# On the classical semitranslation plane of order 16

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ABSTRACT. The plane in the title is investigated from the combinatorial point of view. Its Baer subplanes are classified and their distribution is studied. Properties of the Fano subplanes are shown. Blocking sets of Rédei type are constructed. Finally, hyperovals and complete 14-arcs are considered and classified.

### 1 Introduction

Semitranslation planes were introduced by T.G. Ostrom [11] who gave the following definition. A projective plane  $\pi$  of order  $q^2$  is a semi-translation plane w.r.t. the line l if there exists a set S of q+1 points on l such that if  $P \in S$ , then  $\pi$  admits a group of elations of order q with centre P and axis l. Later, N.L. Johnson [7] gave an equivalent definition which enabled him to classify the semi-translation planes [8]. Namely, an affine plane of order  $q^2$  is a semitranslation plane if it admits a group H of translations such that each orbit of H is the set of  $q^2$  points of an affine Baer subplane. The plane is non-strict if its full translation group properly contains H. In the case H is the full translation group, then the plane is a strict semitranslation plane. Obviously, a proper non-strict semi-translation plane is neither a translation plane nor a dual translation plane. An infinite class of proper non-strict semitranslation planes of Lenz- Barlotti class I-1 can be obtained by deriving the dual Hall planes of even order  $2^{2r}$  [9]. The so obtained planes admit two collineation groups of order 2<sup>r</sup> which fix a Baer subplane. One of these groups fixes a Baer subplane  $\pi_0$  pointwise and the other is a group of elations which fix  $\pi_0$ , i.e. a  $(P, l, \pi_0)$ -elation group. Furthermore, the full translation group of these derived planes has order  $2^{2r+1}$ . There is one translation group, with a fixed centre, of order  $2^{r+1}$ , the remaining translation groups with fixed centres have order  $2^r$  or 2.

When  $2^{2r} = 16$ , the above mentioned construction yields the plane we call the classical semi-translation plane of order 16 and denote hereafter by  $\pi$ . Therefore, to construct  $\pi$  we start with the desarguesian plane PG(2,16), derive it to get the Hall plane Hl(16), dualize Hl(16) and derive again.

We investigate the distribution of the Baer subplanes of  $\pi$  which depends on the fact that  $\pi$  contains both a derivation set and a dual derivation set (sect. 4).

We show that a Fano subplane of  $\pi$  is either maximal, i.e. contained in no Baer subplane, or completes to a unique Baer subplane. Moreover, some of the Fano subplanes which extend to a unique Baer subplane give also rise to "2-failed Baers" (sect. 3 and [4]) which are used to construct blocking sets of Rédei type having size 25. Again from 2-failed Baers, other blocking sets of Rédei type will be constructed which have size 27 and 30.

Finally, we investigate the hyperovals in  $\pi$ , whose structure is the same as that of the hyperovals in the exceptional semi-translation plane of order 16 [3, 10], and the complete 14-arcs of  $\pi$ . We observe that 14 is the maximum size for a complete arc in  $\pi$  other than a hyperoval. Complete k-arcs for k=10,11,12 were already discussed in [2]; some complete 13-arcs will be shown here.

## 2 Description of $\pi$

The plane  $\pi$  was obtained by the construction mentioned in sect. 1. We consider  $\pi$  both as a projective and an affine plane. Therefore,  $\pi$  has a distinguished line, its line at infinity, which we denote by a0, and the points on it are  $A0, Aj, j = 1, 2, \ldots, 16$ , A0 being a special point.

The points A0, A1, A2, A3, A4 form the derivation set of  $\pi$ . The points of  $\pi \setminus a0$  are denoted by Bj, Cj, Dj, Fj, Hj, Kj, Lj, Mj, Nj, Pj, Rj, Sj, Tj, Wj Xj, Zj,  $j = 1, 2, \ldots, 16$ .

The lines of  $\pi$ , other than a0, are denoted by the corresponding lower case letters and same subscripts. The lines on A0 are the lines aj; a1 contains the affine points Bj, a2 the Cj's, ..., a16 the Zj's. The affine lines on A1 are the lines bj. Each of these contains all affine points with subscript j (b1 contains the points  $B1, C1, \ldots, Z1$ , and so on). The affine lines on A2 are the cj's, on A3 the dj's, ..., on A16 the zj's. The affine points on such lines can be written down with the help of Table 1 (see Appendix) as we now show.

Since  $\pi$  has an involution  $\sigma$  which fixes a0 pointwise and acts on the finite points and lines by keeping the letters fixed and pairing off the subscripts as (1,2), (3,4), (5,10), (6,16), (7,13), (8,9), (11,14), (12,15), it suffices to write half of the lines on each Aj,  $j=2,\ldots,16$ . Moreover, in Table 1 only the subscripts of the affine points of each line are given. The letters are to be inserted in alphabetic order.

E.g. from Table 1 we read

 $h7: A5\,B7\,C1\,D8\,F6\,H13\,K12\,L16\,M15\,N9\,P4\,R2\,S5\,T14\,W10\,X3\,Z11$  and applying  $\sigma$  yields

h13: A5 B13 C2 D9 F16 H7 K15 L6 M12 N8 P3 R1 S10 T11 W5 X4 Z14.

## 3 Fano subplanes and blocking sets

First of all, we observe that  $\pi$  is generated by quadrangles and there are no forbidden vertices for generating quadrangles [2]. Some examples of generating quadrangles for  $\pi$  are:

When a quadrangle does not generate  $\pi$ , then it generates a Fano subplane of  $\pi$ . Since  $\pi$  is a derived plane, it contains Baer subplanes and so Fano subplanes. The obvious classification of Fano subplanes w.r.t. the distinguished points and lines of  $\pi$  shows that there is no forbidden situation. Thus, we choose to classify the Fano subplanes according to their being maximal or not. More precisely, it is well known that in PG(2,16), the desarguesian plane, every Fano subplane completes to (extends to, is contained in) a unique Baer subplane. (A Baer subplane will be briefly called a Baer; similarly, for Fano subplanes.) This is no longer true in the translation planes of order 16, which are classified in [1], where a Fano subplane can complete to more than one Baer and up to seven in the Johnson-Walker and in the Lorimer-Rahilly planes [5]. On the other hand, in the strict semitranslation plane of order 16 a Fano subplane is either maximal, i.e. is contained in no Baer, or completes to a unique Baer [3]. The same situation occurs in  $\pi$ .

