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## **A Characterization Of Geometry Of Hyperbolic Type**

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$D_{n,k}$

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$k \geq 2 \quad n \geq k+3$

### **ABSTRACT**

We give in this paper a theorem which characterizes, by axioms on points and lines, a point –line geometry of type  $D_{n,k}$  where  $k \geq 2$  and  $n \geq k+3$ .

**Keyword:** parapolar space, Symplecton, building geometry.

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## 1- Introduction

In [1] Veblen and Young in their classical work characterize  $A_{n,1}$  in terms of points and lines. Polar spaces were characterized by Buekenhout-Shult [2]. In [3] Lie incidence systems of type  $F_{4,1}$  are characterized as parapolar spaces. Some incidence structures associated with maximal parabolic representations of groups of Lie type are characterized by Cooperstein and Cohen, see [4] and [5]. The building of type  $C_{3,2}$  and the general case  $C_{n,n-1}$  are characterized in Lehman [6]. In [7] the author was the first who has studied the geometry of type  $D_{n,k}$ , where he presented the structure of such geometry. Here we will use axioms to characterize the geometry  $D_{n,k}$ . First we present some definition of terminology's that will be used.

A point-line geometry  $\Gamma=(P,L)$  is an incident system with a non-empty set  $P$  of points together with a collection  $L$  of subsets of cardinality  $\geq 2$  called lines.

**The singular rank** of a space  $\Gamma$  is the maximal number  $n$  (possibly  $\infty$ ) for which there exist a chain of distinct subspaces  $\emptyset \neq X_0 \subset X_1 \subset \dots \subset X_n$  such that  $X_i$  is singular for each  $i$ ,  $X_i \neq X_j$ ,  $i \neq j$ . For example  $\text{rank}(\emptyset)=-1$ ,  $\text{rank}(\{p\})=0$  where  $p$  is a point and  $\text{rank}(l)=1$  where  $l$  a line.

$x^\perp$  means the set of all points in  $P$  collinear with  $x$ , including  $x$  itself.

A **subspace** of a point-line geometry  $\Gamma=(P, L)$  is a subset  $X \subseteq P$  such that any line which has at least two of its incident points in  $X$  has all of its incident points in  $X$ .  $\langle X \rangle$  means the intersection over all subspaces containing  $X$ , where  $X \subseteq P$ . Lines incident with more than two points are called *thick* lines, those incident with exactly two points are called *thin* lines. A **geometric hyperplane** is a proper subspace  $H$  of  $\Gamma$  such that each line of  $L$  intersects  $H$  non-trivially.

In a point-line geometry  $\Gamma=(P, L)$ , a path of length  $n$  is a sequence of  $n+1$  points  $(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n)$  where,  $(x_i, x_{i+1})$  are collinear,  $x_0$  is called the initial point and  $x_n$  is called the end point. A **geodesic** from a point  $x$  to a point  $y$  is a path of minimal possible length with initial point  $x$  and end point  $y$ . We denote this length by  $d_\Gamma(x, y)$ , the length of the geodesic from  $x$  to  $y$  is called the distance between  $x$  and  $y$ .

**The diameter** of the geometry is the maximal distance of points.

A point-line geometry  $\Gamma$  is called **connected** if and only if for any two of its points there is a path connecting them. A subset  $X$  of  $P$  is said to be **convex** if  $X$  contains all points of all geodesics connecting two points of  $X$ .

A **polar space** is a point-line geometry  $\Gamma=(P, L)$  satisfying the Buekenhout-Shult axiom [2] :

For each point-line pair  $(p, l)$  with  $p$  not incident with  $l$ ;  $p$  is collinear with one or all points of  $l$ , that is  $|p^\perp \cap l|=1$  ( $|p^\perp \cap l|$  means the number of points of  $l$  that are collinear to the point  $p$ ) or else  $p^\perp \supset l$ . Clearly this axiom is equivalent to saying that  $p^\perp$  is a geometric hyperplane of  $\Gamma$  for every point  $p \in P$ .

A point-line geometry  $\Gamma=(P, L)$  is called a **projective plane** if and only if it satisfies the following conditions [2]:

- (i)  $\Gamma$  is a linear space; every two distinct points  $x, y$  in  $P$  lie exactly on one line,
- (ii) every two lines intersect in one point,
- (iii) there are four points no three of them are on a line.

