

ISTITUTO LOMBARDO

ACCADEMIA DI SCIENZE E LETTERE

---

# RENDICONTI

Scienze Matematiche e Applicazioni

**A**

Vol. 125 (1991) - Fasc. 2

---

ESTRATTO

---

CARLO FELICE MANARA e MARIO MARCHI

ON A CLASS OF REFLECTION GEOMETRIES

Istituto Lombardo Accademia di Scienze e Lettere

---

MILANO

1992

## ON A CLASS OF REFLECTION GEOMETRIES

Nota del m. e. CARLO FELICE MANARA e MARIO MARCHI (\*)

(Adunanza del 10 ottobre 1991)

---

SUNTO. — In questa Nota si introduce un sistema di assiomi che permette di caratterizzare una particolare classe di *geometrie di riflessione*. Tali geometrie consistono di uno spazio di *incidenza* (detto anche *spazio lineare* o *spazio di rette*) con *parallelismo* dotato di un insieme transitivo di dilatazioni involutorie e di un insieme regolare di traslazioni. Esse risultano quindi anche rappresentabili mediante una opportuna classe di *cappi di incidenza*.

**Introduction**

By a *reflection* we usually understand an involutory movement in an absolute plane with a pointwise fixed line. As a matter of fact it is well known the possibility to define in an abstract way an absolute space by means of a group  $\Gamma$  provided with a set of involutory elements fulfilling suitable axioms. The group  $\Gamma$  is named *reflection group* (*Spiegelungsgruppe*) and *reflection geometry* (*Spiegelungsgeometrie*) is the geometric structure defined in this way (see e.g. [2], [4]).

---

(\*) This research is supported partially by the Italian Ministry of University and Scientific and Technological Research (M.U.R.S.T.) (40% and 60% grants) and by G.N.S.A.G.A of C.N.R.

In this paper we shall be concerned with a different notion of "reflection" which could be thought as a generalization of the classical notion of point-reflection in an absolute plane. This notion of reflection is introduced in an abstract way by means of suitable axioms (A1)-(A4) stated for any arbitrary set  $\mathcal{P}$  of elements, named *points* (cf. § 1). Our aim is to provide the point set  $\mathcal{P}$  with a *line structure*  $\mathcal{L}$  which could be consistent with the reflection axioms. This will be obtained by means of a new set of axioms: (D1)-(D3); in this way  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L})$  turns out to be an *incidence space* (cf. e.g. [3], [4]) (*linear space* or *line space* in other Authors) and furthermore in  $\mathcal{L}$  a parallelism relation can be defined (§ 2). The reflections defined by the axioms (A1)-(A4) give rise to a set of involutory dilatations and a transitive set of translations for the space  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, \not\sim)$  (§ 3). This allow us to provide the incidence space  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, \not\sim)$  whit a structure of *incidence loop with parallelism* which is unique up to isomorphisms (§ 4).

## 1. - Existence of reflections

Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be a set of elements, which henceforth we shall call *points*. Let us assume for each point  $a \in \mathcal{P}$  a bijection  $\bar{a} : \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}; x \rightarrow \bar{a}(x)$  is defined such that the following axioms are fulfilled:

- A1.  $\forall x \in \mathcal{P} : \bar{\bar{x}}(x) = x;$
- A2.  $\forall a, b, x \in \mathcal{P}, a \neq b \implies \bar{a}(x) \neq \bar{b}(x);$
- A3.  $\forall a \in \mathcal{P} : \bar{a}^2 := \bar{a} \cdot \bar{a} = id;$
- A4.  $\forall x, y \in \mathcal{P} \exists a \in \mathcal{P} : \bar{a}(x) = y.$

Henceforth these bijections will be called *reflections*. In the following we shall always denote by "id" the identity map and by "o" the composition of mappings. Thus we have:

1.1. - Let  $a, b, x, y$  be any points of  $\mathcal{P}$ ; then:

- (i)  $x \neq a \implies \bar{a}(x) \neq x;$
- (ii) if for some  $z \in \mathcal{P}$  it is  $\bar{a}(z) = \bar{b}(z)$ , then  $a = b;$
- (iii) if  $\bar{a}(x) = y$ , then  $\bar{a}(y) = x.$

PROOF. -

(i) By (A2) and (A1):  $a \neq x \implies \tilde{a}(x) \neq \tilde{x}(x) = x$ .

(ii) If  $a \neq b$  by (A2) we have for any  $x \in \mathcal{O}$   $\tilde{a}(x) \neq \tilde{b}(x)$  which is a contradiction.

(iii) Immediate by (A3). □

From (1.1, ii) it follows immediately:

1.2. - For any  $x, y \in \mathcal{O}$ , the element  $a \in \mathcal{O}$  which exists by (A4) is uniquely determined.

If we denote  $\tilde{\mathcal{P}} := \{\tilde{a} : a \in \mathcal{O}\}$ , let us define:

$$\mathcal{E} := \tilde{\mathcal{P}} \circ \tilde{\mathcal{P}} := \{\tilde{a} \circ \tilde{b} : a, b \in \mathcal{O}\}.$$

By (A3)  $id \in \mathcal{E}$ . Then:

1.3. - (i) For each  $\tau \in \mathcal{E} \setminus \{id\}$ ,  $\forall x \in \mathcal{O}$  we have:  $\tau(x) \neq x$ ;

(ii)  $\mathcal{E}$  acts transitively on  $\mathcal{O}$ .