Examples of maximal Fano subplanes of  $\pi$  are the following (only points and lines are given, the incidences can be obtained from Table 1):

			lines										
<i>A</i> 0	<i>A</i> 5	A14	C1	C3	H5	<i>H</i> 13	a0	<b>a2</b>	a5	h7	h10	w9	w14
<i>A</i> 0	A2	<i>A</i> 5	C2	C3	$H_5$	H7	<b>a</b> 0	a2	a5	c1	c4	h10	h13
L16	M14	<i>N</i> 1	<i>N</i> 8	N10	R12	T6	<b>a</b> 9	<i>c</i> 9	d5	<i>l</i> 16	p15	<i>s</i> 14	w6
<i>A</i> 7	L14	<i>M</i> 6	<i>N</i> 5	<i>N</i> 9	N 13	P7	a9	<i>l</i> 2	<i>l</i> 6	<i>l</i> 15	m8	t12	w11
<i>A</i> 0	D3	D5	F3	F4	<i>M</i> 3	M8	<b>a</b> 3	a4	a8	<i>b</i> 3	cl	h14	k9
<i>A</i> 0	<i>L</i> 8	L14	R14	R16	T4	T14	<b>a</b> 7	al1	a13	<i>b</i> 14	d1	w9	<b>z</b> 3
<i>A</i> 0	<i>A</i> 9	<i>A</i> 10	D4	D8	K5	<i>K</i> 6	<b>a</b> 0	a3	a6	n3	n9	p2	p11
<i>A</i> 0	L5	<i>L</i> 8	M1	M4	$W_2$	W11	<b>a</b> 7	a8	a14	d12	f7	<i>l</i> 16	m10
<i>A</i> 0	D3	D15	L5	<i>L</i> 8	M4	M7	a3	<b>a</b> 7	<b>a</b> 8	<i>c</i> 6	<b>d</b> 12	h15	l16
<i>A</i> 0	<i>A</i> 1	<i>A</i> 5	L15	L16	M15	M 16	a0	a7	<b>a</b> 8	<i>b</i> 15	<i>b</i> 16	ħ5	h7
<i>A</i> 0	<i>A</i> 1	A5	H2	H5	P2	P5	a0	a5	a10	<i>b</i> 2	<i>b</i> 5	h3	h10

A Fano subplane of  $\pi$  which is not maximal completes to one Baer only. However, there are Fano subplanes which besides completing to a Baer also complete to some 2-failed Baers. A failed Baer [4] in a plane of order 16 is

an affine plane of order 4 with one missing parallel class of lines and whose line at infinity contains four points only. In [4] it was shown that in several non-desarguesian translation planes of order 16 failed Baers do exist: moreover, they can be extended to blocking sets of Rédei type by adding three points on the line at infinity (which contains the line at infinity of the failed Baer). Recall that a blocking set in a plane of order q is of Rédei type if it has q + m points and one m-secant. Furthermore, in PG(2,q) a blocking set of Rédei type either contains a Baer or has at least  $q + q^{2/3} + 1$ points. The above mentioned blocking sets of Rédei type in some translation planes of order 16 all have 23 points (and 23 is slightly smaller than the lower bound in PG(2,16)) and intersection numbers (1, 3, 5, 7) with a unique 7-secant. There are no failed Baers in  $\pi$ . However,  $\pi$  contains what we call 2-failed Baers, i.e. Baer subplanes with two missing parallel classes of lines. Therefore, a 2-failed Baer consists of 19 points, three of which on the line at infinity, and twelve lines (its line at infinity contains just three points). A 2-failed Baer can also be viewed as a 3-net on sixteen points to which three points at infinity have been added. It turns out that  $\pi$  contains at least three non-equivalent types of 2-failed Baers. Indeed, the 19-set of points of a 2-failed Baer can have different intersection numbers w.r.t. the lines of  $\pi$ . The 2-failed Baers in  $\pi$  give rise to blocking sets of Rédei type by adding some points on the line at infinity which, again, contains the points at infinity of the 2-failed Baer. In the case of  $\pi$ , the size of the blocking set constructed by starting with a 2-failed Baer depends on the type of the latter. The minimum possible size is 25 in which case the intersection numbers are (1,3,5,9). There are also 2-failed Baers which produce blocking sets with 27 points and intersection numbers (1,2,3,4,5,11), and a unique 11-secant. Finally, some 2-failed Baers in  $\pi$  yield blocking sets of size 30 and a unique 14-secant, the remaining intersection numbers being 1,2,3,5. Obviously, the most interesting blocking sets are those of size 25. Next, we provide some examples of Fano subplanes which extend to one Baer only and of Fano subplanes which both extend to a Baer and to some 2-failed Baers. In the latter case, we also give the points to be added to the 2-failed Baers in order to obtain the above mentioned blocking sets of Rédei type. Our last example is of a 2-failed Baer which yields a blocking set of size 27.

- 1. Fano: A0 A1 A2 B1 B2 C1 C2, a0 a1 a2 b1 b2 c1 c2; Baer with A3 A4 B3 B4 C3 C4 Dj Fj, a3 a4 b3 b4 c3 c4 dj fj, j = 1, 2, 3, 4.
- 2. Fano: A0 A1 A2 D5 D10 F5 F10, a0 a3 a4 b5 b10 c7 c13; Baer with A3 A4 D7 D13 F7 F13 Bj Cj, a1 a2 b7 b13 c5 c10 dj fj, j = 5, 10, 7, 13.

