

3. A mark for each face, and a list of the edges and vertices in their order upon the boundary of each face.

Such a notation must contain a mark of distinction for the two sides of an edge; an easy matter if the direction of positive rotation be adopted uniformly in listing arrangements about the vertices and faces respectively.

These processes, and the proved existence of fundamental polygons, open a range of particular problems of considerable interest. But of even superior interest must be, at least until it is solved, *the problem of finding a method for constructing, a priori, upon a given surface the exceptional (Davis) special reticulations whose characteristics are given by the restrictive tables.*

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY,  
April, 1898.

## SYSTEMS OF SIMPLE GROUPS DERIVED FROM THE ORTHOGONAL GROUP.

BY DR. L. E. DICKSON.

1. IN the February number of the BULLETIN I determined the order  $\omega$  of the group  $G$  of orthogonal substitutions of determinant unity on  $m$  indices in the  $GF[p^n]$  and proved that, for\*  $p^n > 5$ ,  $p \neq 2$ , the group is generated by the substitutions

$$O_{ij}^{\alpha\beta} : \begin{cases} \xi'_i = \alpha\xi_i + \beta\xi_j, \\ \xi'_j = -\beta\xi_i + \alpha\xi_j, \end{cases} \quad (\alpha^2 + \beta^2 = 1).$$

The structure of  $G$  was determined for the case  $p = 2$ . I have since proved† that for every  $m > 4$  and every  $p^n > 5$  of the form  $8l + 3$  or  $8l + 5$ , the factors of composition of  $G$

\* The fact that  $p^n = 3$  is an exception was not pointed out in the BULLETIN. In fact Jordan had not proven case 2° of § 211 when  $-1 =$  square, so that the case  $a^2 = b^2 = c^2 = \dots = 1$  was unsolved when  $p = 3$ ,  $m = 3k + 1$ . The theorem is readily proven when  $p^n = 3^n$ ,  $n > 1$ ; but for  $p^n = 3$  an additional generator is necessary and sufficient, viz.,

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad W^3 = 1.$$

† A preliminary account was presented before the Mathematical Conference at Chicago, December 30, 1897.

are 2 and  $\omega/2$  for  $m$  odd, and 2, 2,  $\omega/4$  for  $m$  even. [For later results on the cases thus excluded see §§ 11-15.]

For  $m$  odd, the orthogonal group  $G$  had the same order and factors of composition as the linear Abelian group on  $m - 1$  indices. Judging from the results for the corresponding continuous groups of Lie, the resulting triply-infinite systems of simple groups of the same order  $\omega/2$  are probably isomorphic when  $m = 3$ , but not when  $m > 3$ . [See § 14.]

Excluding here the cases  $m = 5, 6, 7$ , which require lengthy special investigations, I will now give a short, simple proof of the above result. The complete memoir will appear in the *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences*.\*

The substitutions  $O_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta}$  form a commutative group of order†  $p^n \pm 1$ . A subgroup of index 2 is formed by the substitutions

$$Q_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta} : \begin{aligned} \xi_1' &= (a^2 - \beta^2) \xi_1 - 2a\beta\xi_2, \\ \xi_2' &= 2a\beta\xi_1 + (a^2 - \beta^2)\xi_2. \end{aligned}$$

Indeed,

$$Q_{1,2}^{\gamma,\delta} Q_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta} = Q_{1,2}^{\alpha\gamma - \beta\delta, \alpha\delta + \beta\gamma}.$$

Further, its order is  $\frac{1}{2}(p^n \pm 1)$  since  $Q_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta}$  and  $Q_{1,2}^{\gamma,\delta}$  are identical if and only if  $a = \pm \gamma, \beta = \pm \delta$ .

If  $C_i$  denotes the substitution affecting only the index  $\xi_i$ , whose sign it changes,  $C_1 C_2$  is always contained among the substitutions  $Q_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta}$ .

