\delta, \delta^2, \delta^3, \delta^4\}$ for every $z' \in \mathcal{P} \setminus (oy \cup K)$.

Let y and z be two arbitrary points of \mathcal{S} such that $o \notin yz$ and $\Delta(y, z) \in \{\delta, \delta^2, \delta^3, \delta^4\}$, and let z_1 be an arbitrary point of $\mathcal{P} \setminus \{o\}$ such that oz_1 is parallel with yz . If z_2 is a point of yz_1 distinct from y and z_1 , then $\Delta(y, z_2) \in \{\delta, \delta^2, \delta^3, \delta^4\}$ by Property (c). Property (a) then implies that $\Delta(y, z_1) \in \{\delta, \delta^2, \delta^3, \delta^4\}$. So, we have:

- (d) Let y and z be two distinct points of \mathcal{S} such that $o \notin yz$. If $\Delta(y, z) \in \{\delta, \delta^2, \delta^3, \delta^4\}$, then $\Delta(y, z') \in \{\delta, \delta^2, \delta^3, \delta^4\}$ for every $z' \in \mathcal{P} \setminus oy$.

Since $\Delta(y_1, y_2) = \delta$, we thus have that:

- (e) $\Delta(y_1, z) \in \{\delta, \delta^2, \delta^3, \delta^4\}$ for every $z \in \mathcal{P} \setminus oy_1$.

If $z \in \mathcal{P} \setminus oy_1$, then $\Delta(z, y_1) = \Delta(y_1, z)^{-1} \in \{\delta, \delta^2, \delta^3, \delta^4\}$. By Property (d) we can thus conclude that $\Delta(z, z') \in \{\delta, \delta^2, \delta^3, \delta^4\}$ for all $z, z' \in \mathcal{P}$ for which $z \notin oy_1$ and $z' \notin oz$. If $z \in oy_1 \setminus \{o\}$ and $z' \in \mathcal{P} \setminus oy_1$, then the latter fact implies that also $\Delta(z, z') = \Delta(z', z)^{-1} \in \{\delta, \delta^2, \delta^3, \delta^4\}$. Summarizing, we thus have that:

- (f) $\Delta(y, z) \in \{\delta, \delta^2, \delta^3, \delta^4\}$ for every two distinct points y and z of Δ for which $o \notin yz$.

This implies that:

- (g) $\langle Im(\Delta) \rangle = \langle \delta \rangle$ is a group of order 5.

Since $\langle Im(\Delta) \rangle$ is a group of order 5, \mathcal{T} must be an AT by Proposition 2.11. This implies by Proposition 2.12 that S' is a spread of symmetry of \mathcal{Q}' . So, x must be a center of symmetry of \mathcal{Q} by [7, Theorem 2.7]. By [4] there exists up to isomorphism a unique generalized quadrangle of order 5 having a center of symmetry. We conclude that \mathcal{Q} is isomorphic to $W(5)$. \blacksquare

In the sequel, we will suppose that there exists a line L of Type (II) of \mathcal{S} (not containing o). We denote by x_0 the unique point $x \in L$ for which $\Sigma_{x,L} \cong \Sigma_2^*$. We will show that this case cannot occur. However, we were only able to prove this by means of computer computations using the computer algebra system GAP [9] (see Lemma 3.13 and the discussion before Proposition 3.16).

Put $L = \{x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4\}$ and $ox_i = \{o, x_i, y_{i1}, y_{i2}, y_{i3}\}$ for every $i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$. Let $\{o, z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4\}$ denote the unique line through o parallel with L .

