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<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
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The most symmetric non-singular plane curves of degree $n < 8$

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0 Introduction

Throughout this paper $k$ stands for the complex number field $C$. A homogeneous polynomial $f(x, y, z) \in k[x, y, z]$ defines a plane algebraic curve $f = 0$, or $C(f)$ in the projective plane $\mathbb{P}^2$. A non-singular matrix $A \in GL(3, k)$ defines a projectivity $(A)$ sending a point $P$ with the homogeneous coordinates $(x)$ to a point $(A)P$ with the homogeneous coordinates $(x(tA))$. Denote by $PGL(3, k)$ the group of projectivities in $\mathbb{P}^2$. Denote by $\text{Aut}(f)$ the projective automorphism group of $f$, namely $\text{Aut}(f) = \{(A) \in PGL(3, k); f_A$ is proportional to $f\}$, where $f_A(x, y, z) = f((x, y, z)(tA^{-1}))$. When $C(f)$ is non-singular and of degree $n$, i.e. $\deg f = n$, then $C(f)$ is a compact Riemann surface of genus $g = (n - 1)(n - 2)/2$. In this case we can consider the holomorphic automorphism group $\text{AUT}(f)$ of the Riemann surface $C(f)$. Clearly $\text{Aut}(f)$ is a subgroup of $\text{AUT}(f)$. If $\deg f \geq 4$ and $C(f)$ is non-singular, then $\text{Aut}(f) = \text{AUT}(f)$ [7, p.372], and $|\text{AUT}(f)| \leq 84(g - 1)$ [5]. Therefore $|\text{Aut}(f)|$ is bounded above when $C(f)$ runs through non-singular plane curve of degree $n \geq 4$, $n$ being fixed. As will be shown in the next section, the same is true for non-singular plane cubics.

Let an $f$ in $k[x, y, z]$ be homogeneous. We call $f$ singular or non-singular according as the curve $C(f)$ has a singular point or not. A non-singular curve $C(f)$ of degree $n(n \geq 3)$ is the most symmetric, if it attains the maximum order of the projective automorphism groups for non-singular plane algebraic curves of degree $n(n \geq 3)$. We often identify the polynomial $f$ and the curve $C(f)$.

Our main results are the following Theorems 1, 3, and 5. Theorem 2 is well known [3, pp.348–349].

**Theorem 1** Let $f$ be a non-singular plane cubic.

1. $|\text{Aut}(f)| \leq 54$.
2. $|\text{Aut}(f)| = 54$ if and only if $f$ is projectively equivalent to $x^3 + y^3 + z^3$. 


Theorem 2  Let $f$ be a non-singular plane quartic.
(1) $|\text{Aut}(f)| \leq 168.$
(2) $|\text{Aut}(f)| = 168$ if and only if $f$ is projectively equivalent to the Klein quartic $x^3y + y^3z + z^3x$.

Theorem 3  Let $f$ be a non-singular plane quintic.
(1) $|\text{Aut}(f)| \leq 150.$
(2) $|\text{Aut}(f)| = 150$ if and only if $f$ is projectively equivalent to $x^5 + y^5 + z^5$.

Theorem 4 ([1]) Let $f$ be a non-singular plane sextic.
(1) $|\text{Aut}(f)| \leq 360.$
(2) $|\text{Aut}(f)| = 360$ if and only if $f$ is projectively equivalent to the Wiman sextic $10x^3y^3 + 9(x^5 + y^5)z - 45x^2y^2z^2 - 135xyz^4 + 27z^6$.

Theorem 5  Let $f$ be a non-singular plane septic.
(1) $|\text{Aut}(f)| \leq 294.$
(2) $|\text{Aut}(f)| = 294$ if and only if $f$ is projectively equivalent to $x^7 + y^7 + z^7$.