PROOF. - (i) Let us suppose  $y \in \mathcal{O}$  such that  $\tau(y) = y$ . Then if we denote  $\tau := \tilde{a} \circ \tilde{b}$ , we have  $\tilde{a} \circ \tilde{b}(y) = y$  which implies  $\tilde{a}(y) = \tilde{b}(y)$ , by (A3), and thus by (1.1, ii)  $\tilde{a} = \tilde{b}$  i.e.  $\tau = id$ , which is a contradiction.

(ii) For any  $x, y \in \mathcal{O}$ , by (A1) and (A4) there exists  $a \in \mathcal{O}$  such that  $\tilde{a}(x) = \tilde{a} \circ \tilde{x}(x) = y$ . □

1.4. - The following conditions are equivalent:

- (i)  $\mathcal{E}$  acts regularly on  $\mathcal{O}$ ;
- (ii)  $\tilde{\mathcal{P}} \circ \tilde{\mathcal{P}} \circ \tilde{\mathcal{P}} \subseteq \tilde{\mathcal{P}}$ ;
- (iii)  $\mathcal{E} \circ \mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}$ ;
- (iv)  $\mathcal{E}$  is a group.

PROOF. -

(i)  $\implies$  (ii). By assumption for any  $\tau_1, \tau_2 \in \mathcal{E}$  and for any  $x \in \mathcal{O}$ ,  $\tau_1(x) = \tau_2(x)$  implies  $\tau_1 = \tau_2$ . For any  $\tilde{a}_1, \tilde{a}_2, \tilde{a}_3 \in \tilde{\mathcal{P}}$ , if  $x$  is any point

of  $\mathcal{P}$ , let us denote  $\bar{c}$  the reflection, uniquely determined by (A4) and (1.2) such that  $\bar{c}(\bar{a}_3(x)) = \bar{a}_1 \circ \bar{a}_2(x)$ . Then by assumption  $\bar{c} \circ \bar{a}_3 = \bar{a}_1 \circ \bar{a}_2$  and hence by (A3)  $\bar{a}_1 \circ \bar{a}_2 \circ \bar{a}_3 = \bar{c} \circ \bar{a}_3 \circ \bar{a}_3 = \bar{c} \in \tilde{\mathcal{P}}$ .

(ii)  $\implies$  (iii). Since  $id \in \mathcal{C}$  we have:  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{C} \circ \mathcal{C}$ . If  $\bar{a}_1 \circ \bar{b}_1, \bar{a}_2 \circ \bar{b}_2$  are any mappings of  $\mathcal{C}$ , by (ii) there exists  $\bar{c} \in \tilde{\mathcal{P}}$  such that  $(\bar{a}_1 \circ \bar{b}_1) \circ (\bar{a}_2 \circ \bar{b}_2) = (\bar{a}_1 \circ \bar{b}_1 \circ \bar{a}_2) \circ \bar{b}_2 = \bar{c} \circ \bar{b}_2 \in \mathcal{C}$ ; thus  $\mathcal{C} \circ \mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$ .

(iii)  $\implies$  (iv). By (A3), for any  $(\bar{a} \circ \bar{b}) \in \mathcal{C}$  we have  $(\bar{b} \circ \bar{a}) = (\bar{a} \circ \bar{b})^{-1}$ ; thus by (iii) and since  $id \in \mathcal{C}$ ,  $\mathcal{C}$  is a group.

(iv)  $\implies$  (i). For any  $\tau_1, \tau_2 \in \mathcal{C}$  and any  $x \in \mathcal{P}$ ,  $\tau_1(x) = \tau_2(x)$  implies  $\tau_2^{-1} \circ \tau_1(x) = x$ . Since by assumption  $\tau_2^{-1} \circ \tau_1 \in \mathcal{C}$  and by (1.3, i)  $\tau_2^{-1} \circ \tau_1 = id$ , it follows  $\tau_1 = \tau_2$  and thus because of the transitivity,  $\mathcal{C}$  is regular on  $\mathcal{P}$ .  $\square$

1.5. - *If  $\mathcal{C}$  is a group, then it is commutative.*

PROOF. - For any  $\bar{a}_1, \bar{a}_2, \bar{a}_3 \in \tilde{\mathcal{P}}$ , by (1.4, ii) and (A3),  $\bar{a}_1 \circ \bar{a}_2 \circ \bar{a}_3$  is involutory and then  $\bar{a}_1 \circ \bar{a}_2 \circ \bar{a}_3 = \bar{a}_3 \circ \bar{a}_2 \circ \bar{a}_1$ . Thus for any  $\bar{a}_1 \circ \bar{b}_1, \bar{a}_2 \circ \bar{b}_2 \in \mathcal{C}$  we have  $\bar{a}_1 \circ \bar{b}_1 \circ \bar{a}_2 \circ \bar{b}_2 = \bar{a}_2 \circ \bar{b}_2 \circ \bar{a}_1 \circ \bar{b}_1 = \bar{a}_2 \circ \bar{b}_2 \circ \bar{a}_1 \circ \bar{b}_1$ ; thus  $\mathcal{C}$  is commutative.  $\square$

## 2. - The line structure

In  $\mathcal{P} \times \mathcal{P}$  an equivalence relation  $\Delta$  is defined fulfilling the following axioms:

D1.  $\forall a, b, c \in \mathcal{P} : (a, b) \Delta (c, c) \iff a = b$ ;

D2.  $\forall a, x, y \in \mathcal{P} : (x, y) \Delta (\bar{a}(x), \bar{a}(y))$ ;

D3.  $\forall a, b, x \in \mathcal{P}$ , distinct:  $(a, x) \Delta (x, b) \iff (a, x) \Delta (a, b)$ .