- 3. Fano: A5 A6 A7 B5 C4 D8 F6, a0 h5 h7 k5 k10 l5 l13; Baer with A0 A8 B7 B10 B13 C1 C2 C3 D9 D11 D14 F12 F15 F16, a1 a2 a3 a4 h10 h13 k7 k13 l7 l10 m5 m7 m10 m13.
- 4. Fano: A6 B5 B7 B10 C2 D8 F6, a1 h7 k5 k7 k10 l5 m10; Baer with A0 A5 A7 A8 B13 C1 C3 C4 D9 D11 D14 F12 F15 F16, a0 a2 a3 a4 h5 h10 h13 k13 l7 l10 l13 m5 m7 m13.
- 5. Fano: A0 K4 K10 S10 S14 Z10 Z12, a6 a12 a16 b10 h9 p16 t2; Baer with K8 K16 S2 S6 Z1 Z9 D5 D7 D10 D13 X3 X10 X11 X15, a3 a15 c7 d5 f13 k14 l11 m8 n15 r6 s12 w3 x1 z4.
- 6. Fano: A0 A1 A12 B7 B12 D7 D12, a0 a1 a3 b7 b12 s7 s12; Baer with A6 A14 B2 B11 D2 D11 Cj Fj, a2 a4 b2 b11 s2 s11 kj wj, j = 2, 7, 11, 12.
- 7. Fano: A0 A9 A10 B3 B4 F7 F13, a0 a1 a4 n3 n4 p3 p4; Baer with A11 A12 B1 B2 F5 F10 C6 C12 C15 C16 D8 D9 D11 D14, a2 a3 n1 n2 p1 p2 rj sj, j = 1, 2, 3, 4.
- 8. Fano: A0 A13 A14 B7 B10 C12 C16, a0 a1 a2 t7 t10 w7 w10; Baer with A15 A16 B5 B13 C6 C15 D1 D2 D3 D4 F8 F9 F11 F14, a3 a4 t5 t13 w5 w13 xj zj, j = 5, 10, 7, 13.
- 9. Fano: A0 H2 H7 L7 L16 T7 T9, a5 a7 a13 b7 l11 r12 t1; Baer with H11 H12 L3 L14 T4 T15 D5 D7 D10 D13 P1 P6 P7 P8, a3 a10 c10 d13 f5 h9 k14 m8 n16 p15 s6 w4 x2 z3.
- 10. Fano: A0 A1 A5 B6 B8 C6 C8, a0 a1 a2 b6 b8 h6 h8; Baer with A11 A16 B1 B7 C1 C7 Dj Fj, a3 a4 b1 b7 h1 h7 rj zj, j = 1, 6, 7, 8.

Next, we show a Fano subplane which completes to one Baer and to four 2—failed Baers each of which yields a blocking set by adding some suitable points at infinity.

Fano: A0 A1 A2 P7 P16 S7 S16, a0 a10 a12 b7 b16 c3 c14; Baer with A3 A4 P3 P14 S3 S14 Bj Nj, b3 b14 c7 c16 dj fj, j = 3, 7, 14, 16.

- 2-failed Baer with the points A8 P6 P13 S6 S13 Dj Mj, j = 6,7,13,16; by adding, to the Fano, A3 A5 A9 A10 A11 A12 A13 A14 A15 A16 a blocking set is obtained with 30 points and intersection numbers (1,2,3,5,14), the unique 14-secant is a0.
- 2. 2-failed Baer with A10 P6 P13 S6 S13 Lj Zj, j = 6,7,13,16; by adding (to the Fano) A3 A8 A11 A12 A15 we get a blocking set with 25 points and intersection numbers (1,3,5,9).

- 3. 2-failed Baer with A13 P5 P15 S5 S15 Hj Xj, j = 5, 7, 15, 16; blocking set with 25 points and intersection numbers (1,3,5,9) by adding A3 A6 A12 A15 A16.
- 4. 2-failed Baer with A12 P5 P15 S5 S15 Cj Rj, j = 5, 7, 15, 16; blocking set with 30 points and intersection numbers (1,2,3,5,14) by adding A3 A5 A6 A7 A8 A9 A13 A14 A15 A16.

As we already mentioned, the 2-failed Baers, as well as the blocking sets they yield, are embedded in different ways in  $\pi$ . We now show this fact on the examples above.

The 2-failed Baer 1 consists of the 19 points A0 A1 A8 Dj Mj Pj Sj, j = 6,7,13,16. By adding  $A2, A3, A5, A9, \ldots, A16$  we get the blocking set. All finite lines on A4, A6, and A7 are tangent to the blocking set. The affine lines on A0, A1 and A8 are either 5-secant or tangent. The affine lines on A5 are either 3-secant or tangent; furthermore, the 16 affine points of the 2-failed Baer split into four quadruples each of which yields a Fano subplane together with A0 A1 A5. The affine lines on each of the remaining points at infinity are either tangent (four of them) or 3-secant (four lines) or 2-secant. The 3-secants come in pairs which form two Fano subplanes by adding their point at infinity and A0, A1.

The 2-failed Baer 4 has the same structure. Its points are A0 A1 A12 Cj Pj Rj Sj, j = 5, 7, 15, 16. The affine lines on A9 are either 3-secants or tangents. The points at infinity on all tangents are A4, A10, A11. For the remaining points at infinity the situation is as in 1 (mutatis mutandis).

The 2-failed Baer 2 consists of the points A0 A1 A10 Lj Pj Sj Zj, j = 6,7,13,16, and the blocking set of size 25 is obtained by adding A2, A3, A8, A11, A12, A15. In this case, all finite lines on A4, A5, A6, A7, A9, A13, A14, and A16 are tangent. The affine lines on A0, A1 and A10 are either 5-secant or tangent. The finite lines on each of the remaining points at infinity are either 3-secant or tangent (eight of each). Moreover, the 16 affine points of such 2-failed Baer split into four quadruples each of which completes to a Fano subplane by adding A0, A1 and the point at infinity of the two 3-secants on which the four points lie.

The same situation occurs for the 2-failed Baer 3 whose points are A0 A1 A13 Hj, Pj, Sj, Xj, j = 5, 7, 15, 16, and which yields a blocking set of size 25 by adding A2, A3, A6, A12, A15, A16. In this case all affine lines on A4, A5, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11, A14 are tangent to the blocking set. For the remaining lines the behaviours are as above (mutatis mutandis).

Finally, we show a third type of 2-failed Baer (which was not obtained by starting with a Fano subplane). The points of the 2-failed Baer are A0 A1 A9 Dj Hj Rj Zj, j = 8, 9, 11, 14.