Our definitions and notations are as follows. Let $A, B \in GL(3, k)$, and $f \in k[x_1, x_2, x_3]$. We define $f_A \in k[x_1, x_2, x_3]$ as $f_A(x_1, x_2, x_3) = f([x_1, x_2, x_3]^tA^{-1})$ so that $(f_A)_B = f_{BA}$. Let $G$ be a subset of the group $PGL(3, k)$ of projectivities of the projective plane $\mathbb{P}^2$. A homogeneous $f \in k[x, y, z]$ is called $G$-invariant, if $f_A \sim f$ for any $(A) \in G$. More generally, let $H$ be an abstract group. By abuse of notation we call $f$ is $H$-invariant, if there is a subgroup $G$ of $PGL(3, k)$ such that 1) $G$ and $H$ are isomorphic, and 2) $f$ is $G$-invariant. For a homogeneous $f \in k[x_1, x_2, x_3]$ $\text{Hess}(f)$ denotes the Hessian of $f$: $\text{Hess}(f) = \det[\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}f]$. It is well known that, if $f$ is non-singular, then the intersection $f \cap h$ coincides with the set of all flexes. It is also known that $\text{Aut}(f) \subset \text{Aut}(\text{Hess}(f))$. Finally $E_3 = [e_1, e_2, e_3]$ denotes the unit matrix of $GL(3, k)$, where $e_j$ stands for the $j$-th column of $E_3$. When two quantities $a$ and $b$ such as functions and matrices, $a \sim b$ means that $a$ and $b$ are proportional.

The cases of cubics, quintics, and septics are discussed in §1, §2, and §3 respectively. Proofs are not given in principle to make our report short.

1 Cubics

In this section we will prove Theorem 1. We begin with

Theorem 1.1 ([8], [6]) Let $f = x^n + y^n + z^n (n \geq 3)$. Then $|\text{Aut}(f)| = 6n^2$.

Theorem 1.2  Let $f$ be a non-singular plane cubic.
(1) $|\text{Aut}(f)| \leq 54.$
(2) $|\text{Aut}(f)| = 54$ if and only if $f$ is projectively equivalent to $x^3 + y^3 + z^3$. 

Proof. As is known, $f$ has a flex $P$. Without loss of generality we may assume that $P = (0,1,0)$ and that the tangent there is $z$. Namely $f(x,1,z) = z + 2z(ax + bz) + Ax^3 + Bx^2z + Cxz^2 + Dz^3$, or equivalently $f = y^2z + 2yz(ax + bz) + Ax^3 + Bx^2z + Cxz^2 + Dz^3$. Substituting $y$ for $y + az + bz$, we get $f = y^2z + Ax^3 + Bx^2z + Cxz^2 + Dz^3$. So we may assume that $f = y^2z + x^3 + Bx^2z + Cxz^2 + Dz^3$. As can be seen easily, $f$ is non-singular if and only if $C(B^2 - 4C) \neq 0$. Let $G_P = \{(A) \in \text{Aut}(f); (A)P = P\}$, and assume $(A) \in G_P$. Since $(A)$ fixes the tangent $z$ at $P$ as well, the rows of $A$ take the form $[a_1,0,c_1], [a_2,1,c_2]$, and $[0,0,c_3]$ respectively up to constant multiplication. Since $f_{A^{-1}}$ contains none of monomials of degree 1 with respect to $y$, $a_2 = c_2 = 0$. Now $f_{A^{-1}} \sim f$, if and only if $a_3^2/c_3 = 1, 3a_1^2c_1/c_3 + 2b = B, 3a_1c_1^2/c_3 + 2a_1c_1b + a_1c_3/c_3 = C$ and $c_1^3/c_3 + c_1^2B + c_1c_3C = 0$. From the first and the second equalities of these four equalities, we get $c_3 = a_1^3$ and $c_1 = a_1(1 - a_1^2)B/3$. So the third equality can be written as $(a_1^4 - 1)(-B^2/3 + C) = 0$. If $C \neq B^2/3$, then $|G_P| \leq 4$. If $C = B^2/3$, then the fourth equality can be written as $(1 - a_1^2)(1 + a_1^2 + a_1^4)B^3 = 0$. Note that $y^2z + x^3$ is singular. Hence, only when $C = B^2/3 \neq 0$, $f$ is non-singular and $|G_P| = 6$. Since $|f \cap h| \leq 9$ by Bezout's theorem, $|\text{Aut}(f)|/|G_P| = |\text{Aut}(f)P| \leq 9$. So $|\text{Aut}(f)| \leq 54$, and the equality holds, if and only if $|G_P| = 6$ and $|\text{Aut}(f)P| = 9$. We have shown that $|G_P| = 6$ if and only if $C = B^2/3 \neq 0$, namely $f = y^2z + x^3 + Bx^2z + B^2xz^2/3$ with $B \neq 0$, which is projectively equivalent to $f' = y^2z + x^3 + x^2x + xz^2/3$. Consequently, if there exists a non-singular cubic $f$ with $|\text{Aut}(f)| = 54$, then $f$ is projectively equivalent to $f'$. This means the uniqueness of non-singular cubics satisfying $|\text{Aut}(f)| = 54$. On the other hand there exists such a cubic by Theorem 1.1.