2.1. - *For any  $a, b, c \in \mathcal{P}$  we have:*

i)  $(a, b) \Delta (b, a)$ ;

ii)  $(a, c) \Delta (a, \bar{a}(c))$ ;

iii)  $\bar{c}(a) = b \implies (a, c) \Delta (c, b)$  and  $(a, c) \Delta (a, b)$ .

PROOF. -

(i) Let us denote  $d \in \mathcal{O}$  the uniquely determined point, by (A4) and (1.2), such that  $\bar{d}(a) = b$  and then  $\bar{d}(b) = a$ . Thus by (D2)  $(a, b) \Delta (\bar{d}(a), \bar{d}(b)) = (b, a)$ .

(ii) Follows from (D2) and (A1).

(iii) Follows from (D2), (i) and (D3).  $\square$

Let us define for any  $a, b \in \mathcal{O}$ ,  $a \neq b$ :

$$(1) \quad \overline{a, b} := \{x \in \mathcal{O} : (a, x) \Delta (a, b)\} \cup \{a\}.$$

Of course, by definition is  $a, b \in \overline{a, b}$ ; furthermore we have:

2.2. - For any  $a, b \in \mathcal{O}$ ,  $a \neq b$ , it is:  $\overline{a, b} \setminus \{a, b\} \neq \emptyset$ .

PROOF. - By (A4) it exists  $c \neq a, b$  such that  $\bar{c}(a) = b$ ; then, by (2.1, iii):  $(a, c) \Delta (a, b)$  that is  $c \in \overline{a, b} \setminus \{a, b\}$ .  $\square$

2.3. For any  $a, b \in \mathcal{O}$ ,  $a \neq b$ :  $\overline{a, b} = \overline{b, a}$ .

PROOF. - By (D3),  $\forall x \in \overline{a, b} \setminus \{a, b\} : (a, x) \Delta (a, b)$  implies  $(a, x) \Delta (x, b)$ ; then by (2.1, i) and since  $\Delta$  is transitive it is  $(b, x) \Delta (b, a)$  and thus  $x \in \overline{b, a}$ . Furthermore  $a, b \in \overline{b, a}$  by definition. Therefore  $\overline{a, b} \subseteq \overline{b, a}$ , and with the same arguments:  $\overline{b, a} \subseteq \overline{a, b}$ .  $\square$

2.4. - For any  $c \in \overline{a, b} \setminus \{a\} : \overline{a, c} = \overline{a, b}$ .

PROOF. - By definition  $\forall x \in \overline{a, b} \setminus \{a\} : (a, x) \Delta (a, b) \Delta (a, c)$  implies  $x \in \overline{a, c}$ ,  $b \in \overline{a, c}$  i.e.  $\overline{a, b} \subseteq \overline{a, c}$ . With the same argument, since  $b \in \overline{a, c} \setminus \{a\} : \overline{a, c} \subseteq \overline{a, b}$ .  $\square$

2.5. - For any  $c, e \in \overline{a, b}$ ,  $c \neq e$ :  $\overline{c, e} = \overline{a, b}$ .

PROOF. - If  $c = a$ , the theorem is proved by (2.4).  $c \in \overline{a, b} \setminus \{a\}$  implies by (2.4)  $\overline{a, b} = \overline{a, c}$ ; then again by (2.4)  $e \in \overline{a, b} \setminus \{c\} = \overline{c, a} \setminus \{c\}$  implies  $\overline{c, a} = \overline{c, e}$ .  $\square$

The set of points  $\overline{a, b}$  will be called *the line*  $\overline{a, b}$ . By (2.4) we have  $|\overline{a, b}| \geq 3$ .

The set of all lines defined by (1) will be denoted by  $\mathcal{L}$  and thus the pair  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L})$  turns out to be an *incidence space*. For any  $a, b, c \in \mathcal{P}$ ,  $a \neq b$  let us define:

$$(2) \quad \{c \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\} := [x \in \mathcal{P} : (c, x) \Delta (a, b)] \cup \{c\}$$

2.6. -  $\{c \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\}$  is a line and  $\{c \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\} = \overline{a, b}$  when  $c \in \overline{a, b}$ .

PROOF. -

(i) If  $c = a$  the definition (2) coincides with (1). If  $c \in \overline{a, b} \setminus \{a\}$ , by definition for any  $x \in \{c \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\} \setminus \{c\}$  we have  $(a, c) \Delta (a, b) \Delta (c, x)$  and thus  $(c, x) \Delta (c, a)$  which implies  $\{c \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\} = \overline{c, a} = \overline{a, b}$ , because of (2.4).

(ii) Let us suppose  $c \notin \overline{a, b}$ ; by (A4) there exists a point  $u$  such that  $\tilde{u}(a) = c$ . Then by (D2)  $\forall x \in \{c \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\} \setminus \{c\} : (c, x) \Delta (a, b) \Delta (c, \tilde{u}(b))$ ; hence by denoting  $e := \tilde{u}(b)$  we have  $(c, x) \Delta (a, b) \Delta (c, e)$  and thus by definition (1):  $\{c \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\} = \overline{c, e}$ .  $\square$

Because of (2.2) and (2.6) we have proved that  $|\{c \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\}| \geq 3$ ; thus  $\forall (a, b) \in \mathcal{P}^2$ ,  $\forall c \in \mathcal{P}$  there exists at least one point  $e$  such that  $(c, e) \Delta (a, b)$ .

2.7. - For any  $e \in \{c \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\}$  we have  $\{e \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\} = \{c \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\}$ .