Since we suppose that  $p^n = 8l \pm 3$ , 2 is a not-square. Thus, with  $a^2 + \beta^2 = 1$ , we cannot have  $a^2 - \beta^2 = 0$ . Hence if  $T_{12}$  denotes the transposition  $(\xi_1, \xi_2)$ ,  $T_{12} C_1$  is not of the form  $Q_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta}$  but serves to extend the group of the latter to the group of the  $O_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta}$ . Furthermore, if  $j > 2$ ,  $T_{12} C_1$  transforms  $Q_{1,j}^{\alpha,\beta}$  into  $Q_{2,j}^{\alpha,\beta}$  and  $Q_{2,j}^{\alpha,\beta}$  into  $Q_{1,j}^{\alpha,-\beta}$ . Hence if we extend the alternating group on the  $m$  letters  $\xi_i$  by the substitutions  $Q_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta}$  we obtain a group  $H$  of index 2 under  $G$ .

3. THEOREM: For  $p^n > 5, m > 7$ , the maximal invariant subgroup of  $H$  is of order 2 or 1 according as  $m$  is even or odd.

For  $m$  even,  $H$  contains an invariant subgroup of order 2 generated by the substitution

$$N: \quad \xi_i' = -\xi_i \quad (i = 1, \dots, m).$$

Suppose  $H$  has an invariant subgroup  $I$  containing a substitution

\* Third Series, vol. 1, No. 4; the later results in No. 5.

† "Orthogonal Group in a Galois Field," § 3; BULLETIN, February, 1898, pp. 196-200.

$$S: \quad \xi'_i = \sum_{j=1}^m \alpha_{ij} \xi_j \quad (i=1, \dots, m),$$

neither the identity nor  $N$ . By suitably transforming  $S$ , we can suppose that  $\alpha_{11}^2 + \alpha_{21}^2 \neq 1$ . Then  $S$  is not commutative with  $C_1 C_2$ ; for, if so, it would be merely a product of a substitution affecting only  $\xi_1$  and  $\xi_2$  by a substitution affecting only  $\xi_3, \dots, \xi_m$ . Hence the group  $I$  contains the substitution, not the identity,

$$S^{-1} C_1 C_2 S C_1 C_2 = S_\alpha C_1 C_2,$$

where  $S_\alpha \equiv S^{-1} C_1 C_2 S$ , of period two, is found to be

$$\xi'_i = \xi_i - 2\alpha_{i1} \sum_{j=1}^m \alpha_{j1} \xi_j - 2\alpha_{i2} \sum_{j=1}^m \alpha_{j2} \xi_j \quad (i=1, \dots, m).$$

4. *Lemma*: The orthogonal substitution

$$\begin{aligned} \xi'_i &= \lambda \xi_i + \mu \xi_j + \nu \xi_k, \\ O_{\psi^k}: \quad \xi'_j &= \lambda' \xi_i + \mu' \xi_j + \nu' \xi_k, \\ \xi'_k &= \lambda'' \xi_i + \mu'' \xi_j + \nu'' \xi_k, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\lambda^2 + \mu^2 + \nu^2 = 1$ ,  $\lambda\lambda' + \mu\mu' + \nu\nu' = 0$ , etc., transforms  $S_\alpha$  into  $S_{\alpha'}$  where

$$\begin{aligned} a'_{ii} &= \lambda a_{ii} + \mu a_{ji} + \nu a_{ki}, \\ a'_{ji} &= \lambda' a_{ii} + \mu' a_{ji} + \nu' a_{ki}, & (i=1, 2) \\ a'_{ki} &= \lambda'' a_{ii} + \mu'' a_{ji} + \nu'' a_{ki}, \\ a'_{si} &= a_{si} \quad (s=1, \dots, m, s \neq i, j, k). \end{aligned}$$

If  $a_{ii} \neq 0$ , we can choose  $\lambda, \mu, \nu$  such that  $a'_{ii} = 0$ . For if  $a_{ii}^2 + a_{j1}^2 = 0$  and therefore  $a_{j1} \neq 0$ , we may take

$$\lambda = \frac{-a_{ki}}{2a_{ii}}, \quad \mu = \frac{-a_{ki}}{2a_{j1}}, \quad \nu = 1.$$

If  $a_{ii}^2 + a_{j1}^2 \neq 0$ , we derive the equivalent condition,

$$\{\mu(a_{ii}^2 + a_{j1}^2) + \nu a_{j1} a_{ki}\}^2 + \nu^2 a_{ii}^2 (a_{ii}^2 + a_{j1}^2 + a_{ki}^2) = a_{ii}^2 (a_{ii}^2 + a_{j1}^2),$$

which has solutions\* for  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  in the  $GF[p^n]$  except when  $a_{ii}^2 + a_{j1}^2 + a_{ki}^2 = 0$ . In the latter case the condition  $\lambda^2 + \mu^2 + \nu^2 = 1$  may be written

$$a_{ii}^2 = -(\mu a_{ki} - \nu a_{j1})^2,$$

having solutions if and only if  $-1$  be a square.