2 Quintics

In this section we will specify the most symmetric non-singular quintics (Theorems 2.2 and 2.22).

Theorem 2.1 (Hurwitz) Denote by $\text{AUT}(C)$ the holomorphic automorphism group of a compact Riemann surface $C$ of genus $g \geq 2$. Let $g' = g - 1$. The possible values of the order $d = |\text{AUT}(C)|$ are

$$84g', \quad 48g', \quad 40g', \quad 36g', \quad 30g', \quad 152/5g', \quad 24g', \quad 158/7g', \quad 21g', \quad 20g', \quad 96/5g', \quad 56/3g', \quad 204/11g', \quad 18g' \quad \text{or less.}$$

Proof. The author of [5] cites values down to $36g'$. For our purposes, however, other possible values are necessary. The idea of the proof given below is entirely due to [5]. According to [5] there exist integers $\hat{g} \geq 0$, $s \geq 3$, and $m_1 \geq m_2 \geq \ldots \geq m_s \geq 2$ such that

$$2g' = d\{2(\hat{g} - 1) + \sum_{j=1}^{s}(1 - \frac{1}{m_j})\}.$$
If $\hat{g} \geq 2$, then $d \leq g'$. If $\hat{g} = 1$, then $d \leq 4g'$. Suppose $\hat{g} = 0$. Note that $2g' \geq d\{-2+s/2\}$. If $s \geq 5$, then $d \leq 4g'$. If $s = 4$, then $m_1 \geq 3$ so that $2g' \geq d\{-2 + (1 - 1/3) + 3/2\} = d/6$, namely $d \leq 12g'$. Assume $s = 3$.

Suppose $m_3 \geq 4$. Then $2g' \geq d(1 - 3/4) = d/4$, namely $d \leq 8g'$. Suppose $m_3 = 3$. Then $m_1 \geq 4$. If $m_1 \geq 5$, then $2g' \geq d(1 - 1/5 - 1/3 - 1/3) = 2d/15$, namely $d \leq 15g'$. If $m_1 = 4$ and $m_2 = 4$, then $2g' = d(1 - 1/2 - 1/3) = d/6$, namely $d = 12g'$. If $m_1 = 4$ and $m_2 = 3$, then $2g' = d(1 - 1/4 - 2/3) = d/12$, namely $d = 24g'$. Suppose $m_3 = 2$. Then $m_2 \geq 3$. If $m_2 \geq 6$, then $2g' \geq d(1 - 1/6 - 1/2) = d/6$, namely $d \leq 12g'$.

Let $m_2 = 5$. If $m_1 \geq 6$, then $2g' \geq d(1 - 1/6 - 1/5 - 1/2) = 2d/15$, namely $d \leq 15g'$. If $m_1 = 5$, then $2g' = d(1 - 2/5 - 1/2) = d/10$, namely $d = 20g'$.

Let $m_2 = 4$. Then $m_1 \geq 5$. If $m_1 \geq 8$, then $2g' \geq d(1 - 1/8 - 1/4 - 1/2) = d/8$, namely $d \leq 16g'$.

If $m_1 = 7$, then $2g' = d(1 - 1/7 - 3/4) = 3d/28$, namely $d = 56g'/3$.

If $m_1 = 6$, then $2g' = d(1 - 1/6 - 3/4) = d/12$, namely $d = 24g'$.

If $m_1 = 5$, then $2g' = d(1 - 1/5 - 3/4) = d/20$, namely $d = 40g'$.

Let $m_2 = 3$. Then $m_1 \geq 7$. If $m_1 \geq 19$, then $2g' \geq d(1/6 - 1/19) = 13d/114$, namely $d \leq 228g'/13$.

If $m_1 = 18$, then $2g' = d(1/6 - 1/18) = 2d/18$, namely $d = 18g'$.

If $m_1 = 17$, then $2g' = d(1/6 - 1/17) = 11d/102$, namely $d = 204g'/11g'$.

If $m_1 = 16$, then $2g' = d(1/6 - 1/16) = 5d/48$, namely $d = 96g'/5$.