By adding A5, A6, A7, A8, A13, A14, A15, A16 we obtain a blocking set

of size 27 and intersection numbers (1,2,3,4,5,11). This 2-failed Baer is different from the previous ones as four of the lines on A8 and A15 are 3-secant to the 2-failed Baer so they yield the 4-secants to the blocking set. The remaining lines behave as in the other blocking sets. Obviously, the unique 11-secant is a0.

## 4 Baer subplanes

First of all, we observe that the existence of Baer subplanes is guaranteed by the fact that  $\pi$  is a derived plane. The distinguished elements of  $\pi$  play a major role in the distribution of its Baers. Such distinguished elements are the following ones: the line at infinity a0, the distinguished point A0 on it, the derivation set A0A1A2A3A4, and the dual derivation set a0a1a2a3a4. This means there are four special lines, other than a0, on a0.

Obviously, a Baer either has five points on the line at infinity or is tangent to it and both situations do occur. As to the Baers with five points on a0, one of these is always A0. For the remaining points there are different situations. One is the following. The points on  $a0 \setminus A0$  break into four quadruples, namely A1 A2 A3 A4, A5 A6 A7 A8, A9 A10 A11 A12, A13 A14 A15 A16, one of which is in the derivation set, and each of such quadruples together with A0 forms the set of points at infinity of some Baers. In particular, those Baers whose points at infinity other than A0 lie in a quadruple not in the derivation set have points on the lines of the dual derivation set. These Baers will be considered again together with the Baers tangent to a0.

To examine the other sets of points on a0 which are points at infinity of Baers having a0 as a line we have to consider the dual derivation set which is defined as follows. Firstly, one can view a usual derivation set as a set  $\Delta$  of q+1 points at infinity (in a plane of order  $q^2$ ) such that for any two points whose line hits  $\Delta$  there is exactly one Baer on  $\Delta$  containing those points. Then a dual derivation set  $\Delta^*$  is a set of q+1 lines on a distinguished point, A0 say, such that for any two lines whose intersection point lies on a line of  $\Delta^*$  there is a unique Baer having as lines those of  $\Delta^*$  and the given lines.

 $\pi$  has such a dual derivation set and the related Baers all have five points on a0 and there are Baers two of whose points at infinity are in the derivation set and one of these is always A0. The other 5-tuples are those listed before and there are four Baers on each such 5-tuple. Furthermore, these Baers are either self-conjugate under  $\sigma$  or come in pairs of conjugate Baers under  $\sigma$ . There are four Baers which belong to both the derivation set and the dual derivation set and each of them is self conjugate under  $\sigma$  (cf. Sect. 2).

The Baers tangent to the line at infinity are all tangent to a0 at A0. Moreover, each of such Baers contains four points, other than A0, on one line of the dual derivation set. Each of these four affine lines contains four quadruples of points and there is a translation with centre A0 which maps one quadruple onto any other one on the same line. By adding A0 to the points of such a quadruple one gets five points which are the shared points of 16 Baers whose points partition the points of  $\pi$  minus the line on which these five points lie. These 16 Baers split into four sets of four parallel Baers each (i.e. sharing those five points only) which use the same lines. Only one of these four Baers has five points on a0 and is one of the Baers we mentioned before. The remaining Baers are all tangent to a0 at A0. Thus, when we consider all 16 Baers sharing the same five points on aj, j = 1, 2, 3, 4, we have four Baers with five points on a0 (and all four sets of the previously mentioned partition are used) and twelve Baers tangent to a0 at A0. The latter come in pairs of conjugate Baers under  $\sigma$  whereas the Baers with five points on a0 are self-conjugate under  $\sigma$ . Observe that the considered sets of points (on the lines of the dual derivation set) are not derivation sets. On each of them there are exactly sixteen Baers. The sets belonging to different lines on A0, and the Baers hanging on them, can be mapped, in pairs, one onto another one, by a translation with centre A1. However, not all translations with such a centre exist. Also, there is an involution which maps onto itself the common set of five points on ai and pairs off the Baers on those five points.

The distribution of the Baers of  $\pi$  we just described depends on the existence of a derivation set and a dual derivation set. However, some special involutions of  $\pi$  are also involved in such distribution. We mentioned and used the involution  $\sigma$  which acts by keeping letters fixed and pairing off subscripts of affine points and lines of  $\pi$  as 12,34,510,616,713,89,1114,1215. There is another involution,  $\omega$ , which acts by keeping fixed the subscripts of affine points and lines and pairing off letters as B C, D F, H P, K Z, L T, M N, R W, S X.

Both  $\sigma$  and  $\omega$  fix a0 pointwise. Moreover,  $\sigma$  fixes all lines on A0  $(aj\sigma=aj)$  and induces an involution on each such line. Similarly,  $\omega$  fixes all lines on A1  $(bj\omega=bj)$  and induces an involution on each of such lines.  $\sigma$  and  $\omega$  commute, so  $\sigma\omega$  is an involution.

There is exactly one pencil of lines on which  $\sigma$  and  $\omega$  act in the same way, namely the pencil with centre  $A2: cj\sigma = cj\omega$  which implies  $cj\sigma\omega = cj$ . This means that  $\sigma\omega$  fixes each line on A2 and induces an involution on it.

Therefore, the derivation set contains a special triple, A0 A1 A2, to which the distinguished point A0 belongs, and a special pair, A3 A4, which consists of the points at infinity of all hyperovals in  $\pi$  (cf. sect. 5). Observe that  $\langle \sigma, \omega \rangle \cong V_4$  acts as a Baer four-group on the Baers belonging to both the derivation set and the dual derivation set.

Next, we provide some examples of Baers and their distribution. (Some examples of Baers were already given in sect. 3.)

First of all, the four Baers which belong to both the derivation set and the dual derivation set are the following ones:

A0 Aj Bj Cj Dj Fj, a0 aj bj cj dj fj, j = 1, 2, 3, 4; A0 Aj Bi Ci Di Fi, a0 aj bi ci di fi, i = 5, 10, 7, 13;

A0 Aj Bi Ci Di Fi, a0 aj bi ci di fi, i = 6, 16, 12, 15; A0 Aj Bi Ci Di Fi, a0 aj bi ci di fi, i = 8, 9, 11, 14.