In view of Definition 2.4 and Proposition 2.9, we may without loss of generality suppose that

$$\Sigma_{x_0,L} = \Sigma_2^* = \{(123)(45), (135)(24), (253)(14), (152)(34)\},$$

and

$$\Delta(x_0, x_1) = (123)(45), \quad \Delta(x_0, x_2) = (135)(24).$$

So, $(\Delta(x_0, x_3), \Delta(x_0, x_4))$ is equal to either $((253)(14), (152)(34))$ or $((152)(34), (253)(14))$. We put $\epsilon := +$ if the former case occurs and $\epsilon := -$ if the latter case occurs. If we put

$$g_{00}^+ := 1, g_{01}^+ := (123)(45), g_{02}^+ := (135)(24), g_{03}^+ := (253)(14), g_{04}^+ := (152)(34),$$

$$g_{00}^- := 1, g_{01}^- := (123)(45), g_{02}^- := (135)(24), g_{03}^- := (152)(34), g_{04}^- := (253)(14),$$

and

$$g_{ij}^\epsilon := (g_{1i}^\epsilon)^{-1} \cdot g_{1j}^\epsilon$$

for all $i, j \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$ with $i \neq 0$, then (GAT1) implies that $\Delta(x_i, x_j) = g_{ij}^\epsilon$ for all $i, j \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$.

Definition 3.9 Let \mathcal{F} denote the set of all maps $f : \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \text{Sym}(X)$. A map $f \in \mathcal{F}$ is called *good with respect to a point* $x \in \mathcal{P} \setminus \{o\}$ if for every line K through x distinct from ox and any two distinct points $y_1, y_2 \in K$, the permutation $f(y_1)^{-1}f(y_2)$ does not have fixpoints.

Definition 3.10 In this definition, we follow the convention that subindices are taken modulo 5. For every $i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$,

$$\pi_i^\epsilon : \mathcal{G}(g_{i,i+1}^\epsilon) \times \mathcal{G}(g_{i,i+2}^\epsilon) \times \mathcal{G}(g_{i,i+3}^\epsilon) \times \mathcal{G}(g_{i,i+4}^\epsilon) \times \mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$$

is the map which sends the element

$$((g_{i,i+1}^\epsilon, \sigma_1^{(i+1)}, \sigma_2^{(i+1)}, \sigma_3^{(i+1)}), (g_{i,i+2}^\epsilon, \sigma_1^{(i+2)}, \sigma_2^{(i+2)}, \sigma_3^{(i+2)}), (g_{i,i+3}^\epsilon, \sigma_1^{(i+3)}, \sigma_2^{(i+3)}, \sigma_3^{(i+3)}),$$

$$(g_{i,i+4}^\epsilon, \sigma_1^{(i+4)}, \sigma_2^{(i+4)}, \sigma_3^{(i+4)}), (\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3, \sigma_4))$$

to the map $f : \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \text{Sym}(X)$ defined by

- $f(o) = f(y_{i1}) = f(y_{i2}) = f(y_{i3}) = 1$,
- $f(x_j) = g_{ij}^\epsilon$ for every $j \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$,
- $f(y_{jk}) = \sigma_k^{(j)}$ for all $j \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\} \setminus \{i\}$ and all $k \in \{1, 2, 3\}$,
- $f(z_j) = \sigma_j$ for every $j \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$.

Definition 3.11 For every $i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$, let \mathcal{A}_i^ϵ denote the set of all $f \in \mathcal{F}$ belonging to the image of π_i^ϵ that are good with respect to x_i . For distinct $i, j \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$, let $\mathcal{A}_{ij}^\epsilon$ denote the set of all pairs (f_i, f_j) such that

- $f_i \in \mathcal{A}_i^\epsilon$ and $f_j \in \mathcal{A}_j^\epsilon$;
- for every point x not on L , $f_i(x) \cdot (f_j(x))^{-1} \cdot g_{ji}^\epsilon$ has no fixpoints.

We have $(f_i, f_j) \in \mathcal{A}_{ij}^\epsilon$ if and only if $(f_j, f_i) \in \mathcal{A}_{ji}^\epsilon$. For $l \geq 3$ mutually distinct $i_1, i_2, \dots, i_l \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$, let $\mathcal{A}_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_l}^\epsilon$ denote the set of all l -tuples $(f_{i_1}, f_{i_2}, \dots, f_{i_l})$ such that $(f_j, f_{j'}) \in \mathcal{A}_{j, j'}^\epsilon$ for all $j, j' \in \{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_l\}$ with $j \neq j'$. The importance of these sets follows from the following lemma.