If $m_1 = 15$, then $2g' = d(1/6 - 1/15) = d/10$, namely $d = 20g'$.

If $m_1 = 14$, then $2g' = d(1/6 - 1/14) = 2d/21$, namely $d = 21g'$.

If $m_1 = 13$, then $2g' = d(1/6 - 1/13) = 7d/78$, namely $d = 156g'/7$.

If $m_1 = 12$, then $2g' = d(1/6 - 1/12) = d/12$, namely $d = 24g'$.

If $m_1 = 11$, then $2g' = d(1/6 - 1/11) = 5d/66$, namely $d = 132g'/5$.

If $m_1 = 10$, then $2g' = d(1/6 - 1/10) = d/15$, namely $d = 30g'$.

If $m_1 = 9$, then $2g' = d(1/6 - 1/9) = d/18$, namely $d = 36g'$.

If $m_1 = 8$, then $2g' = d(1/6 - 1/8) = d/24$, namely $d = 48g'$.

If $m_1 = 7$, then $2g' = d(1/6 - 1/7) = d/42$, namely $d = 84g'$.

Let $f$ be a non-singular plane quintic, hence $C(f)$ is a compact Riemann surface of genus $g = 6$. From now on let $g' = g - 1 = 5$ throughout this section. Then possible values of $|\text{Aut}(f)|$ are

$84g' = 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$, $48g' = 16 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$, $40g' = 8 \cdot 5^2$, $36g' = 4 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5$, $30g' = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5^2$ or less.

We will prove the following theorem by showing that $|\text{Aut}(f)|$ cannot be equal to none of $84g'$, $48g'$, $40g'$, and $36g'$.

**Theorem 2.2** If $f$ is a non-singular plane quintic, then $|\text{Aut}(f)| \leq 150$.

A proof of this theorem will be given after a series of lemmas and propositions.

Let $\epsilon$ be a primitive $n$-th root of $1(n \geq 3)$. A cyclic subgroup $G_n$ of order $n$ in $\text{PGL}(3, k)$ is clearly conjugate to either $G_{01} = \langle \text{diag}[1, 1, \epsilon] \rangle$ or $G_{ij} = \langle \text{diag}[1, \epsilon^i, \epsilon^j] \rangle$. 


for some \(1 \leq i < j \leq n - 1\) satisfying the greatest common divisor \((i, j, n) = 1\).

**Lemma 2.3** Let notations be as above. Suppose that \(1 \leq i < j \leq n - 1\), \(1 \leq i' < j' \leq n - 1\), and \((i, j, n) = (i', j', n) = 1\). Then \(G_{ij}\) is conjugate to \(G_{i'j'}\) if and only if there exists an \(1 \leq m \leq n - 1\) with \((m, n) = 1\) and a permutation \(\sigma \in S_3\) such that

\[
\text{diag}[\varepsilon_{\sigma(1)}, \varepsilon_{\sigma(2)}, \varepsilon_{\sigma(3)}] \sim \text{diag}[1, \varepsilon^{i'}, \varepsilon^{j'}],
\]

where \([\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_3] = [1, \varepsilon^{im}, \varepsilon^{jm}].

**Lemma 2.4** Let \(\varepsilon\) be a primitive 7-th root of 1. A subgroup \(G_7\) of \(PGL(3, k)\) is isomorphic to \(Z_7\) if and only if \(G_7\) is conjugate to one of the following subgroups of \(PGL(3, k)\):

- \(G_{01} = <(\text{diag}[1, 1, \varepsilon])>\),
- \(G_{12} = <(\text{diag}[1, \varepsilon, \varepsilon^2])>\),
- \(G_{13} = <(\text{diag}[1, \varepsilon, \varepsilon^3])>\).

**Lemma 2.5** Let \(f_1, ..., f_n\) be non-zero homogeneous polynomials of the same degree such that \(f_{j\lambda} = \lambda_j f_j\) (\(j = 1, 2, ..., n\)) for an \(\Lambda \in GL(3, k)\) with mutually distinct \(\lambda_j\). Then a linear combination \(f = c_1 f_1 + ... + c_n f_n \neq 0\) satisfies \(f_A = \lambda f\) for some \(\lambda \in k\) if and only if \(c_j \neq 0\) except for just one value of \(j\).

The following proposition implies that \(|\text{Aut}(f)| = 84g' = 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7\) is impossible for any non-singular quintic \(f\).

