

# STRONGLY REGULAR GRAPHS, PARTIAL GEOMETRIES AND PARTIALLY BALANCED DESIGNS

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**0. Summary.** This paper introduces the concept of a *partial geometry*, which serves to unify and generalize certain theorems on embedding of nets, and uniqueness of association schemes of partially balanced designs, by Bruck, Connor, Shrikhande and others. Certain lemmas and theorems are direct generalizations of those proved by Bruck [5], for the case of nets, which are a special class of partial geometries.

**1. Introduction.** We use graph theoretic methods for the study of association schemes of partially balanced incomplete block (PBIB) designs. For this purpose it is convenient to switch from graph theoretic language to the language of designs and vice versa as necessary.

As we shall be concerned with finite graphs only, we shall use the word graph in the sense of finite graphs.

A graph  $G$  with  $v$  vertices is said to be regular if each vertex is joined to  $n_1$  other vertices, and unjoined to  $n_2$  other vertices. Clearly

$$(1.1) \quad v - 1 = n_1 + n_2 .$$

If further any two joined vertices of  $G$ , are both joined to exactly  $p_{11}^1$  other vertices, and any two unjoined vertices are both joined to exactly  $p_{11}^2$  other vertices, then the graph  $G$  is defined to be *strongly regular*, with parameters

$$(1.2) \quad n_1, n_2, p_{11}^1, p_{11}^2 .$$

The concept of strongly regular graphs is isomorphic with the concept of association schemes of PBIB designs (with two associate classes), which was first introduced by Bose and Shimamoto [4]. Such a scheme they defined as a scheme of relations between  $v$  treatments such that

(i) any two objects are either first associates or second associates

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Received August 20, 1962. This research was supported in part by the United States Air Force under grant no. AF AFOSR-60-21, monitored by the Office of Scientific Research. The author also wishes to acknowledge, that some of the ideas on which the present paper is based originated during discussions at the Symposium on Combinatorial Mathematics held at the Rand Corporation, Santa Monica, California, in the summer of 1961, in which the author participated. Now a visiting professor to the University of Geneva, on leave from the University of North Carolina.