Each of such Baers is self-conjugate both under  $\sigma$  and under  $\omega$ .

Next we illustrate the mentioned distribution of the Baers by taking the line a3 and writing down the sixteen Baers on A0 D5 D7 D10 D13. (We just list the points of such Baers; both the lines and the incidences are easily obtained from Table 1.)

A0 A1 A2 A3 A4 Bj Cj Dj Fj, j = 5, 10, 7, 13;A0 A5 A6 A7 A8 B8 B9 B11 B14 C6 C12 C16 C15 D5 D10 D7 D13 F1 F2 F3 F4; A0 A9 A10 A11 A12 B6 B16 B12 B15 C1 C2 C3 C4 D5 D10 D7 D13 F8 F9 F11 F14;

A0 A13 A14 A15 A16 B1 B2 B3 B4 C8 C9 C11 C14 D5 D10 D7 D13 F6 F16 F12 F15.

Notice that each of these four Baers is self-conjugate under  $\sigma$ . The remaining twelve Baers come in pairs of conjugate Baers under  $\sigma$  so that we just list half of them. Moreover, they are all tangent to a0 at A0. A0 D5 D10 D7 D13 H2 H7 H11 H12 P1 P6 P7 P8 L3 L7 L14 L16 T4 T7 T9 T15 A0 D5 D10 D7 D13 M1 M5 M11 M16 N3 N5 N6 N9 R4 R5 R12 R14 W2 W5 W8 W15 A0 D5 D10 D7 D13 H4 H8 H10 H16 P3 P10 P11 P15 L1 L9 L10 L12 T2 T6 T10 T14 A0 D5 D10 D7 D13 M4 M7 M9 M15 N2 N7 N11 N12 R1 R6 R7 R8 W3 W7 W14 W16 A0 D5 D10 D7 D13 K3 K5 K6 K9 Z2 Z5 Z8 Z15 S1 S5 S11 S16 X4 X5 X12 X14 A0 D5 D10 D7 D13 K2 K7 K11 K12 Z3 Z7 Z14 Z16 S4 S7 S9 S15 X1 X6 X7 X8.

Observe that there are four Baers on the points A0 D5 D10 D7 D13 and on the lines a3 h9 k14 l11 m8 which partition the points on such lines. One of these Baers has a0 as a line and is the only one which is self-conjugate under  $\sigma$ . (Other quadruples of lines not in the dual derivation set with the same property are easily found by looking at the given examples.)

The translation with centre A0 which maps D5 onto D8, maps D10 onto D9, D7 onto D14 and D13 onto D11. Therefore, the above given partition by Baers is shifted along a3. Similarly, there are two other translations, again with centre A0, which act as  $(D5, D10, D7, D13) \rightarrow (D1, D2, D4, D3)$ , and  $(D5, D10, D7, D13) \rightarrow (D6, D16, D12, D15)$ . By applying such translations we obtain the Baers associated with the partition of a3.

Obviously, applying  $\omega$  to the above given Baers (and to those obtained by the mentioned translations) yields the partition of a4 and the related Baers.

Finally, we can also use the translations with centre A1 (recall that  $\pi$  admits some translations with centre A1). E.g. there is a translation with centre A1 mapping D5 D7 D10 D13 onto B5 B7 B10 B13 (in the given order) which maps the Baer A0 D5 D10 D7 D13 H4 H8 H10 H16 P3 P10 P11 P15 L1 L9 L10 L12 T2 T6 T10 T14 onto the Baer A0 B5 B10 B7 B13 H2 H6 H10 H14 P1 P9 P10 P12 L3 L10 L11 L15 T4 T8 T10 T16.

Of course, the Baers in the partition above do not exhaust the Baers of  $\pi$ , and it seems worthwhile to give also some examples of Baers with two points in the derivation set. Such Baers use the lines in the dual derivation set:

```
A0 A1 A5 A11 A16 Bj Cj Dj Fj, j = 1, 6, 7, 8;
A0 A1 A5 A11 A16 Bj Cj Dj Fj, j = 3, 10, 11, 15;
A0 A1 A5 A11 A16 Bj Cj Dj Fj, j = 4, 5, 12, 14;
A0 A1 A5 A11 A16 Bj Cj Dj Fj, j = 2, 9, 13, 16.
```

Observe that these four Baers are parallel (i.e. share their points at infinity only), self-conjugate under  $\omega$  and come in pairs of conjugate Baers under  $\sigma$ .

Another quadruple of Baers with two points in the derivation set is the following one:

```
A0 A4 A5 A9 A14 B1 B9 B10 B12 C3 C7 C14 C16 D4 D6 D11 D13 F2 F5 F8 F15
A0 A4 A5 A9 A14 B3 B7 B14 B16 C1 C9 C10 C12 D2 D5 D8 D15 F4 F6 F11 F13
```

and their conjugate Baers under  $\sigma$ . (Notice that the above written Baers are conjugate under  $\omega$ .)

Obviously, if a Baer with a0 as a line is not self-conjugate under  $\sigma$  ( $\omega$  or  $\sigma\omega$ ), then its images under  $<\sigma,\omega>$  provide a quadruple of Baers which share their points at infinity only (and, of course, as many lines).

Finally, it is clear that the existence of 2-failed Baers in  $\pi$  (cf. sect. 3) is a consequence of the distribution of its Baers.

## 5 Hyperovals

The hyperovals in  $\pi$  share a property with the hyperovals in the strict semitranslation plane constructed by N.L. Johnson [3]. More precisely, all hyperovals in  $\pi$  (as well as those in the other semitranslation plane) have the same points at infinity and such points belong to the derivation set. As a matter of fact, they are A3 and A4. Moreover, each hyperoval of  $\pi$  splits into four hyperovals, belonging to four distinct Baers on the derivation set, which share the points at infinity.