**Proposition 2.6** A \(Z_7\)-invariant quintic has a singular point.

**Proof.** Let \(\varepsilon\) be a primitive 7-th root of 1, and denote by \(A_j(j = 1, 2, 3)\) the matrices \(\text{diag}[1, 1, \varepsilon]\), \(\text{diag}[1, \varepsilon, \varepsilon^2]\) and \(\text{diag}[1, \varepsilon, \varepsilon^3]\) respectively. Then a quintic satisfying \(f_{A_{j^{-1}}} = \varepsilon^n f\) for some \(0 \leq n \leq 6\) turns out to be singular. Indeed, let \(f'(x, y, z)\) be a homogeneous polynomial of degree \(d \geq 2\). Then \((1, 0, 0)\) is a singular point of \(C(f)\), if and only if none of monomials \(x^d, x^{d-1}y\) and \(x^{d-1}z\) appears in \(f'\). We summarize the values \(i\) such that \(m_{A_{j^{-1}}} = \varepsilon^m\) for each \(j\) and the special nine monomials \(m\) in the following table.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>(x^5)</th>
<th>(x^4 y)</th>
<th>(x^4 z)</th>
<th>(y^5)</th>
<th>(y^4 x)</th>
<th>(y^4 z)</th>
<th>(z^5)</th>
<th>(z^4 x)</th>
<th>(z^4 y)</th>
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<td>(1)</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From this table we can easily see that a quintic \(C(f)\) satisfying \(f_{A_{j^{-1}}} = \varepsilon^n f\) for some \(0 \leq n \leq 6\) has a singular point \((1, 0, 0)\), \((0, 1, 0)\) or \((0, 0, 1)\).

A finite group of order 48g' or 40g' contains a subgroup of order 8. Such a group is isomorphic to one of the following five groups [4, p.51–52]:

1) \(Z_8\)
2) \(Z_2 \times Z_4\)
3) \(Z_2 \times Z_2 \times Z_2\)
4) \(Q_8\), which is generated by \(a\) and \(b\) such that \(a^4 = 1, b^2 = a^2,\) and \(ba = a^{-1}b\).
5) \(D_8\), which is generated by \(a\) and \(b\) such that \(a^4 = 1, b^2 = 1,\) and \(ba = a^{-1}b\).

We may safely omit the proof of
Lemma 2.7 Let $\epsilon$ be a primitive $8$-th root of $1$. A subgroup $G_8$ of $PGL(3, k)$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}_8$, if and only if $G_8$ is conjugate to one of the following $4$ subgroups of $PGL(3, k)$:

$$G_{01} = \langle (\text{diag}[1, 1, \epsilon]) \rangle, \quad G_{12} = \langle (\text{diag}[1, \epsilon, \epsilon^2]) \rangle, \quad G_{13} = \langle (\text{diag}[1, \epsilon, \epsilon^3]) \rangle, \quad G_{14} = \langle (\text{diag}[1, 1, \epsilon^4]) \rangle.$$

Proposition 2.8 Let $f$ be a $\mathbb{Z}_8$-invariant quintic.

1. $f$ is non-singular if and only if it is projectively equivalent to $f' = x^5 + Bx^3z^2 + xz + y^4z$ with $B^2 - 4 \neq 0$.
2. $|\text{Aut}(f')| \leq 148$.

Lemma 2.9 Let $p \neq 3$ be a prime and $\epsilon$ be a primitive $p$-th root of $1$. Then a subgroup $G$ of $PGL(3, k)$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}_p \times \mathbb{Z}_p$ if and only if $G$ is conjugate to $G_{p^2} = \langle (\text{diag}[1, \epsilon, 1]), (\text{diag}[1, 1, \epsilon]) \rangle$.

The following lemma is due to Hiroaki Taniguchi.

Lemma 2.10 (Taniguchi) Let $p$ be a prime, let $\epsilon$ be a primitive $p$-th root of $1$ and let $G_{p^2}$ be as in Lemma 2.9. If $f(x, y, z)$ is a $G_{p^2}$-invariant homogeneous polynomial of degree $d$ with $p \nmid d$, then $f$ is reducible.