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\* BULLETIN, l.c. § 3.

5. *Lemma*:  $O_{ijk}$  transforms  $S_a$  into  $S_{a'}$ , where

$$a_{ii}' = \lambda a_{ii} + \mu a_{j1} + \nu a_{ki} + \sigma a_{ii}.$$

If  $a_{ii}^2 + a_{ji}^2 + a_{ki}^2 = 0$ , the values

$$\lambda = \frac{-a_{ii}}{a_{ii}}, \quad \mu = \frac{a_{ki} a_{ii}}{a_{ii}^2}, \quad \nu = \frac{-a_{ii} a_{j1}}{a_{ii}^2}, \quad \sigma = 1$$

make  $a_{ii}' = 0, \quad \lambda^2 + \mu^2 + \nu^2 + \sigma^2 = 1$

6. The invariant subgroup  $I$  of  $H$  was shown to contain the substitution  $S' \equiv S_a C_1 C_2$  not the identity. Transforming  $S'$  successively by

$$O_{i345} \text{ or } T_{12} C_1 O_{i345} \quad (i=m, m-1, \dots, 6),$$

according as the one or the other belongs to  $H$ , we obtain, by §§ 4-5, a substitution  $S_a' C_1 C_2$  belonging to  $I$  and having  $a_{m1}' = a_{m-1,1}' = \dots = a_{61}' = 0$ . Also, by § 4, we may make  $a_{51}' = 0$ ; for we have

$$a_{11}'^2 + a_{21}'^2 = a_{11}^2 + a_{21}^2 \neq 1,$$

so that  $a_{51}'^2 + a_{41}'^2 + a_{31}'^2 \neq 0$ .

Next we transform  $S_a' C_1 C_2$  successively by

$$O_{j567} \quad (j = m, m-1, \dots, 8)$$

and obtain in  $I$  a substitution  $S_a'' C_1 C_2$  having

$$a_{j1}'' \equiv a_{j1}' = 0, \quad a_{j2}'' = 0 \quad (j = m, \dots, 8).$$

The group  $I$  thus contains a substitution

$$S: \quad \xi_i' = \sum_{j=1}^7 \beta_{ij} \xi_j \quad (i = 1, \dots, 7)$$

neither the identity nor  $N \equiv C_1 C_2 \dots C_m$ .

7. If  $S$  be commutative with every  $C_i$ , it is merely a product of an even number of the  $C_i$ , in which certain ones as  $C_k$  are lacking. But if

$$S = C_i C_j C_r C_s C_t \dots,$$

the group  $I$  contains

$$T_j T_{ik} S T_{ik} T_j S^{-1} = C_k C_j,$$

and hence, by transforming by suitable even substitutions, every product of two  $C$ 's. But  $H$  contains either  $O_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta}$  or  $O_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta} T_{12} C_1$ , which transform  $C_1 C_3$  into  $Q_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta} C_1 C_3$  and  $Q_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta} C_2 C_3$

respectively. Hence the group  $I$  contains every  $Q_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta}$ , among which, if  $p^n > 5$ , occurs one different from the identity and from  $C_1 C_2$ .

8. We may thus assume that  $S$  is not commutative with  $C_1$ , for example. Supposing  $m \equiv 8$ ,  $S$  is commutative with  $C_8$ . Hence the group  $I$  contains the substitution not the identity

$$S^{-1}C_1C_8SC_1C_8 = R_\beta C_1,$$

where  $R_\beta \equiv S^{-1}C_1S$  is seen to be

$$R_\beta: \xi'_i = \xi_i - 2\beta_{i1} \sum_{j=1}^7 \beta_{j1} \xi_j \quad (i = 1, \dots, 7).$$

Transforming  $R_\beta C_1$  by  $O_{i234}$  for  $i = 7, 6, 5$  successively, we may suppose that  $\beta_{71} = \beta_{61} = \beta_{51} = 0$ .