Lemma 3.12 *For every $i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$ and every $x \in \mathcal{P}$, we put $f_i(x) := \Delta(x_i, x)$. Then $(f_0, f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4) \in \mathcal{A}_{01234}^\epsilon$.*

Proof. Let $i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$. Let K be a line through x_i distinct from ox_i and let y_1, y_2 be two distinct points on K . Then $\Delta(y_1, y_2) = \Delta(o, y_1)\Delta(y_1, y_2)\Delta(y_2, o)$ has no fixpoints by (GAT2), implying that also $f_i(y_1)^{-1}f_i(y_2) = \Delta(y_1, x_i)\Delta(x_i, y_2) = \Delta(y_1, y_2)$ has no fixpoints. So, f_i is good with respect to x_i . By Lemma 3.6 and the fact that $\Delta(x_i, x_j) = g_{ij}^\epsilon$ for all $i, j \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$, f_i belongs to the image of π_i^ϵ . Hence, $f_i \in \mathcal{A}_i^\epsilon$.

By (GAT2), $f_i(x) \cdot f_j(x)^{-1} \cdot g_{ji}^\epsilon = \Delta(x_i, x)\Delta(x, x_j)\Delta(x_j, x_i)$ has no fixpoints for every point x not on L and every two distinct $i, j \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$. So, $(f_i, f_j) \in \mathcal{A}_{ij}^\epsilon$ for any two distinct $i, j \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$. \blacksquare

In the computer algebra system GAP, a model of the affine plane $\text{AG}(2, 5)$ with point set $\{1, 2, \dots, 25\}$ and line set `lines` can be implemented as follows:

```
AutGroup:=AllPrimitiveGroups(DegreeOperation,25,Size,12000)[1];
Stab:=Stabilizer(AutGroup,[1,2],OnTuples);
l:=Filtered(Orbits(Stab,[1..25]),q->Size(q)=1);
lines:=Orbit(AutGroup,Union(l[1],l[2],l[3],l[4],l[5]),OnSets);
```

Using this model for $\text{AG}(2, 5)$, GAP told us that $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ and $\{6, 7, 8, 9, 10\}$ are (necessarily parallel) lines. Also $\{1, 11, 16, 21, 6\}$, $\{1, 13, 19, 25, 7\}$, $\{1, 14, 20, 22, 8\}$, $\{1, 15, 17, 23, 9\}$ and $\{1, 12, 18, 24, 10\}$ are lines. So, we can in fact make the following choices:

$$\begin{aligned} o = 1, \quad z_1 = 2, \quad z_2 = 3, \quad z_3 = 4, \quad z_4 = 5, \quad x_0 = 6, \quad x_1 = 7, \quad x_2 = 8, \quad x_3 = 9, \quad x_4 = 10, \\ (y_{01}, y_{02}, y_{03}) = (11, 16, 21), \quad (y_{11}, y_{12}, y_{13}) = (13, 19, 25), \quad (y_{21}, y_{22}, y_{23}) = (14, 20, 22), \\ (y_{31}, y_{32}, y_{33}) = (15, 17, 23), \quad (y_{41}, y_{42}, y_{43}) = (12, 18, 24). \end{aligned}$$

In GAP we can store the elements $f \in \mathcal{F}$ as arrays of length 25 whose i -th entry is the permutation of $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ which is the image of the point i under the map f . With these conventions in mind, we have implemented the sets \mathcal{G} and $\mathcal{G}(g)$ and the maps π_i^ϵ , which ultimately allowed us to compute the sets $\mathcal{A}_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_l}^\epsilon$, see [6]. Our results are summarized as follows.