Proof. Let $A = \text{diag}[1, \epsilon, 1]$, and $B = \text{diag}[1, 1, \epsilon]$. Assume $f_A = \epsilon^i f$ and $f_B = \epsilon^j f$ for some $i, j \in \{0, 1, \ldots, p - 1\}$. If $i > 0$, then $y$ divides $f$. Similarly if $j > 0$, then $z$ divides $f$. If $i = j = 0$, then $x$ divides $f$, because $f$ is a linear combination of monomials $x^{d_1}y^{d_2}z^{d_3}$ with $d_2 \equiv d_3 \equiv 0 \mod p$ so that $d_1 = n - d_2 - d_3 \neq 0 \mod p$.

Proposition 2.11 A $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_4$-invariant quintic is singular.

Proof. A $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_4$-invariant quintic is a $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$-invariant quintic. Such a quintic is reducible by Lemma 2.9 and Lemma 2.10.

Proposition 2.12 No subgroup of $PGL(3, k)$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$.

Lemma 2.13 Let $G_8$ be a subgroup of $PGL(3, k)$.

1. $G_8$ is isomorphic to $Q_8$ if and only if it is conjugate to

$$\langle (\text{diag}[1, \sqrt{-1}, \sqrt{-1}^3]), ([e_1, e_2] \text{diag}[1, \sqrt{-1}, \sqrt{-1}]) \rangle.$$

2. $G_8$ is isomorphic to $D_8$ if and only if it is conjugate to

$$\langle (\text{diag}[1, \sqrt{-1}, \sqrt{-1}^3]), ([e_1, e_2]) \rangle.$$

Proposition 2.14 (1) A $Q_8$-invariant quintic, if any, is singular.

(2) A $D_8$-invariant quintic, if any, is singular.

A group of order $36g'$ contains a subgroup of order $9$ by Sylow's theorem. Such a group is isomorphic to either $\mathbb{Z}_9$ or $\mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$ [4]. By Lemma 2.3 we get
Lemma 2.15 Let $\epsilon$ be a primitive 9-th root of 1. A subgroup $G_9$ of $PGL(3, k)$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}_9$, if and only if it is conjugate to one of the following three subgroups:

$$
G_{01} = \langle \text{diag}[1,1,\epsilon]\rangle, \quad G_{12} = \langle \text{diag}[1,\epsilon,\epsilon^2]\rangle, \quad G_{13} = \langle \text{diag}[1,\epsilon,\epsilon^3]\rangle.
$$

Proposition 2.16 A $\mathbb{Z}_9$-invariant quintic is singular.

Lemma 2.17 Let $\omega$ be a primitive third root of 1. A subgroup $G_9$ of $PGL(3, k)$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$ if and only if it is conjugate to one of the following two groups:

$$
G_{01} = \langle \text{diag}[1,1,\omega]\rangle, \quad G_{12} = \langle \text{diag}[1,\omega,\omega^2]\rangle, \quad G_{13} = \langle \text{diag}[1,\omega,\omega^3]\rangle, \quad G_{14} = \langle \text{diag}[1,\omega,\omega^4]\rangle, \quad G_{15} = \langle \text{diag}[1,\omega,\omega^5]\rangle.
$$

Proposition 2.18 A $\mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$-invariant quintic is singular.

Proof of Theorem 2.22 Let $f$ be a non-singular quintic, and let $d = |\text{Aut}(f)|$. Recall that

$$
84g' = 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7, \quad 48g' = 16 \cdot 3 \cdot 5, \quad 40g' = 8 \cdot 25, \quad 36g' = 4 \cdot 5 \cdot 9.
$$

By Proposition 2.6 we get $d \neq 84g'$. The inequalities $d \neq 48g', 40g'$ follow from Propositions 2.8, 2.11, 2.12 and 2.14. Finally, Propositions 2.16 and 2.18 imply $d \neq 36g'$.

We note that $30g' = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 25$. A group of order 25 is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}_{25}$ or $\mathbb{Z}_5 \times \mathbb{Z}_5$ [4].

Lemma 2.19 Let $\epsilon$ be a primitive 25-th root of 1. A subgroup $G_{25}$ of $PGL(3, k)$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}_{25}$ if and only if it is conjugate to one of the following subgroups:

$$
G_{01} = \langle \text{diag}[1,1,\epsilon]\rangle, \quad G_{12} = \langle \text{diag}[1,\epsilon,\epsilon^2]\rangle, \quad G_{13} = \langle \text{diag}[1,\epsilon,\epsilon^3]\rangle, \quad G_{14} = \langle \text{diag}[1,\epsilon,\epsilon^4]\rangle, \quad G_{15} = \langle \text{diag}[1,\epsilon,\epsilon^5]\rangle, \quad G_{110} = \langle \text{diag}[1,\epsilon,\epsilon^{10}]\rangle.
$$

Proof. By Lemma 2.3 we can classify subgroups $G_{ij} = \langle \text{diag}[1,\epsilon^i,\epsilon^j]\rangle (1 \leq i < j \leq 24$ with the greatest common divisor $(i,j,5) = 1$) up to conjugacy, using computer.