PROOF. - If  $\{c \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\} = \overline{a, b}$  by (2.6) we have  $\{e \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\} = \overline{a, b}$ . If  $e = c$  the statement is trivial. Then let us suppose  $e \neq c$  and  $c \notin \overline{a, b}$ . By definition  $e \in \{c \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\} \setminus \{c\}$  implies  $(c, e) \Delta (a, b)$ ; then  $\forall x \in \{c \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\} \setminus \{c\} : (c, x) \Delta (a, b) \Delta (c, e)$  and by (D3) if  $x \neq e$   $(c, x) \Delta (c, e)$  implies  $(c, x) \Delta (x, e)$ . Thus  $(e, x) \Delta (a, b)$  and hence  $x \in \{e \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\}$ , i.e.  $\{c \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\} \subseteq \{e \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\}$ .

Since  $c \in \{e \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\}$ , with the same arguments we have also  $\{e \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\} \subseteq \{c \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\}$ , and thus  $\{e \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\} = \{c \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\}$ .

REMARK I. - Because of (2.7) we have, for any  $a, b, c, d \in \mathcal{P}$ , with  $a \neq b : \{c \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\} \cap \{d \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\} \neq \emptyset$  implies  $\{c \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\} = \{d \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\}$ ; in fact if  $e \in \{c \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\} \cap \{d \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\}$ , by (2.7) we have:  $\{c \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\} = \{e \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\} = \{d \not\parallel \overline{a, b}\}$ .

For any two lines  $\overline{a}, \overline{b}, \overline{c}, \overline{d}, \in \mathfrak{L}$  let us now define:

$$\overline{a}, \overline{b} \not\parallel \overline{c}, \overline{d} \iff (a, b) \Delta (c, d).$$

Since  $\Delta$  is an equivalence relation,  $\not\parallel$  is also an equivalence relation. Furthermore, because of (2.6), for any  $\overline{a}, \overline{b} \in \mathfrak{L}$  and any  $c \in \mathcal{P}$  there exists a line  $L \in \mathfrak{L}$  such that  $c \in L$  and  $L \not\parallel \overline{a}, \overline{b}$ . Actually we have  $L := |c \not\parallel \overline{a}, \overline{b}|$ . Moreover by (2.7) this line  $L$  is unique. Thus " $\not\parallel$ " is an *equivalence relation* defined in  $\mathfrak{L}$  which fulfils the Euclidean axiom; " $\not\parallel$ " will be called *parallelism* and the triple  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathfrak{L}, \not\parallel)$  turns out to be an *incidence space with parallelism*.

### 3. - The reflection geometry

We can now study some properties of an incidence space with parallelism endowed with a set of reflections as defined in § 1.

3.1. - For any  $L \in \mathfrak{L}$  and  $a \in \mathcal{P}$  we have:

- (i)  $\bar{a}(L) \in \mathfrak{L}$  and  $\bar{a}(L) \not\parallel L$ ;
- (ii)  $\bar{a}(L) = L \iff a \in L$ .

PROOF. -

(i) Let be  $L = : \overline{u}, \overline{v} = [x \in \mathcal{P} : (u, x) \Delta (u, v)] \cup \{u\}$ ; then  $\bar{a}(L) = [\bar{a}(x) : (u, x) \Delta (u, v)] \cup \{\bar{a}(u)\}$  and since by (D2)  $(u, x) \Delta (\bar{a}(u), \bar{a}(x))$ , by denoting  $y := \bar{a}(x)$  we have by (2):  $\bar{a}(L) = \{y \in \mathcal{P} : (\bar{a}(u), y) \Delta (u, v)\} \cup \{\bar{a}(u)\} = \{\bar{a}(u) \not\parallel L\} \in \mathfrak{L}$ .

(ii) " $\Leftarrow$ " If  $a \in L = : \overline{u}, \overline{v} (u, a) \Delta (u, v)$  implies by (D2)  $(\bar{a}(u), a) \Delta (u, v)$  i.e.  $a \in [\bar{a}(u) \not\parallel \overline{u}, \overline{v}] = \bar{a}(L)$  and thus  $\bar{a}(L) = L$  because of the Remark I, § 2.

" $\Rightarrow$ " Let  $L = : \overline{u}, \overline{v}$ ; by (D2)  $(u, a) \Delta (a, u) \Delta (a, \bar{a}(u))$  which implies, by (D3):  $(u, a) \Delta (u, \bar{a}(u))$ . Furthermore  $\bar{a}(L) = |\bar{a}(u) \not\parallel L| = L = \overline{u}, \overline{v}$  implies  $\bar{a}(u) \in \overline{u}, \overline{v}$  and thus  $(u, \bar{a}(u)) \Delta (u, v)$ . Hence we have  $(u, a) \Delta (u, v)$  which means  $a \in \overline{u}, \overline{v}$ .  $\square$



By (3.1) we have proved the following situation.

$(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, //)$  is an *incidence space with parallelism* where the set of reflections  $\tilde{\mathcal{P}} := \{\tilde{a} : a \in \mathcal{P}\}$  is a *set of involutory dilatations*, acting *transitively on  $\mathcal{P}$*  because of (A4).

Such an incidence space with the set  $\tilde{\mathcal{P}}$  of dilatations fulfilling the axioms (A1)-(A4) will be denoted henceforth by  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, //, \tilde{\mathcal{P}})$  and will be called a *point-reflection geometry*.

Furthermore by (1.3)  $\mathcal{T} := \tilde{\mathcal{P}} \circ \mathcal{P} = \{\tilde{a} \circ \tilde{b} : a, b \in \mathcal{P}\}$  is a *set of translations* acting *transitively on  $\mathcal{P}$* . Henceforth we shall denote by  $\mathcal{D} := \text{Aut}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, //)$  the *group of all dilatations* of  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, //)$  and by  $\mathcal{K}$  the *set of all translations*, i.e. fixed-point-free dilatations, of  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, //)$  together with the identity map "id".