It is readily seen that a substitution  $R$  affecting only  $\xi_1, \dots, \xi_4$ , is not commutative with every  $T_{ij}$  ( $i, j = 1, \dots, 5$ ) for example not with  $T_{12}$ . Then  $I$  contains the substitution, not the identity,

$$R^{-1}T_{12}T_{67}RT_{67}T_{12} = T_\delta T_{12},$$

where  $T_\delta \equiv R^{-1}T_{12}R$  has the form

$$T_\delta: \xi'_i = \xi_i - \delta_i \sum_{j=1}^4 \delta_j \xi_j \quad (i = 1 \dots 4),$$

where

$$\delta_1^2 + \delta_2^2 + \delta_3^2 + \delta_4^2 = 2.$$

9. If  $\delta_3 = \delta_4 = 0$ ,  $T_\delta T_{12}$  becomes  $Q_{2,1}^{\alpha,\beta}$  if we set

$$a = \frac{1}{2}(\delta_1 - \delta_2), \quad \beta = \frac{1}{2}(\delta_1 + \delta_2).$$

Having  $Q_{2,1}^{\alpha,\beta}$ ,  $I$  contains also  $Q_{2,3}^{\alpha,\beta}$  and  $Q_{3,1}^{\alpha,\beta}$  and thus the product of the two, which reduces to  $T_\sigma T_{12}$ , having

$$\sigma_1 = -1, \quad \sigma_2 = a^2 - \beta^2, \quad \sigma_3 = 2a\beta.$$

If  $a\beta = 0$ ,  $Q_{2,1}^{\alpha,\beta} = C_1 C_2$ , not being the identity. Then, by §7,  $I$  contains every  $Q_{i,j}^{\alpha,\beta}$  and therefore, if  $p^n > 5$ , a substitution  $Q_{2,3}^{\alpha,\beta} Q_{3,1}^{\alpha,\beta} = T_\sigma T_{12}$  in which  $a\beta \neq 0$ .

10. Thus  $I$  contains a substitution  $T_\delta T_{12}$  having  $\delta_3$  and  $\delta_4$  not both zero, say  $\delta_4 \neq 0$ . Transforming it by  $O_{346}$ , we can make the resulting substitution  $T'_\delta T_{12}$  commutative with  $T_{16}$ . Indeed, the conditions

$$\delta'_6 \equiv a\delta_3 + \beta\delta_4 = \delta_1, \quad a^2 + \beta^2 + \gamma^2 = 1,$$

combine into the single condition

$$\alpha^2 (\delta_3^2 + \delta_4^2) - 2\alpha\delta_1\delta_3 + \delta_4^2\gamma^2 = \delta_4^2 - \delta_1^2.$$

For  $\delta_3^2 + \delta_4^2 = 0$ , a solution is given by  $\gamma = 0$  when  $\delta_1 \neq 0$ , and by  $\gamma = 1$  when  $\delta_1 = 0$ . For  $\delta_3^2 + \delta_4^2 \neq 0$ , there exist\* solutions  $\alpha, \gamma$  in the  $GF[p^n]$  of the equivalent equation of condition

$$\{\alpha(\delta_3^2 + \delta_4^2) - \delta_1\delta_3\}^2 + \delta_4^2(\delta_3^2 + \delta_4^2)\gamma^2 = \delta_4^2(\delta_3^2 + \delta_4^2 - \delta_1^2).$$

Hence  $I$  contains the substitution, not the identity,

$$\begin{aligned} (T_{\delta'} T_{12}) &= T_{26} T_{78} (T_{\delta'} T_{12})^{-1} T_{78} T_{26} \\ &= T_{\delta'} T_{16} T_{\delta'}^{-1} T_{26} = T_{16} T_{26}. \end{aligned}$$

The alternating group on  $m > 4$  letters being simple, the group  $I$ , containing  $T_{16} T_{26}$ , contains the whole alternating group. Further,  $C_1 C_2$  transforms  $T_{16} T_{26}$  into  $T_{16} T_{26} C_1 C_2^9$ , so that  $I$  contains  $C_1 C_6$  and therefore every  $C_i C_j$ . Hence, by § 7,  $I$  contains every  $Q_{i,j}^{\alpha,\beta}$ . Thus the group  $I$  coincides with  $H$ .