However, only some quadruples of Baers on the derivation set contain hyperovals which can be glued together to yield hyperovals in  $\pi$ . None of the

involved Baers has lines in the dual derivation set and another quadruple of lines is forbidden. In other words, only eight lines on A0, aj for  $j=5,10;\,6,16;\,7,13;\,12,15$ , contain the Baers involved in the hyperovals. Also only specific quadruples of lines on A1 belong to these Baers.

Observe that all hyperovals in  $\pi$  are mapped onto themselves by  $\sigma$  and  $\omega$ . We remark that the translation planes of order 16 [1] all contain quadruples of hyperovals which share either eight finite points or the two points at infinity [5, 6]. No such configuration exists in  $\pi$ . Next, we list some examples of hyperovals.

The following four hyperovals use points on the same lines on A0 and A1:

```
L16 T6 T16 K12 K15 Z12 Z15
H_5
    H10 P5
            P10 L6
    S13 X7
            X13 A3
                    A4
S7
H16 H6
       P6
            P16 L5
                    L10 T5 T10 K7
                                    K13 Z7
                                            Z13
S12 S15 X12 X15 A3 A4
    H13 P7 P13 L12 L15 T12 T15 K6
                                    K16 Z6
                                            Z16
H7
S5
    S10 X5
            X10 A3
                    A4
H12 H15 P12 P15 L7
                    L13 T7
                           T13 K5
                                            Z_{10}
                                    K10 Z5
S6
    S16 X6 X16 A3
                   A4
```

Each of these hyperovals splits into four hyperovals on A3 A4 belonging to four distinct Baers. For the first hyperoval the four involved Baers which all share the points A0 A1 A2 A3 A4 have the following affine points and lines:

```
\alpha 1: Hj Lj Pj Tj; \alpha j, bj, j = 5, 10, 7, 13, c1 c2 c3 c4, d6 d16 d12 d15, f8 f9 f11 f14.
```

 $\alpha 2$ : Kj Zj Sj Xj; a6 a16 a12 a15, bj, c8 c9 c11 c14, d1 d2 d3 d4, f6 f16 f12 f15, j = 5, 10, 7, 13.

 $\alpha 3$ : Hj Lj Pj Tj; a5 a10 a7 a13, bj, c8 c9 c11 c14, d5 d10 d7 d13 f1 f2 f3 f4, j = 12, 15, 6, 16.

 $\alpha 4$ : Kj Zj Sj Xj, a6 a16 a12 a15, bj, c1 c2 c3 c4 d8 d9 d11 d14 f5 f10 f7 f13, <math>j = 6, 16, 12, 15.

The four hyperovals in these Baers are:

H5 H10 P5 P10 A3 A4, K7 K13 Z7 Z13 A3 A4, L12 L15 T12 T15 A3 A4, S6 S16 X6 X16 A3 A4, respectively.

A similar partition holds for the other three hyperovals in  $\pi$  of the quadruple above.

Another quadruple of hyperovals is the following one and the related Baers can be easily found with the help of Table 1, as well as the hyperovals in such Baers.

```
K9 Z8 Z9 L3
H11 H14 P11 P14 K8
                                        IΔ
                                             T3
                                                 T_4
S1
    S2
         X1
              X2
                  A3
                       A4
H3
    H4
         P3
              P4
                  L11 L14 T11 T14 K1
                                        K2
                                             Z1
                                                 7.2
S8
    59
         X8
              X9
                  A3
                       A4
H1
    H2
         P1
              P2
                  L8
                       L9
                           T8
                               T9
                                    K3
                                        K4
                                             Z3
                                                 Z4
S11 S14
         X11 X14 A3
                       A4
H8
    H9
         P8
              P9
                  L_1
                       L2
                           T1
                               T2
                                   K11 K14 Z11 Z14
S3
    S4
         X3
             X4
                  A3
                       A4
```

## 6 Complete 14-arcs

All non-desarguesian planes of order 16 contain complete 14-arcs, whereas only the Hall plane [6] and the Johnson-Walker plane contain complete 16-arcs [5]. In  $\pi$ , as well as in the exceptional semitranslation plane of order 16 [3], all complete 14-arcs have two points on the line at infinity none of which in the derivation set.

There are some interesting configurations formed by complete 14-arcs which we now briefly describe. (By a 14-arc we always mean a complete one.)