Now, by denoting  $u \in \mathcal{P}$  a distinguished point, let us define

$$\mathcal{C} := \tilde{\mathcal{P}} \circ \tilde{u} = \{\tilde{a} \circ \tilde{u} : a \in \mathcal{P}\}.$$

Thus  $\mathcal{C}$  is a *set of translations* acting *regularly on  $\mathcal{P}$* . In fact  $\forall x, y \in \mathcal{P}$ , since by (A4) it exists  $c \in \mathcal{P}$  such that  $\tilde{c}(y) = \tilde{u}(x)$  we have  $\tilde{c} \circ \tilde{u}(x) = y$  and thus  $\mathcal{C}$  is transitive.

Furthermore if  $\tilde{c} \circ \tilde{u}(x) = \tilde{e} \circ \tilde{u}(x)$  we have, by denoting  $z := \tilde{u}(x)$ ,  $\tilde{c}(z) = \tilde{e}(z)$  which implies, by (1.1, ii)  $\tilde{c} = \tilde{e}$ . Furthermore we have:  $id \in \mathcal{C}$ .

3.2. - *The set  $\mathcal{T}$  is a group if and only if  $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{T}$ .*

PROOF. - " $\implies$ " By definition  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{T}$ . On the other hand for any  $\tilde{a} \circ \tilde{b} \in \mathcal{T}$ , if  $c \in \mathcal{P}$  is the point, uniquely determined by (A4), such that  $\tilde{c}(u) = \tilde{a} \circ \tilde{b}(u)$ , we have by (1.4, i):  $\tilde{a} \circ \tilde{b} = \tilde{c} \circ \tilde{u}$  and then  $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$ .

" $\impliedby$ " By definition  $\mathcal{C}$  is acting regularly on  $\mathcal{P}$  and thus by (1.4)  $\mathcal{T}$  is a group.  $\square$

3.3. - *In  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, //, \tilde{\mathcal{P}})$  the followings hold:*

- i) *for any three non collinear points  $a, b, c$  the parallelogram configuration holds, i.e.:  $|b // \overline{a, c}\} \cap \{c // \overline{a, b}\} \neq \emptyset$ ; furthermore in any parallelogram  $(a, b, c, x)$  the diagonal lines do meet;*
- ii) *if  $\delta \in \text{Aut}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, //) \setminus \{id\}$  with  $\delta^2 = id$ , then  $\delta \in \tilde{\mathcal{P}}$ .*

PROOF. -

(i) Let  $u \in \mathcal{P}$  be the point, uniquely determined by (A4), such that  $\tilde{u}(b) = c$ . Then  $\tilde{u}(\overline{a, c}) = \{b \not\! / \overline{a, c}\}$ ,  $\tilde{u}(\overline{a, b}) = \{c \not\! / \overline{a, b}\}$  and so  $\{x\} := \{\tilde{u}(a)\} = \{b \not\! / \overline{a, c}\} \cap \{c \not\! / \overline{a, b}\} \neq \emptyset$  since  $\tilde{u}$  is a bijection on  $\mathcal{P}$ . Thus  $\{u\} = \overline{a, x} \cap \overline{b, c}$ .

(ii) Let  $a \in \mathcal{P}$  be any point with  $\delta(a) \neq a$  and  $b := \delta(a)$ . For any  $x \in \mathcal{P} \setminus \overline{a, b}$  we have  $\delta(x) := \delta(\overline{a, x} \cap \overline{b, x}) = \{b \not\! / \overline{a, x}\} \cap \{a \not\! / \overline{b, x}\}$ , and  $\delta(x)$  does exist since  $\delta$  is a bijection. If  $u \in \mathcal{P}$  is the point, uniquely determined by (A4), such that  $\tilde{u}(a) = b$ , by (i) we have  $\tilde{u}(x) = \delta(x)$  and thus, since  $\delta$  and  $\tilde{u}$  are dilatations,  $\delta = \tilde{u}$ .  $\square$

REMARK I. - As a consequence of (3.3, ii), in  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, \not\! /, \tilde{\mathcal{P}})$  do not exist involutory translations.

Because of (3.3, i) the following configurational proposition (T) holds in any point-reflection geometry  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, \not\! /, \tilde{\mathcal{P}})$ .

3.4. - For any three non collinear points  $a_1, a_2, a_3 \in \mathcal{P}$  there exist three non collinear points  $b_1, b_2, b_3$  such that (configuration T):

$$\{b_3\} := \{a_1 \not\! / \overline{a_2, a_3}\} \cap \{a_2 \not\! / \overline{a_1, a_3}\} \neq \emptyset;$$

$$\{b_1\} := \{a_2 \not\! / \overline{a_1, a_3}\} \cap \{a_3 \not\! / \overline{a_1, a_2}\} \neq \emptyset;$$

$$\{b_2\} := \{a_3 \not\! / \overline{a_1, a_2}\} \cap \{a_1 \not\! / \overline{a_2, a_3}\} \neq \emptyset.$$

The triangle  $\text{Tr}(a_1, a_2, a_3)$  is said to be *inscribed* in  $\text{Tr}(b_1, b_2, b_3)$  and furthermore  $\text{Tr}(a_1, a_2, a_3)$  and  $\text{Tr}(b_1, b_2, b_3)$  are said to be *similar*. By (3.4) we know that any triangle  $\text{Tr}(a_1, a_2, a_3)$  can be inscribed in a similar one but we don't know if, vice versa, any triangle  $\text{Tr}(b_1, b_2, b_3)$  can circumscribe a similar one.