A point-line geometry  $\Gamma=(P, L)$  is called a **projective space** if the following conditions are satisfied:

- (i) every two points in  $P$  lie exactly on one line ,
- (ii) if  $l_1, l_2$  are two lines in  $L$  and  $l_1 \cap l_2 \neq \emptyset$ , then  $\langle l_1, l_2 \rangle$  is a projective plane. ( $\langle l_1, l_2 \rangle$  means the smallest subspace of  $\Gamma$  containing  $l_1$  and  $l_2$ .)

A **gamma space** is a point-line geometry  $\Gamma=(P, L)$  satisfying the axiom [2] :

For each point-line pair  $(p, l)$  with  $p$  not incident with  $l$ ;  $p^\perp \cap l$  is either empty or one point of  $l$  or else  $p^\perp \supset l$ .

A point-line geometry  $\Gamma=(P, L)$  is called a **parapolar space** if and only if it satisfies the following properties:

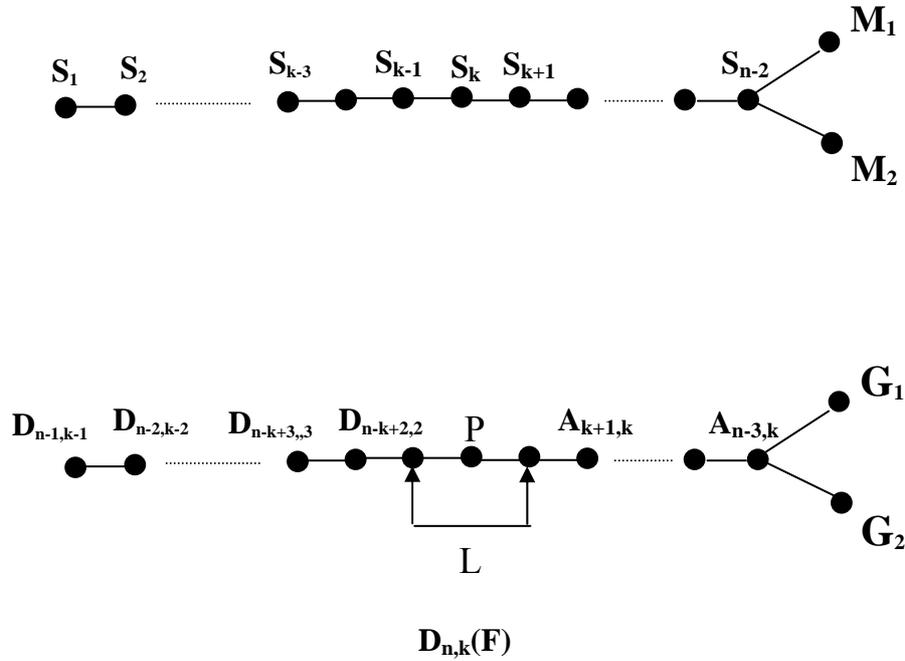
- (i)  $\Gamma$  is a connected gamma space,
- (ii) for every line  $l$ ;  $l^\perp$  is not a singular subspace,
- (iii) for every pair of non-collinear points  $x, y$ ;  $x^\perp \cap y^\perp$  is either empty, a single point, or a non-degenerate polar space of rank at least 2 [2].

If  $x, y$  are distinct points in  $P$ , and if  $|x^\perp \cap y^\perp|=1$ , then  $(x, y)$  is called a **special pair**, and if  $x^\perp \cap y^\perp$  is a polar space, then  $(x, y)$  is called a **polar pair** (or a **symplectic pair**). A parapolar space is called a **strong parapolar space** if it has no special pairs [4].

## 2. Construction of $D_{n,k}$ [7]

Consider the polar space  $\Delta=\Omega^+(V_{2n}, F)$  that comes from a vector space  $V$  of dimension  $2n$  over a finite field  $F=GF(q)$  with a symmetric hyperbolic bilinear form  $B$ .  $S_i$  is the set of all totally isotropic  $i$ -dimensional subspaces of  $V$ ;  $1 \leq i \leq n-2$ . The two classes  $M_1, M_2$  consist of maximal totally

isotropic  $n$ -dimensional subspaces. Two  $n$ -subspaces fall in the same class if their intersection is of odd dimension.



The geometry of type  $\mathbf{D}_{n,k}(\mathbf{F})$  is the point-line geometry  $(P, L)$ , whose set of points  $P$  is the collection of all  $k$ -dimensional subspaces of the vector space  $V$ , and whose lines are the pairs  $(A, B)$  where  $A$  is  $(k-1)$ -dimensional subspace of  $(k+1)$ -subspace  $B$  ( $A$  is a subspace of dimension  $k-1$ ,  $B$  is a subspace of dimension  $k+1$  and  $A$  is a subspace of  $B$ )—that is, the set of  $(k-1, k+1)$ -subspace of  $V$ . A point  $C$  is incident with a line  $(A, B)$  if and only if  $A \subset C \subset B$  as subspaces of  $V$ .