There are quadruples of 14-arcs on the same finite 8-arc. These quadruples split into two pairs and the arcs in the same pair share also the two points at infinity. There are triples of 14-arcs on the same finite 8-arc and the three pairs of points at infinity of the arcs of the same triple are all distinct. However, there are also triples of 14-arcs on the same finite 8-arc with only five distinct points at infinity. We observe that the quadruples of 14-arcs we just mentioned behave as the quadruples of hyperovals which exist in all translation planes of order 16. Also, the pairs of points at infinity of the 14-arcs always come from those 4-sets which together with A0 form the points at infinity of Baers in the dual derivation set and a quadruple of 14-arcs uses four points all belonging to one of such sets. In order to classify the 14-arcs, one can look at the distribution of j-points, a j-point being a point off the arc on exactly j tangents. In  $\pi$  the same cases occur as in the strict semi-translation plane constructed by Johnson [4]. Next, some examples of 14-arcs are listed.

```
P11
                                                    P14
B1
    B2
         C1
            C2
                  M3
                      M4
                           N3
                                N4
                                     H11
                                          H14
                                                          A_5
                                                              A6
                                N4
B1
    B2
         C1
            C2
                  M3
                      M4
                           N<sub>3</sub>
                                     K8
                                          K9
                                               Z8
                                                    Z_9
                                                          A_5
                                                              A6
    B2
            C2
                      M4
                           N<sub>3</sub>
                                N4
                                     L11
                                          L14
                                               T11
                                                    T14
                                                          A7
                                                              A8
B1
         C1
                  M3
    B2
            C2
                           N<sub>3</sub>
                                N<sub>4</sub>
                                     S8
                                          S9
                                               X8
                                                    X9
                                                          A7
                                                              A8
B1
         C1
                 M3
                      M4
            F13 R12 R15
                          W12 W15 H8
                                          H9
                                               P8
                                                    P9
                                                          A9
                                                              A11
         F7
    D13
         F7
            F13 R12 R15
                          W12 W15 K1
                                          K2
                                               Z_1
                                                    Z_2
                                                          A9
                                                              A11
            F13 R12 R15 W12 W15 L11
                                          L14
                                               T11
                                                    T14
                                                          A10 A12
   D13
         F7
         F7 F13 R12 R15 W12 W15 S3
                                          S4
                                                    X4
                                                          A10 A12
   D13
                                               X3
M6 M16 N6 N16 K5
                      K10 Z5
                                Z10
                                     D12
                                          D15
                                               F12
                                                    F15
                                                          A9
                                                              A11
                      K10 Z5
                                                          A13 A15
M6 M16 N6 N16 K5
                                Z10
                                     L3
                                          L4
                                               T3
                                                    T_4
M6 M16 N6 N16 K5
                      K10 Z5
                                Z_{10}
                                     R11
                                          R14
                                               W11 W14
            T16
                 R_5
                      R10
                           W_5
                                W10 D7
                                          D13
                                               F7
                                                    F13
                                                          A10
                                                              A12
L6
    L16
         T6
    L16
         T6
            T16
                 R_5
                      R10
                           W_5
                                W10 M11
                                          M14 N11
                                                    N14
                                                         A9
                                                              A12
                      R10 W5
                                W10 S1
                                          S2
                                               X1
                                                    X_2
                                                          A6
                                                              A8
    L16
         T6
            T16 R5
                                W16 K5
                                          K10 Z5
                      R16
                           W_6
                                                   Z_{10}
                                                         A_5
                                                             A7
 M8 M9 N8 N9 R6
                                          K13 Z7
 M8 M9 N8
            N9 R6
                      R16
                           W6
                                W16 K7
                                                   Z13
                                                         A6
                                                             A8
 M8 M9 N8
            N9 R6
                      R16
                           W_6
                                W16 S1
                                          S2
                                               X_1
                                                   X_2
                                                         A_5
                                                             A7
 M8 M9 N8
            N9 R6
                      R16
                           W6
                                W16 S3
                                          S4
                                               X3
                                                   X4
                                                         A6
                                                             A8
 M8 M9 N8 N9 R5
                      R10
                           W_5
                                W10 H6
                                          H16 P6
                                                   P16
                                                         A9
                                                             A12
 M8 M9 N8
            N9 R5
                      R10
                           W_5
                                W10 H12 H15 P12 P15
                                                         A10 A11
                                               T_1
                                                   T2
 M8 M9 N8
            N9 R5
                      R10
                           W_5
                                W10 L1
                                          L_2
                                                         A9
                                                             A12
                                W10 L3
                                          L4
                                               T_3
                                                   T4
                                                         A10 A11
 M8 M9 N8
             N9 R5
                      R10
                           W_5
                                                         A9
                                               P1
                                                   P2
                                                             A12
 M8 M9 N8 N9 R7
                      R13
                           W7
                                W13 H1
                                          H2
                                               P3
                                                   P4
 M8 M9 N8
            N9 R7
                      R13
                           W7
                                W13 H3
                                          H4
                                                         A10 A11
                                                   T16
 M8 M9 N8
            N9 R7
                      R13
                           W7
                                W13 L6
                                          L16
                                               T6
                                                         A10 A11
                                                   T15
        N8
            N9 R7
                      R13
                           W7
                                W13 L12
                                          L15
                                               T12
                                                         A9
                                                             A12
 M8 M9
                                          K2
                                               z_1
                                                   Z_2
                                                         A5
                                                             A7
                           W12 W15 K1
 M8 M9 N8 N9 R12
                      R15
                      R15
                           W12 W15 K3
                                          K4
                                               Z3
                                                   Z4
                                                         A6
                                                             A8
 M8 M9 N8 N9 R12
                           W12 W15 S5
                                          S10
                                               X_5
                                                   X 10
                                                        A6
                                                             A8
                      R15
 M8 M9 N8 N9 R12
                           W12 W15 S7
                                          S13
                                               X7
                                                   X13
                                                        A5
                                                             A7
 M8 M9
         N8
            N9 R12
                      R15
                                N14
                                     H3
                                          H4
                                               P3
                                                   P4
                                                         A5
                                                             A6
                 M11 M14 N11
 B8
     B9
         C8
             C9
                                               T3
                                                   T_4
             C9
                M11 M14 N11
                                N14
                                     L3
                                          L4
                                                         A7
                                                             A8
 B8
     B9
         C8
                                N14
                                     K1
                                          K2
                                               oldsymbol{z}1
                                                   Z_2
                                                         A5
                                                             A6
             C9
                M11 M14 N11
 B8
     B9
         C8
                                     S1
                                          S2
                                               X_1
                                                   X_2
                                                         A7
                                                             A8
 B8
     B9
         C8
            C9
                M11 M14 N11
                                N14
                                                             A6
                                N14
                                     B8
                                          B9
                                               C8
                                                   C9
                                                         A5
 H3
     H4
         P3 P4 M11 M14 N11
        P3 P4 M11 M14 N11
                               N14
                                     K6
                                          K16 Z6
                                                   Z_{16}
                                                        A15 A16
 H3 H4 P3 P4 M11 M14 N11 N14 R5
                                          R10 W5 W10 A9
```

The last quadruple and the last triple show that a 14-arc can belong to both a quadruple and a triple.

By comparing the listed 14-arcs with the hyperovals in Sect. 5 it is clear that there are forbidden points for the hyperovals. Also the 14-arcs split into suitable hyperovals in three Baers.

Finally, we show the j-points and their distribution for the four 14-arcs of the first listed quadruple, which we denote by  $\gamma_j$ , j = 1, 2, 3, 4, in the above given order.

γ<sub>1</sub>: 0-points: A0 A1 A2 B7 B13 C7 C13 D5 D10 F5 F10 K1 K2 K3 K4
Z1 Z2 Z3 Z4

(these 19 points split into four Fano subplanes on A0 A1 A2);

6-points: B5 B10 C5 C10 D7 D13 F7 F13 S1 S2 S3 S4 X1 X2 X3 X4 S8 S9 X8 X9;

10-points: K8 K9 Z8 Z9.