By definition we know that  $\mathcal{T} := \tilde{\mathcal{P}} \circ \tilde{\mathcal{P}} \subseteq \mathcal{I} \subseteq \mathcal{D}$  and, since  $id \in \mathcal{T}$ ,  $\tilde{\mathcal{P}} \subseteq \tilde{\mathcal{P}} \circ \tilde{\mathcal{P}} \circ \tilde{\mathcal{P}} \subseteq \mathcal{D}$ . What in general we don't know is whether (for any  $a, b, c \in \mathcal{P}$ ) the dilatation  $\tilde{a} \circ \tilde{b} \circ \tilde{c}$  has one fixed point or not. In other words it is not known whether in a general point-reflection geometry  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, \not\! /, \tilde{\mathcal{P}})$  it is  $\tilde{\mathcal{P}} \circ \tilde{\mathcal{P}} \circ \tilde{\mathcal{P}} \cap \mathcal{I} = \emptyset$  or not. Furthermore if  $\tilde{\mathcal{P}} \circ \tilde{\mathcal{P}} \circ \tilde{\mathcal{P}} \cap \mathcal{I} = \emptyset$ , the proper dilatation  $\tilde{a} \circ \tilde{b} \circ \tilde{c}$  (for any  $a, b, c \in \mathcal{P}$ ) can be involutory or not.

When  $\bar{a} \circ \bar{b} \circ \bar{c}$  is involutory (for any  $a, b, c \in \mathcal{P}$ ) we have by (3.3, ii):  $\bar{\mathcal{P}} \circ \bar{\mathcal{P}} \circ \bar{\mathcal{P}} \subseteq \bar{\mathcal{P}}$  and thus  $\bar{\mathcal{P}} \circ \bar{\mathcal{P}} \circ \bar{\mathcal{P}} = \bar{\mathcal{P}}$ . In this case by (1.4)  $\mathcal{T}$  is a commutative group.

3.5. Let  $a_1, a_2, a_3 \in \mathcal{P}$  be non collinear and such that  $\delta := \bar{a}_1 \circ \bar{a}_2 \circ \bar{a}_3$  is a proper dilatation; let us denote by  $x$  the fixed points of  $\delta$ . Then three points  $b_1, b_2, b_3 \in \mathcal{P}$  are uniquely determined such that, for any permutation  $(i, j, h)$  of  $(1, 2, 3)$ , it holds:

$$a_i \in \overline{b_j, b_h}, \quad b_h := \bar{a}_i(b_j), \quad b_2 := x;$$

this implies also:

$$\bar{a}_i \circ \bar{a}_j \circ \bar{a}_h(b_j) = b_j.$$

PROOF. -  $\bar{a}_1 \circ \bar{a}_2 \circ \bar{a}_3(x) = x$  implies  $\bar{a}_2 \circ \bar{a}_3(x) = \bar{a}_1(x)$ ; thus by denoting  $b_1 := \bar{a}_3(x)$ ,  $b_2 := x$ ,  $b_3 := \bar{a}_1(x)$  we have  $\bar{a}_2(b_1) = b_3$  and, by (D2) and the definition (1) of line,  $a_i \in \overline{b_j, b_h}$ .  $\square$

REMARK II. - The triangle  $\text{Tr}(a_1, a_2, a_3)$  defined in (3.5) is inscribed in  $\text{Tr}(b_1, b_2, b_3)$ ;  $\text{Tr}(b_1, b_2, b_3)$  will be said the *fixed-points-triangle* for the triple of reflections  $\{\bar{a}_1, \bar{a}_2, \bar{a}_3\}$ . Now by (3.3) let us denote by  $\{c_i\} := \{b_j \not\in \overline{b_i, b_h}\} \cap \{b_h \not\in \overline{b_i, b_j}\}$ ; then the triangle  $\text{Tr}(c_1, c_2, c_3)$  circumscribes the similar triangle  $\text{Tr}(b_1, b_2, b_3)$ . Hence, since by (3.3, i)  $\bar{a}_i(b_j) = b_h$  implies also  $\bar{a}_i(c_i) = b_i$ , we have:

$$\bar{a}_i \circ \bar{a}_j \circ \bar{a}_h(c_h) = c_i.$$

Using the same notations of (3.5) and Remark II, we can now state the following propositions. Actually (3.6) and (3.7) follow immediately from (3.5) and (A4).

3.6. - For any  $a_1, a_3, x \in \mathcal{P}$  non collinear, one point  $a_2 \in \mathcal{P}$  is uniquely determined such that  $\bar{a}_1 \circ \bar{a}_2 \circ \bar{a}_3(x) = x$ .

3.7. - For any  $b_1, b_2, b_3 \in \mathcal{P}$  non collinear, a triple of reflections  $\{\bar{a}_1, \bar{a}_2, \bar{a}_3\}$  admitting  $\text{Tr}(b_1, b_2, b_3)$  as the *fixed-points-triangle* is uniquely determined.

3.8. - For any  $b_1, b_2, b_3 \in \mathcal{P}$  non collinear, if  $\text{Tr}(b_1, b_2, b_3)$  is the fixed-points-triangle for a triple of reflections  $[\bar{a}_1, \bar{a}_2, \bar{a}_3]$ ,  $\text{Tr}(a_1, a_2, a_3)$  is inscribed and similar to  $\text{Tr}(b_1, b_2, b_3)$  if and only if  $\mathcal{T}$  is a group.