#### ADDENDA † OF APRIL 18.

11. For  $p^n = 3$  or  $5$ , the maximal invariant sub-group of  $H$  is of order 2 or 1, according as  $m > 4$  is even or odd. For  $p^n = 3, m = 4$ , the order of  $H$  is  $2^5 \cdot 3^2$ , and its factors of composition are all primes.

12. Suppose  $p^n = 8l \pm 1$ , so that 2 is a square. Let  $O_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta}$  denote a definite orthogonal substitution not in  $Q_{1,2}$ , so that  $1 \pm \alpha$  are not-squares. Denote by  $H_1$  the group obtained by extending the group of the  $Q_{i,j}$  by all the products  $O_{i,j}^{\alpha,\beta} O_{k,l}^{\alpha,\beta}$ .

THEOREM:  $H_1$  contains half of the substitutions of  $G$ . For every substitution of  $G$  is of the form

$$S = h_1 O_{i,j}^{\alpha,\beta} h_2 O_{k,l}^{\alpha,\beta} \dots,$$

$h_1, h_2, \dots, h$  denoting substitutions of  $H_1$ . Now  $O_{i,j}^{\alpha,\beta}$  can be carried to the right of every  $Q_{i,j}^{\lambda,\mu}$  and every  $Q_{k,l}^{\lambda,\mu}$  ( $k, l \neq i, j$ ). Further, since  $(O_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta})^2 = Q_{1,2}^{\alpha,-\beta}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} O_{i,j}^{\alpha,\beta} Q_{i,k}^{\lambda,\mu} &= O_{i,j}^{\alpha,\beta} (O_{i,k}^{\alpha,\beta})^2 Q_{i,k}^{\alpha,\beta} \cdot Q_{i,k}^{\lambda,\mu}, \\ &= O_{i,j}^{\alpha,\beta} O_{i,k}^{\alpha,\beta} \cdot Q_{i,k}^{\alpha,\beta} Q_{i,k}^{\lambda,\mu} \cdot O_{i,k}^{\alpha,\beta} = h O_{i,k}^{\alpha,\beta}. \end{aligned}$$

\* BULLETIN, 1. c. § 3.

† The results here announced will be proven in full in the *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences*, Third Series, vol. 1, No. 5.

Thus  $S$  finally takes the form

$$h' O_{r,s}^{\alpha,\beta} = h' O_{r,s}^{\alpha,\beta} O_{2,1}^{\alpha,\beta} O_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta} = h'' O_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta}.$$

13. THEOREM: For  $m > 4$ ,  $p \neq 2$ , the maximal invariant sub group of  $H_1$  is of order 2 or 1 according as  $m$  is even or odd.

For  $m > 7$ , the group is similar to that for the group  $H$  as given above. In §6 we replace  $T_{12} C_1 O_{i345}$  by  $O_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta} O_{i345}$ . We replace §7 by the

Lemma: If  $p^n = 8l \pm 1$ ,  $m > 3$ , an invariant sub-group  $I$  containing every  $C_i C_j$  coincides with  $H_1$ .

Indeed,  $O_{2,4}^{\alpha,\beta} O_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta}$  transforms  $C_1 C_3$  into  $Q_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta} C_1 C_3$ , so that  $I$  contains every  $Q_{i,j}^{\alpha,\beta}$ . Having  $T_{23} C_3$ ,  $I$  contains every  $O_{i,j}^{\alpha,\beta} O_{k,l}^{\alpha,\beta}$ . Thus, for example,

$$(T_{23} C_3) (O_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta} O_{1,4}^{\alpha,\beta}) (T_{23} C_3)^{-1} (O_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta} O_{1,4}^{\alpha,\beta})^{-1} = O_{1,3}^{\alpha,\beta} O_{2,1}^{\alpha,\beta}.$$

14. THEOREM: For  $p > 2$ , the ternary orthogonal group in the  $GF [p^n]$  has a sub-group  $H'$  of index two and of order  $\frac{1}{2} p^n (p^{2n} - 1)$  which is simply isomorphic to the group of linear fractional substitutions of determinant unity on a single index.