The remaining points are either 2- or 4-points.

 $\gamma_2$ : 0-points: A0 A1 A2 H1 H2 H3 H4 M7 M13 N7 N13 P1 P2 P3 P4 R5 R10 W5 W10;

6-points: L1 L2 L3 L4 L11 L14 M5 M10 N5 N10 R7 R13 T1 T2 T3 T4 T11 T14 W7 W13;

10-points: H11 H14 P11 P14.

Again, we do not list 2- and 4- points.

The same situation (involving different points) occurs for  $\gamma_3$  and  $\gamma_4$ .

We observe that a 14-arc admits either 10-points or 8-points, never both (cf. [3]).

For completeness, we also mention a complete 13–arc and observe that all 13–arcs in  $\pi$  seem to be tangent to a0:

M8 M9 N8 N9 K12 K15 Z12 Z15 H1 H2 P1 P2 A15.

# Appendix

# Table 1

															_	
c1 :	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
ය3 :	3	4	1	2	13	15	10	11	14	7	8	16	5	9	6	12
<i>c</i> 5 :	5	10	13	7	1	14	4	12	15	2	16	8	3	6	9	11
<i>c</i> 6:	6	16	15	12	14	1	8	7	13	11	10	4	9	5	3	2
<b>c</b> 7:	7	13	10	5	4	8	1	6	16	3	15	14	2	12	11	9
<i>c</i> 8 :	8	9	11	14	12	7	6	1	2	15	3	5	16	4	10	13
c11:	11	14	8	9	16	10	15	3	4	6	1	13	12	2	7	5
c12:	12	15	16	6	8		14	5	10	9	13	1	11	7	2	3
			-													
d1:	1	4	2	3	11	7	8	6	12	9	16	10	14	15	13	5
<b>d</b> 3:	3	2	4	1	8	10	11	15	16	14	12	7	9	6	5	13
d5:	5	7	10	13	16	4	12	14	8	15	11	2	6	9	3	1
<b>d</b> 6:	6	12	16	15	10	8	7	1	4	13	2	11	5	3	9	14
d7:	7	5	13	10	15	1	6	8	14	16	9	3	12	11	2	4
<b>d</b> 8:	8	14	9	11	3	6	1	7	5	2	<b>13</b>	15	4	10	16	12
d11:	11	9	14	8	1	15	3	10	13	4	5	6	2	7	12	16
d12:	12	6	15	16	13	14	5	4	1	10	3	9	7	2	11	8
f1:	1	3	4	2	16	8	6	7	10	<b>12</b>	5	9	15	13	14	11
<i>f</i> 3:	3	1	2	4	12	11	15	10	7	16	13	14	6	5	9	8
<i>f</i> 5:	5	13	7	10	11	12	14	4	2	8	1	15	9	3	6	16
<i>f</i> 6:	6	15	12	16	2	7	1	8	11	4	14	13	3	9	5	10
<i>f</i> 7:	7	10	5	13	9	6	8	1	3	14	4	16	11	2	12	15
<i>f</i> 8:	8	11	14	9	13	1	7	6	15	5	12	2	10	16	4	3
f11:	11	8	9	14	5	3	10	15	6	13	16	4	7	12	2	1
<i>f</i> 12:	12	16	6	15	3	5	4	14	9	1	8	10	2	11	7	13
, ,		_	_	_				^	1	10	10	•	10		_	10
h1:	1	7	6	8	4	11	14	9	15	13	10	3	16	2	5	12
h3:	3	10	15	11	2	8	9	14	6	5	7	1	12	4	13	16
h5:	5	4	14	12	10	6	15	16	11	1	3	7	8	13	2	9
<i>h</i> 6:	6	8	1	7	16	5	13	10	2	14	9	12	4	15	11	3
<i>h</i> 7 :	7	1	8	6	13	12	16	15	9	4	2	5	14	10	3	11
h8:	8	6	7	1	14	3	4	2	10	16	15	11	13	9	12	5
<i>h</i> 11:	11	15	10	3	9	1	2	4	7	12	6	8	5	14	16	13
<i>h</i> 12 :	12	14	4	5	15	7	10	13	3	8	11	6	1	16	9	2
						_										
	l															

```
k1:
        1 13 15
                 14
                      7 10 12
                                 2
                                        4
                                    5
                                            6 16
                                                    8 11
k3:
        3
                   9
                            16
                                 4 13
                                        2 15 12 11
            5
               6
                     10
                          7
                                                       8
                                                          14
                                                               1
k5:
            3
               9
                   6
                       2
                                     4 10
                          1
                             11
                                13
                                            8 14 16 15
                                                               7
k6:
        6
            9
               3
                   5
                     11
                         14
                              2
                                15
                                     8 16
                                            4
                                                1 10 13
                                                           7
                                                             12
k7:
        7
            2
              11
                  12
                       3
                          4
                              9
                                10
                                     1
                                       13 14
                                                8 15 16
                                                           6
                                                               5
k8:
        8 16 10
                   4
                       6
                         15
                              5
                                 9 12 14
                                            7
                                               13
                                                    1
                                                       3
                                                           2
                                                             11
k11:
       11 12
               7
                   2
                     15
                            13 14 16
                          6
                                         9
                                           10
                                                5
                                                    3
                                                       1
                                                           4
                                                               8
k12:
                   7
                       9
       12 11
               2
                          8
                              3 16 14 15
                                            1
                                                4 13
l1:
        1 10 12
                   9
                     15
                          3
                              5 16
                                     8 11
                                            2 14
                                                    4
                                                       7
                                                           6
                                                             13
l3:
              16 14
                                            4
           7
                      6
                          1
                            13 12 11
                                         8
                                                9
                                                    2
                                                      10
                                                         15
                                                               5
l5:
        5
           2
               8 15
                     14
                          7
                              3
                                 9
                                     6
                                       12 13 16 10
                                                       1
                                                          11
                                                               4
16:
        6 11
               4 13
                       1
                         12
                              9
                                 3
                                     5
                                         7 15 10 16
                                                      14
                                                               8
l7:
           3
                  16
                      8
                              2
                                    12
              14
                          5
                                11
                                         6 10 15 13
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