PROOF. - " $\Leftarrow$ " By (1.5) the group  $\mathcal{T}$  is commutative. In this case we know (cfr. [1]) that, for any  $\tau \in \mathcal{T}$  and for any  $x \in \mathcal{P}$ ,  $L \in \mathcal{L}$ ,  $L \not\parallel x, \tau(x)$  implies  $\tau(L) = L$ . With the notations of (3.5) we have  $\bar{a}_i \circ \bar{a}_h(b_i) = b_h$  and  $\bar{a}_i \circ \bar{a}_h \in \mathcal{T}$ ; hence  $\bar{a}_i \circ \bar{a}_h(\bar{b}_i, \bar{b}_h) = \{b_h \not\parallel \bar{b}_i, b_h\} = \bar{b}_i, \bar{b}_h$ . Otherwise  $\bar{a}_i \circ \bar{a}_h(a_h) = \bar{a}_i(a_h) \in \overline{\bar{a}_i, a_h}$  implies  $\bar{a}_i \circ \bar{a}_h(\bar{a}_i, a_h) = \overline{\bar{a}_i, a_h}$ . Thus  $\bar{b}_i, \bar{b}_h \not\parallel \bar{a}_i, a_h$ .

" $\Rightarrow$ " Again with the notations of (3.5) and Remark II we have:  $\bar{a}_h \circ \bar{a}_i(b_h) = b_i$  and  $\bar{a}_h \circ \bar{a}_i(b_j) = c_h$ . By assumption  $b_1, b_2, b_3$  are any three non collinear points and  $\tau := \bar{a}_h \circ \bar{a}_i \in \mathcal{T}$  is a translation of  $\mathcal{T}$  mapping  $b_h$  onto  $b_i$  and  $b_j$  onto  $c_h$ . Then  $\tau$  fulfils the law of parallelograms i.e.  $\{\tau(b_j)\} = \{b_j \not\parallel \bar{b}_i, \bar{b}_h\} \cap \{b_i \not\parallel \bar{b}_j, \bar{b}_h\}$  and then acts regularly on  $\mathcal{P}$ ; this implies by (1.4) that  $\mathcal{T}$  is a group.  $\square$

Let now  $L$  be any line. We shall denote  $\tilde{L} := \{\bar{a} \in \tilde{\mathcal{P}} : a \in L\}$ ,  $\mathcal{T}_L := \tilde{L} \circ \tilde{L} = \{\bar{a} \circ \bar{b} : a, b \in L\}$ .

By (3.1) we have  $\tilde{L}(L) = L$  and  $\mathcal{T}_L(L) = L$ . Thus  $\tilde{L} \circ \tilde{L} \circ \tilde{L}$  is a set of dilatations with the possible fixed point on  $L$ .

By (1.4), since the axioms (A1)-(A4) are independent from the axioms of the line structure we have:

3.9. - Let  $L$  be any line of a point-reflection geometry  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, \not\parallel, \tilde{\mathcal{P}})$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent:

- i)  $\mathcal{T}_L$  acts regularly on  $L$ ;
- ii)  $\tilde{L} \circ \tilde{L} \circ \tilde{L} = \tilde{L}$ ;
- iii)  $\mathcal{T}_L$  is a group.

#### 4. - The associated incidence loop

It is well known (see e.g. [5]) that an incidence space with parallelism  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, \not\parallel)$  together with a regular set of translations  $\mathcal{S}$  can be represented as an incidence loop in the following way.

If 1 is a distinguished point of  $\mathcal{P}$ , for any point  $a \in \mathcal{P}$  let us denote  $a^*$  the uniquely determined translation  $a^* \in \mathcal{S}$  such that  $a^*(1) = a$ . Then we can define in  $\mathcal{P}$  a composition law “ $\cdot$ ” by denoting for any  $a, b \in \mathcal{P}$ ,  $a \cdot b := a^*(b) = a^* \circ b^*(1)$ ; in this way  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, \not\parallel, \cdot)$  turns out to be an *incidence loop with parallelism* (cf. [3] and [5]). In the present situation, we can assume  $\mathcal{S} := \mathcal{C}$  and for the sake of simplicity  $1 := u$ . As a consequence for any  $a \in \mathcal{P}$ , if we denote  $a_m \in \mathcal{P}$  the point, uniquely determined by (A4) and (1.2), such that  $\bar{a}_m(u) = a$ , we shall have:

$$(3) \quad a^* := \bar{a}_m \circ \bar{u};$$

and, for any  $a, b \in \mathcal{P}$ :

$$(4) \quad a \cdot b := a^*(b) = a^* \circ b^*(u) = \bar{a}_m \circ \bar{u} \circ \bar{b}_m(u) = (\bar{a}_m \circ \bar{u})(b).$$

Then with the usual notations (cfr. [3]) we shall represent by  $(\mathcal{P}, \cdot)$  the set  $\mathcal{P}$  of points endowed with the loop structure defined in (3), by  $\mathcal{L} := \{aL : a \in \mathcal{P}, u \in L \in \mathcal{L}\}$  the set of lines and by the condition:

$$aL \not\parallel bM \iff L = M$$

the parallelism relation between any two lines  $aL, bM \in \mathcal{L}$ . Furthermore the left multiplication in  $(\mathcal{P}, \cdot)$  will represent the translations of the set  $\mathcal{C}$ . The incidence loop with parallelism  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, \not\parallel, \cdot)$  defined in this way from the reflection geometry  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, \not\parallel, \bar{\mathcal{P}})$  will be called *incidence loop with reflections* and will be denoted by  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, \not\parallel, \cdot, \sim)$ .