To define the collinearity, let  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  be two points (the points are the totally isotropic  $k$ -spaces), then  $C_1$  is collinear to  $C_2$  if and only if the intersection of  $C_1 \cap C_2 = (k-1)$ -space and  $\langle C_1, C_2 \rangle = (k+1)$ -space.

The elements of the classes  $\mathbf{G}_1$  and  $\mathbf{G}_2$  are Grassmannian geometries of type  $\mathbf{A}_{n-1,k}$ .

There are two kinds of symplecta (1) The first kind is the convex polar spaces  $A_{3,2}$  that represent the  $(k-2, k+2)$  subspaces of  $V$ . Then symplecton  $S$  of kind  $A_{3,2}$  is the set of totally isotropic  $k$ -spaces that contain the totally isotropic  $(k-2)$ -dimensional space and contained in the totally isotropic

( $k+2$ )-dimensional space. (2) The second kind of symplecta is the convex polar spaces of type  $D_{n-k+1,1}$  that represent the collection of all totally isotropic ( $k-1$ )-subspaces of  $V$ . Thus this kind of symplecta is defined as the collection of all totally isotropic  $k$ -subspaces of  $V$  that contain such totally isotropic ( $k-1$ )-spaces.

**Remark.** Each geometry of the class  $G_1$  or  $G_2$  of  $D_{n,k}$  is denoted by  $A_T$ , where  $T$  is the totally isotropic  $n$ -space that corresponds to such geometry and  $A_D$  denotes to the symplecton of type  $A_{3,2}$ , where  $D$  is the totally isotropic ( $k+2$ )-space that corresponds to such symplecton.

### 3- The main result

To make a characterization of the geometry of type  $D_{n,k}$  we prove the following theorem:

#### MAIN THEOREM.

1- Let  $\Gamma=(P,L)$  be a space of point line geometry satisfying the following axioms:

( $P_1$ )  $\Gamma$  is a weak parapolar space.

( $P_2$ ) There exist two kinds of symplecta of rank at least 2.

( $P_3$ ) If  $(x, S)$  is a pair of non-incident point-symplecton, then  $\text{rank}(x^\perp \cap S) = 1, 1, 2$ .

( $P_4$ ) If  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are two different symplecta of  $D_{n,k}$ , then  $\text{rank}(S_1 \cap S_2) = -1, 0, 2$ .

Then  $\Gamma$  is a point-line geometry type  $D_{n,k}$  ( $k \geq 2, n \geq k+3$ ).

2- If  $\Gamma$  is a point-line geometry of type  $D_{n,k}$  ( $k \geq 2, n \geq k+3$ ), then ( $P_1$ ), ( $P_2$ ) and ( $P_3$ ) are satisfied.

To prove the main theorem, the following Lemmas must be proved:

**3.1 Lemma.** The point line geometry of type  $D_{n,k}$  is a weak parapolar space.

**Proof:** By using building diagram of  $D_{n,k}$  (page 5), we see that the diagram geometry of type  $D_{n,2}$  is a sub-geometry of  $D_{n,k}$ . It has been proved in [8] that  $D_{n,2}$  is a weak geometry, so is  $D_{n,k}$ . To prove that the geometry is parapolar, we first prove that  $D_{n,k}$  is gamma space. Assume that  $l$  is a line containing two points  $p$  and  $q$  such that  $\psi(p) = \langle x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k \rangle$  and  $\psi(q) = \langle y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k \rangle$ . Then by the definition of collinearity, the two points form a totally isotropic ( $k+1$ )-space  $\langle z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{k-1}, x_1, y_1 \rangle$ , where  $z_1 = x_2 = y_2, z_2 = x_3 = y_3, \dots, z_{k-1} = x_k = y_k$ . Let  $s$  be a point not in  $l$  such that  $s$  is collinear to  $p$  and  $q$ , we shall prove that  $s$  is collinear to every point incident to  $l$ . Since  $s$  is collinear to  $p$  and  $q$ , then  $s$  does not contain the totally isotropic ( $k-1$ )-space  $\langle z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{k-1} \rangle$  and form ( $k+1$ )-spaces with  $p$  and  $q$ . Now assume that  $r$  is arbitrary point in  $l$  such that  $r \neq p \neq q$ , then  $\psi(r), \psi(s)$  contain the same ( $k-1$ )-

space  $\langle z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{k-1} \rangle$  and they are contained in  $(k+1)$ -space  $\langle z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{k-1}, x_1, y_1 \rangle$ . Thus  $s$  is collinear to  $r$ .