Proposition 2.20 A $\mathbb{Z}_{25}$-invariant quintic is singular.

Proposition 2.21 A $\mathbb{Z}_5 \times \mathbb{Z}_5$-invariant non-singular quintic is projectively equivalent to $x^5 + y^5 + z^5$.

Theorem 2.22 A non-singular quintic $f$ satisfying $|\text{Aut}(f)| = 150$ is projectively equivalent to $x^5 + y^5 + z^5$.

Proof. Propositions 2.20 and 2.21 imply the theorem.
3 Septics

Let $g = 15$, the genus of non-singular plane septic (i.e. a curve of degree 7), and let $g' = g - 1 = 14$. By Theorem 1.1 $|\text{Aut}(x^7 + y^7 + z^7)| = 21g'$. If $f$ is a non-singular plane septic, then $|\text{Aut}(f)|$ may take values

$$84g' = 8 \cdot 3 \cdot 49, \quad 48g' = 32 \cdot 3 \cdot 7, \quad 40g' = 16 \cdot 5 \cdot 7, \quad 36g' = 8 \cdot 9 \cdot 7,$$

$$30g' = 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7, \quad 24g' = 16 \cdot 3 \cdot 7, \quad \frac{156}{7}g' = 8 \cdot 3 \cdot 13, \quad 21g' = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 49$$

or less by Theorem 2.1. The eight values above are multiples of 8 except for $30g'$ and $21g'$. As we remarked in §2, a group of order 8 is isomorphic to one of the following five groups: $\mathbb{Z}_8$, $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_4$, $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$, $Q_8$ and $D_8$. No subgroup of $PGL(3, k)$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ by Proposition 2.12. As for a quintic we have following Propositions 3.1 and 3.2.

Proposition 3.1 A $\mathbb{Z}_8$-invariant septic is singular.

Proposition 3.2 A $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_4$-invariant septic is singular.

Proposition 3.3 (1) A $Q_8$-invariant septic, if any, is singular.
(2) A $D_8$-invariant septic, if any, is singular.

Theorem 3.4 The maximum value of $|\text{Aut}(f)|$ for a non-singular septic $f$ is equal to either $30g'$ or $21g'$.

Proof. By Propositions 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 the order $|\text{Aut}(f)|$ does not belong to $\{84g', 48g', 40g', 36g', 30g', 24g', \frac{156}{7}g'\} \setminus \{30g'\}$. Meanwhile $|\text{Aut}(x^7 + y^7 + z^7)| = 21g'$ by Theorem 1.1.

We will show that $|\text{Aut}(f)| \neq 30g'$ for any non-singular septic. Note that $30g' = 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$. As we notice in the proof of Proposition 3.2,

Proposition 3.5 A $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$-invariant septic is singular.

Suppose that there exists a non-singular septic $f'$ such that $|\text{Aut}(f')| = 30g'$. Denote by $G'$ the finite group $\text{Aut}(f')$. By Proposition 3.5 Sylow 2-group of $G'$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}_4$. So we can apply the following theorem to $G'$.

Theorem 3.6 ([4, p.146]) If the Sylow subgroups of a finite group $G$ of order $n$ are all cyclic, then it is generated by two elements $a$ and $b$ with defining relations:

$$a^i = 1, \quad b^j = 1, \quad b^{-1}ab = a^r,$$

$$ij = n,$$

$$\gcd(i, (r-1)j) = 1,$$

$$r^j \equiv 1 \mod i.$$
For our group $G'$ of order $420 = 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$, possible pairs of $\{i, j\}$ in Theorem 3.6 are the followings (note that $\gcd(i, j) = 1$ if $r > 1$):

$$\{1, 120\}, \{4, 105\}, \{3, 140\}, \{5, 84\}, \{7, 60\}, \{12, 35\}, \{20, 21\}, \{28, 15\}.$$  

In particular $G'$ has an element of order 10, 12 or 15.