Indeed, the orthogonal substitution

$$S: \xi'_i = \sum_{j=1}^3 a_{ij} \xi_j \quad (i = 1, 2, 3),$$

expressed in terms of the new indices

$$\eta_1 = -i\xi_1, \quad \eta_2 = \xi_2 - i\xi_3, \quad \eta_3 = \xi_2 + i\xi_3,$$

leaves  $\eta_1^2 - \eta_2 \eta_3$  invariant and has the form

$$S_1: \left\{ \begin{array}{cc} a_{11} \frac{1}{2}(a_{13} - ia_{12}) & -\frac{1}{2}(a_{13} + ia_{12}) \\ a_{31} + ia_{21} \frac{1}{2}(a_{22} - ia_{32} + ia_{23} + a_{33}) & \frac{1}{2}(a_{22} - ia_{32} - ia_{23} - a_{33}) \\ -a_{31} - ia_{21} \frac{1}{2}(a_{22} + ia_{32} + ia_{23} - a_{33}) & \frac{1}{2}(a_{12} + ia_{32} - ia_{23} + a_{33}) \end{array} \right\}$$

Understanding by  $H'$  the group  $H$  or  $H_1$  according as  $p^n = 8l \pm 3$  or  $p^n = 8l \pm 1$ , we may verify that for every substitution of  $H'$  the coefficient  $\frac{1}{2}(a_{22} - ia_{32} + ia_{23} + a_{33})$  is the square of a complex  $a$  of the form  $\rho + \sigma i$ , where  $\rho$  and  $\sigma$  are marks of the  $GF [p^n]$ . It readily follows\* that  $S_1$  may be written in the form:

$$S_1: \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} a\delta + \beta\gamma & a\gamma & \beta\delta \\ 2a\beta & a^2 & \beta^2 \\ 2\gamma\delta & \gamma^2 & \delta^2 \end{array} \right\} \quad [a\delta - \beta\gamma = 1]$$

where  $a$  is conjugate to  $\delta$ ,  $\beta$  to  $\gamma$ . Further two such ternary

\* Compare Klein-Fricke: Automorphic Functions I., p. 14; Weber: Algebra, II., p. 190.

substitutions have the same composition formula as linear fractional substitutions. Hence, according as  $-1$  is a square or a not-square,  $H'$  is simply isomorphic to the "real" or the "imaginary" form\* of the group of linear fractional substitutions of determinant unity. Thus, for  $p^n > 3$ ,  $H'$  is simple.

15. Observing that the squares of the substitutions

$$O_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta}, \quad O_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta} T_{13} C_1 C_2 C_3, \quad O_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta} T_{13} T_{24}$$

are respectively  $O_{1,2}^{\alpha,-\beta}$ ,  $O_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta} O_{3,2}^{\alpha,\beta}$ ,  $O_{1,2}^{\alpha,\beta} O_{3,4}^{\alpha,\beta}$ , we may unite our results into the following

**THEOREM :** *The squares of the linear substitutions on  $m$  indices in the  $GF[p^n]$ ,  $p \neq 2$ , which leave invariant the sum of the squares of the  $m$  indices, generate a group, which for  $m = 2k + 1$  has the order*

$$\frac{1}{2}(p^{2nk} - 1) p^{2nk-n} (p^{2nk-2n} - 1) p^{2nk-3n} \dots (p^{2n} - 1) p^n$$

and is simple except when  $p^n = 3$ ,  $m = 3$ ; while for  $m = 2k > 4$  it has the factors of composition 2 and

$$\frac{1}{4}[p^{nk} - (\pm 1)^k] p^{nk-n} (p^{2nk-2n} - 1) p^{2nk-3n} \dots (p^{2n} - 1) p^n,$$

the sign  $\pm$  depending upon the form  $4l \pm 1$  of  $p^n$ .

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,  
February 10, 1898.

A PROOF OF THE THEOREM :

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y \partial x}$$

BY MR. J. K. WHITEMORE.

(Read before the American Mathematical Society at the Meeting of April 30, 1898.)

**THEOREM :** *Let  $u = f(x, y)$  denote a function of the two independent variables  $x$  and  $y$  which, together with its first derivatives and the two second derivatives in question, is continuous in*

*the neighborhood of the point  $(x, y)$ ; then  $\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y \partial x}$*

Let  $\frac{\partial^2 f(x, y)}{\partial x \partial y}$  denote  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial y} \right)$

\* Moore : Mathematical Papers of the Chicago Congress (1893), "A doubly-infinite system of simple groups," §§ 5-6.