Now for the completion of the proof we need to show that for any line  $l$ ;  $l^\perp$  is non-singular. For this purpose we take the same above line i.e.,  $l = (\langle z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{k-1} \rangle, \langle z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{k-1}, x_1, y_1 \rangle)$ . Thus the points  $r, s$  can be chosen to be non-collinear and each of them is collinear to  $p$  and  $q$ . Since  $\psi(s)$  is contained in a maximal  $n$ -space, then we take  $\langle z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{k-2}, x_1, y_1 \rangle, \langle z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{k-1}, u \rangle$  to the points  $r, s$  where  $u$  is a vector in the  $n$ -space not in  $\psi(s)$ . Now  $\langle z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{k-2}, x_1, y_1 \rangle \cap \langle z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{k-1}, u \rangle$  does not contain a  $(k-1)$ -space, this means that  $r$  is not collinear to  $s$  but  $\langle z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{k-1}, x_1, y_1 \rangle$  and  $\langle z_1, z_2, \dots, z_{k-1}, y_1, u \rangle$  form  $(k+1)$ -spaces, then  $r, s$  are collinear to each of  $p$  and  $q$ . Thus  $l^\perp$  is non-singular.  $\blacklozenge$

**3.2 Lemma.** Let  $(p, S)$  be a non-incident pair of point and symplecton in  $D_{n,k}$ , then  $\text{rank}(p^\perp \cap S) = -1, 1, 2$ .

**Proof.**

a- For any pair  $(p, A_D)$  of a point  $p$  and a symplecton  $A_D$  of type  $A_{3,2}$ , there are two cases:

ai- If  $\dim(\psi(p) \cap D) < k-1$  ( $D$  is the totally isotropic subspace that corresponds to a symplecton  $A_D$ ), then there is no any  $k$ -space contained in  $D$  and meets  $\psi(p)$  in a  $(k-1)$ -space i.e.,  $\psi(p) \cap D = \emptyset$  and  $\text{rank}(p^\perp \cap S) = -1$ .

aii- If  $\dim(\psi(p) \cap D) = k-1$ , then set  $t$  of  $k$ -spaces in  $D$  that contain the  $(k-1)$ -space  $\psi(p) \cap D$  form a projective plane i.e.,  $\text{rank}(p^\perp \cap S) = 2$ .

b- For any pair  $(p, S)$  of a point  $p$  and a symplecton  $S$  of type  $D_{n-k+1,1}$ , there are two cases:

bi- If  $\dim((\psi(p) \cap \psi(S)) < k-2$ , then we cannot find any  $k$ -space contains  $\psi(S)$  and meets  $\psi(p)$  in a  $(k-1)$ -space i.e.,  $\text{rank}(p^\perp \cap S) = -1$ .

bii- If  $\dim((\psi(p) \cap \psi(S)) = k-2$ , and  $\langle \psi(p), \psi(S) \rangle = (k+1)$ -space, then there are two  $k$ -spaces meet  $\psi(p)$  in a  $(k-1)$ -space and contain  $\psi(S)$ . Since the two  $k$ -space form a  $(k+1)$ -space, then  $p^\perp \cap S$  is a line i.e.,  $\text{rank}(p^\perp \cap S) = 1$

**3.3 Lemma.** Let  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  be two distinct symplecta of  $D_{n,k}$ , then  $\text{rank}(S_1 \cap S_2) = -1, 0, 2$ .

**Proof.** We have three cases:

1- Let  $A_{D_1}, A_{D_2}$  be two distinct symplecta of type  $A_{3,2}$  then  $\text{rank}(A_{D_1} \cap A_{D_2}) = -1, 0, 2$ .

2- If  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are symplecta of type  $D_{n-1,1}$ , then  $\text{rank}(S_1 \cap S_2) = -1, 0$ .

3- If  $S$  is a symplecton of type  $D_{n-1,1}$  and  $A_D$  is a symplecton of type  $A_{3,2}$ , then  $\text{rank}(S \cap A_D) = -1, 2$ .