Lemma 3.13 *We have*

- $|\mathcal{A}_0^+| = |\mathcal{A}_0^-| = 75$ and $|\mathcal{A}_i^+| = |\mathcal{A}_i^-| = 150$ for every $i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$;
- $|\mathcal{A}_{0i}^+| = |\mathcal{A}_{0i}^-| = 291$ for every $i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$;

- $|\mathcal{A}_{ij}^+| = |\mathcal{A}_{ij}^-| \in \{282, 332\}$ for all $i, j \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ with $i \neq j$;
- $|\mathcal{A}_{012}^+| = |\mathcal{A}_{012}^-| = 36$;
- $|\mathcal{A}_{0123}^+| = |\mathcal{A}_{0123}^-| = |\mathcal{A}_{01234}^+| = |\mathcal{A}_{01234}^-| = 2$.

By Lemma 3.12 we know that with Δ there is associated an element of $\mathcal{A}_{01234}^\epsilon$. We now show in the following two lemmas, that Δ (if it exists) can be uniquely reconstructed from this element of $\mathcal{A}_{01234}^\epsilon$.

Lemma 3.14 *Let $K = \{o, u_1, u_2, u_3, u_4\}$ be a line through o and let v be a point not on K . Then $\Delta(v, u_4)$ is uniquely determined by $\Delta(v, u_1)$, $\Delta(v, u_2)$ and $\Delta(v, u_3)$.*

Proof. It suffices to show that $k^{\Delta(v, u_4)}$ is uniquely determined by $k^{\Delta(v, u_1)}$, $k^{\Delta(v, u_2)}$ and $k^{\Delta(v, u_3)}$ for every $k \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$. The fact that $\Delta(o, v)\Delta(v, u_i)\Delta(u_i, o) = \Delta(v, u_i)$ and $\Delta(v, u_i)\Delta(u_i, u_j)\Delta(u_j, v) = \Delta(v, u_i)\Delta(v, u_j)^{-1}$ have no fixpoints if $i, j \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ with $i \neq j$ implies that $k^{\Delta(v, u_4)}$ is the unique element of $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ distinct from k , $k^{\Delta(v, u_1)}$, $k^{\Delta(v, u_2)}$ and $k^{\Delta(v, u_3)}$. ■

Lemma 3.15 *For every $i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$ and every $x \in \mathcal{P}$, put $f_i(x) := \Delta(x_i, x)$. Then Δ is uniquely determined by $(f_0, f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4) \in \mathcal{A}_{01234}^\epsilon$.*

Proof. Let y and z be two points of \mathcal{P} . If o, y and z are collinear, then $\Delta(y, z) = 1$. If $y \neq z$ and the line yz contains a point x_i , then $\Delta(y, z) = \Delta(x_i, y)^{-1}\Delta(x_i, z) = f_i(y)^{-1}f_i(z)$.

Suppose $y \neq z$ and yz is a line parallel with L , distinct from L not containing o . Put $oz = \{o, z, u, v, w\}$. Since $\Delta(y, u)$, $\Delta(y, v)$ and $\Delta(y, w)$ are uniquely determined by $(f_0, f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4)$ (see previous paragraph), also $\Delta(y, z)$ is uniquely determined by $(f_0, f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4)$ by Lemma 3.14. ■

Since $|\mathcal{A}_{01234}^\epsilon| = 2$, there are at most two possibilities for Δ for each $\epsilon \in \{+, -\}$. Based on the methods exposed in the proofs of Lemmas 3.14 and 3.15, we have implemented a computer program in GAP to reconstruct Δ from the possible elements of $\mathcal{A}_{01234}^\epsilon$, see [6]. For both $\epsilon = +$ and $\epsilon = -$, it turned out that none of the two elements of $\mathcal{A}_{01234}^\epsilon$ actually gives rise to a map Δ that satisfies (GAT1) and (GAT2). So, our assumption on the existence of lines of Type (II) was incorrect. We conclude:

Proposition 3.16 *Every line of \mathcal{S} not containing o has Type (I) and \mathcal{Q} is isomorphic to $W(5)$.*

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