

GROUPS OF CREMONA TRANSFORMATIONS IN SPACE OF PLANAR TYPE. II

BY ARTHUR B. COBLE

1. Introduction. We have defined in part I¹ of this account the meaning to be attached to the phrase “of planar type” and have given one example of a group G of this type. It is the purpose of this article to give further examples of groups G , which differ in some essential respects from the first.

The stable character of the elements of G is due to the fact that all of the elements have a common F -curve of the first kind. In the example given (cf. footnote 1) the elements had in addition variable isolated F -points. In the first three examples given below the elements have also an F -curve of the first kind, which may vary with the element, and whose nature is dependent upon that of the variable isolated F -points. In the fourth example given below there is also a fixed isolated F -point.

In order to ensure that the elements of G have a common F -curve of the first kind, it is convenient to define G by means of *involutorial* generators. For the first three of our groups G we use generators of types given by Sharpe and Snyder.² We develop anew the properties of these generators by a mapping process.

In such a provisional exploration as this, it is convenient to avoid the complications of contact singularities. Simplifying assumptions in this direction are sometimes made.

The first group G developed in §4 is considered in more detail than the later ones. Since the groups G are all associated with linear groups g generated by involutorial elements of a particular arithmetic character, it would seem preferable to discuss the groups g more generally before making applications to the Cremona groups G . This the author hopes to do in an early paper.

2. Webs of cubic surfaces of degree two. Since the generic surface of a web can have only fixed singularities, we distinguish two cases: (a) the generic surface has no singularities; (b) the generic surface has a node. If, in case (a), K_1 is a generic surface of the web, and $\lambda_2 K_2 + \lambda_3 K_3 + \lambda_4 K_4$ a residual net, then this net must cut K_1 in a fixed curve C and a variable net of degree two. If this net on K_1 has fixed base points, we require them to be *simple* base points. For

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¹ A. B. Coble, *Groups of Cremona transformations in space of planar type*, this journal, vol. 2 (1936), pp. 1-9.

² F. R. Sharpe and V. Snyder, *Certain types of involutorial space transformations*, Transactions of the American Mathematical Society, vol. 21 (1930), pp. 52-78.