**Lemma 3.7** Let $\epsilon$ be a primitive 10-th root of 1. A subgroup $G_{10}$ of $PGL(3, k)$ is isomorphic to $Z_{10}$ if and only if $G_{10}$ is conjugate to one of the following subgroups:

$$<\text{diag}[1, 1, \epsilon]>, \quad <\text{diag}[1, \epsilon, \epsilon^2]>, \quad <\text{diag}[1, \epsilon, \epsilon^3]>. $$

**Proposition 3.8** A $Z_{10}$-invariant septic $f$ is singular.

**Lemma 3.9** Let $\epsilon$ be a primitive 12-th root of 1. A subgroup $G_{12}$ of $PGL(3, k)$ is isomorphic to $Z_{12}$ if and only if $G_{12}$ is conjugate to one of the following subgroups:

$$<\text{diag}[1, 1, \epsilon]>, \quad <\text{diag}[1, \epsilon, \epsilon^2]>, \quad <\text{diag}[1, \epsilon, \epsilon^3]>. $$

**Proposition 3.10** If $f$ is a $Z_{12}$-invariant non-singular septic, then $|\text{Aut}(f)| \neq 30g' = 420$.

**Lemma 3.11** Let $\epsilon$ be a primitive 15-th root of 1. A subgroup $G_{15}$ of $PGL(3, k)$ is isomorphic to $Z_{15}$ if and only if it is conjugate to one of the following subgroups:

$$<\text{diag}[1, 1, \epsilon]>, \quad <\text{diag}[1, \epsilon, \epsilon^2]>, \quad <\text{diag}[1, \epsilon, \epsilon^3]>. $$

**Proposition 3.12** A $Z_{15}$-invariant septic $f$ is singular.

**Theorem 3.13** $|\text{Aut}(f)| \leq 21g' = 294$.

**Proof.** Propositions 3.8, 3.10, and 3.12 imply that $|\text{Aut}(f)|$ cannot be equal to $30g'$. By Theorem 3.4 we get the desired inequality.

Finally we will show that non-singular septics $f$ with $|\text{Aut}(f)| = 21g' = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 49$ are unique.

**Lemma 3.14** Let $\epsilon$ be a primitive 49-th root of 1. A subgroup $G_{49}$ of $PGL(3, k)$ is isomorphic to $Z_{49}$, if and only if it is conjugate to one of the following subgroups:

$$<\text{diag}[1, 1, \epsilon]>, \quad <\text{diag}[1, \epsilon, \epsilon^2]>, \quad <\text{diag}[1, \epsilon, \epsilon^3]>, \quad <\text{diag}[1, \epsilon, \epsilon^4]>, \quad <\text{diag}[1, \epsilon, \epsilon^6]>, \quad <\text{diag}[1, \epsilon, \epsilon^8]>, \quad <\text{diag}[1, \epsilon, \epsilon^{10}]>. $$
Proof. In view of Lemma 2.3 we can classify subgroups $<\text{diag}[1, \epsilon^i, \epsilon^j]) > (1 \leq i < j \leq 48)$ up to conjugacy, using computer.

Proposition 3.15 A $\mathbb{Z}_{48}$-invariant septic $f$ is singular.

Proposition 3.16 A $\mathbb{Z}_7 \times \mathbb{Z}_7$-invariant septic $f$ is non-singular if and only if $f$ is projectively equivalent to $x^7 + y^7 + z^7$.

Proof. Let $A = \text{diag}[1, 1, \epsilon]$ and $B = \text{diag}[1, \epsilon, 1]$. By Lemma 2.9 a subgroup $G$ of $PGL(3, k)$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}_7 \times \mathbb{Z}_7$, if and only if $G$ is conjugate to $<(A), (B)>$. A septic $f$ satisfying $f_{A^{-1}} = \epsilon^if$ and $f_{B^{-1}} = \epsilon^jf$, if any, is a singular except for the case $i = j = 0$. In the exceptional case $f$ is a linear combination of $x^7, y^7$ and $z^7$.

Theorem 3.17 A non-singular plane septic $f$ with $|\text{Aut}(f)| = 21g' = 2 \cdot 9 \cdot 2$ is projectively equivalent to $x^7 + y^7 + z^7$.

Proof. The theorem is a trivial consequence of Propositions 3.15 and 3.16.

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