To prove 1 let  $A_{T_1}$  and  $A_{T_2}$  be two spaces located in the same class  $(\mathbf{G}_1)$ , so  $A_{D_1}$  and  $A_{D_2}$  are located in the located in  $\mathbf{G}_1$ , then we have two cases:

a-  $A_{D_1}, A_{D_2}$  are symplecta of the same geometry  $A_T$ , then it has three cases:

a1- If  $\dim(D_1 \cap D_2) \leq (k-1)$ -space, then  $\text{rank}(A_{D_1} \cap A_{D_2}) = -1$ .

a2- if  $\dim(D_1 \cap D_2) = k$ -space, then  $\text{rank}(A_{D_1} \cap A_{D_2}) = 0$ .

a3- if  $\dim(D_1 \cap D_2) = (k+1)$ -space, then  $\text{rank}(A_{D_1} \cap A_{D_2}) = 2$ .

b-  $A_{D_1}, A_{D_2}$  are symplecta of different geometries  $A_{T_1}$  and  $A_{T_2}$  respectively, then  $T_1 \cap T_2$  is a space of odd dimension and we have three cases:

b1- For  $\dim(T_1 \cap T_2) \leq k-1, \dim(D_1 \cap D_2) \leq k-1$ , so  $\text{rank}(A_{D_1} \cap A_{D_2}) = -1$ .

b2- For  $\dim(T_1 \cap T_2) = k, \dim(D_1 \cap D_2) \leq k$ . Then  $\text{rank}(A_{D_1} \cap A_{D_2}) = -1, 0$ .

b3- For  $\dim(T_1 \cap T_2) > k$ , then either  $\dim(D_1 \cap D_2) \leq k$  and  $\text{rank}(A_{D_1} \cap A_{D_2}) = -1, 0$  or  $\dim(D_1 \cap D_2) = k+1$  and  $\text{rank}(A_{D_1} \cap A_{D_2}) = 2$ . Then  $\text{rank}(A_{D_1} \cap A_{D_2}) = -1, 0, 2$ .

Now the case in which  $A_{T_1}$  and  $A_{T_2}$  are located in different classes is similar to that case above i.e,  $\text{rank}(A_{D_1} \cap A_{D_2}) = -1, 0, 2$ .

To prove 2-  $\psi(S_1)$  and  $\psi(S_2)$  correspond to  $(k-1)$ -spaces. We have two cases:

i- If  $\psi(S_1) \cap \psi(S_2) \subseteq (k-2)$ -space, then we cannot find a  $k$ -space that contains  $\langle \psi(S_1), \psi(S_2) \rangle$ , i.e.,  $S_1 \cap S_2 = \emptyset$ . Thus  $\text{rank}(S_1 \cap S_2) = -1$ .

ii- If  $\psi(S_1) \cap \psi(S_2) = (k-2)$ space and  $\langle \psi(S_1), \psi(S_2) \rangle = k$ -space, then  $\text{rank}(S_1 \cap S_2) = 0$ .

To prove 3- If  $S$  is a symplecton of type  $D_{n-1,1}$  and  $A_D$  is a symplecton of type  $A_{3,2}$ , then we have two cases:

i-  $\psi(S) \cap D \subseteq (k-2)$ -space, then we there is no a  $k$ -space that contains  $\psi(S)$  and contained in  $D$ , i.e.,  $\text{rank}(S \cap A_D) = -1$ .

ii-  $\psi(S) \subseteq D$ , then the number of different  $k$ -spaces in  $D$  that contains  $\psi(S)$  form a space of rank 3 i.e.,  $\text{rank}(S \cap A_D) = 2$ . ♦

### **Proof of the main theorem.**

The proofs of  $(p_1)$ ,  $(p_3)$  and  $(p_4)$  are exactly the proofs of Lemma 3.1, Lemma 3.2 and Lemma 3.3 respectively. From the construction of  $D_{n,k}$  it has been shown that the geometry has two kinds of symplecta The first kind is the convex polar spaces  $A_{3,2}$  that represent the  $(k-2, k+2)$  subspaces of  $V$ . The second kind of symplecta is the convex polar spaces of type  $D_{n-k+1,1}$  that

represent the collection of all totally isotropic  $(k-1)$ -subspaces of  $V$ . Thus this kind of symplecta is defined as the collection of all TI  $k$ -subspaces of  $V$  that contain such totally isotropic  $(k-1)$ -spaces, then  $(p_2)$  is satisfied. All geometries with Coxeter diagrams of spherical type with rank  $n$  have been characterized in [4], [10] and [5], the class of strong parapolar spaces also have been characterized in [9] and throughout those papers it has been found that all geometries of types (Grassmannian-Exceptional type-Half-spin-metasymplectic- polar grassmann geometries of type  $C_{n,k}$ ) have one kind of symplecton that is a convex polar space of rank at least 3. Then any geometry satisfies the axioms  $(p_1) - (p_4)$  is a building of type  $D_{n,k}(F)$  for  $k \geq 2$  and  $n \geq k+3$ .

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