

On Sets of Lines corresponding to Affine Spaces

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The set \mathcal{L} of lines of a 3-dimensional projective space with commutative underlying field K may be represented in a well-known way in a 5-dimensional projective space by a Graßmann-variety G (the Plücker-quadric). Those subsets of \mathcal{L} which correspond to the intersection of G and k -dimensional subspaces have been discussed in detail (e.g. linear complexes of lines, linear congruences of lines, reguli, ruled planes, stars of lines, pencils of lines,...). However the existence of G depends on the commutativity of K .

Irrespective of whether K is a commutative field or a proper skew field, there exists a 4-dimensional affine space \mathcal{A} corresponding to all lines of \mathcal{L} which are skew to a fixed line a . By adding a hyperplane at infinity to the affine space \mathcal{A} we get an "absolute regulus" in this hyperplane. Thus we have a kind of "space-time geometry".

If K is commutative then the above mentioned sets of lines yield (all) affine subspaces of \mathcal{A} provided that they contain the fixed line a .

This in turn motivates our investigation of those sets of lines which correspond to the subspaces of \mathcal{A} when K is a proper skew field. The subspaces of \mathcal{A} will be classified by using the intersection of their projective closure with the absolute regulus.