

Some translation planes of order 11^2 which admit $SL(2, 9)$

Dedicated to Professor Tosihiro Tsuzuku on his 60th birthday

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1. Introduction

Let G be a nonsolvable subgroup of the linear translation complement of a translation plane Π of order q^2 with kernel $GF(q)$ where q is a power of a prime p , and let G_0 be a minimal nonsolvable normal subgroup of G . In [5] Ostrom pointed out the following theorem which is proved by using a work of Suprunenko and Zaleskii [7].

THEOREM A. *If $G_0/Z(G_0)$ is simple and if $p > 5$, then $G_0/Z(G_0)$ must be $PSL(2, 5)$, $PSL(2, 9)$, or $PSL(2, p^s)$ for some positive integer s .*

If $G_0/Z(G_0)$ is isomorphic to $PSL(2, p^s)$, Π is a Desarguesian plane, a Hall plane, a Hering plane or a Schaffer plane (Walker [8], [9] and Schaffer [6]). At the case that $G_0/Z(G_0)$ is isomorphic to $PSL(2, 9)$, Mason proved the following theorem in [4].

THEOREM B. *If $G_0/Z(G_0)$ is isomorphic to A_6 , there are exactly two isomorphic classes of planes Π with kernel $GF(7)$. If H is the translation complement of Π and D the kernel of Π , then in one case we have $H/D \cong A_6$, while in the second we have $H/D \cong S_6$.*

We have studied about the case that the kernel of Π is $GF(11)$. Our result will be described by a following theorem which is proved at the end after much preparation.

THEOREM C. *Let Π be a translation plane of dimension 2 over its kernel and the linear translation complement C has a normal subgroup G such that $G/Z(G) \cong S_6$. Then there are exactly three isomorphism classes of planes Π with kernel $GF(11)$. If D is the kernel of Π , then $C = DG$.*

Notation is standard, and follows that of [2]. For a permutation group M on Ω , we put $M_x = \{g \in M \mid xg = x\}$ where x is an element of Ω , and for a group H , we put $Cl_H(x) = \{g^{-1}xg \mid g \in H\}$ where x is an element of H . We write S^Ω and A^Ω for a symmetric and alternative group on Ω . In Section 2 we shall study the group G , its representations and spreads