4.1. - *Let  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, \not\parallel, \cdot, \sim)$  be an incidence loop with reflections as previously defined. The following properties hold.*

- i)  $\mathcal{C} \circ \mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$ ;
- ii)  $\forall a \in \mathcal{P} \exists a^{-1} \in \mathcal{P}$  such that:  $a^{-1}a = aa^{-1} = u$ ;
- iii)  $\forall a \in \mathcal{P} : (a^*)^{-1} = (a^{-1})^*$ ; then  $\mathcal{C}^{-1} = \mathcal{C}$ ;
- iv)  $\forall a \in \mathcal{P} : \bar{u}(a) = a^{-1}$ ;
- v)  $\forall a \in \mathcal{P} : \bar{a}(u) = a^2$ .

PROOF. -

(i) Let be  $\bar{a} \circ \bar{u}$ ,  $\bar{b} \circ \bar{u} \in \mathcal{C}$ . Since  $(\bar{u} \circ \bar{b} \circ \bar{u}) (\bar{u} \circ \bar{b} \circ \bar{u}) = id$ , the dilatation  $\bar{u} \circ \bar{b} \circ \bar{u}$  is involutory and thus by (3.3, ii) it exists  $c \in \mathcal{P}$  with  $\bar{c} := \bar{u} \circ \bar{b} \circ \bar{u}$ ; this implies  $\bar{a} \circ \bar{u} \circ \bar{b} \circ \bar{u} = \bar{a} \circ \bar{c} \in \mathcal{C}$ .

(ii) By [6] and [7] it will be enough to prove that, for any  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathcal{C}$ ,  $\alpha \circ \beta (u) = u$  implies  $\beta \circ \alpha (u) = u$ . Actually let us denote  $\alpha := \bar{a}_m \circ \bar{u}$ ,  $\beta := \bar{b}_m \circ \bar{u}$ ; then  $u = \alpha \circ \beta (u) = \bar{a}_m \circ \bar{u} \circ \bar{b}_m \circ \bar{u} (u) = \bar{a}_m \circ \bar{u} \circ \bar{b}_m (u)$  implies  $\bar{b}_m \circ \bar{u} \circ \bar{a}_m (u) = u$ . Then  $\beta \circ \alpha (u) = \bar{b}_m \circ \bar{u} \circ \bar{a}_m \circ \bar{u} (u) = \bar{b}_m \circ \bar{u} \circ \bar{a}_m (u) = u$  and thus by [6] (proposition 1.2) or [7] (proposition 4, § 2) it exists  $a^{-1}$ .

(iii) By definition and by (ii) we have  $a \circ a^{-1} = a^* (a^{-1}) = u$  which implies  $a^{-1} = (a^*)^{-1} (u)$ . Otherwise, again by definition,  $a^{-1} = (a^{-1})^* (u)$ ; then  $(a^*)^{-1} (u) = (a^{-1})^* (u)$  that is  $a^* \circ (a^{-1})^* (u) = u$ . By (i)  $a^* \circ (a^{-1})^* \in \mathcal{C}$  which implies  $a^* \circ (a^{-1})^* = id$ , i.e.  $(a^{-1})^* = (a^*)^{-1}$ . By (ii)  $\mathcal{P}^{-1} = \mathcal{P}$  and thus  $\mathcal{C}^{-1} = \mathcal{C}$ .

(iv) Since  $\bar{u}, a^* \in \mathcal{D}$ ,  $\bar{u} (a) = \bar{u} \circ a^* (u) = \bar{u} \circ \bar{a}_m \circ \bar{u} (u)$ . Furthermore  $\bar{u} \circ \bar{a}_m = (\bar{a}_m \circ \bar{u})^{-1} = (a^*)^{-1} = (a^{-1})^*$ . Then:  $\bar{u} (a) = (a^{-1})^* \circ \bar{u} (u) = a^{-1}$ .

(v) Let us consider the dilatation  $\delta := a^* \circ \bar{u} \circ (a^*)^{-1}$ ; since  $\delta (a) = a^* \circ \bar{u} \circ (a^*)^{-1} (a) = a^* \circ \bar{u} (u) = a$  and  $\delta \circ \delta = id$ , by (A1), (A2) and (3.3, ii) we have  $\delta = \bar{a}$ . Then by (iii) and (iv)  $\bar{a} (u) = \delta (u) = a^* \circ \bar{u} \circ (a^*)^{-1} (u) = a^* \circ \bar{u} \circ (a^{-1})^* (u) = a^* \circ \bar{u} (a^{-1}) = a^* (a) = a^2$ . □

REMARK I. - In (4.1, i) we have proved that, for any  $\bar{b} \in \tilde{\mathcal{P}}$  we have  $\bar{u} \circ \bar{b} \circ \bar{u} \in \tilde{\mathcal{P}}$ . By denoting  $\bar{c} := \bar{u} \circ \bar{b} \circ \bar{u}$  we obtain  $c = \bar{c} (c) = \bar{u} \circ \bar{b} \circ \bar{u} (c)$ , i.e.  $\bar{u} (c) = \bar{b} \circ \bar{u} (c)$ . Then, by (A1) and (A2)  $\bar{u} (c) = b$ , and by (4.1, iv)  $c = b^{-1}$ . Hence  $(\bar{a} \circ \bar{u}) \circ (\bar{b} \circ \bar{u}) = \bar{a} \circ \bar{c} = \bar{a} \circ (\bar{b}^{-1})$ .

REMARK II. - By (4.1, v) we know that, for any  $b \in \mathcal{P}$ ,  $\bar{b} (u) = b^2$ . By (A4) and (1.2), for any  $a \in \mathcal{P}$ , it exists a unique  $a_m \in \mathcal{P}$  such that  $\bar{a}_m (u) = a$  and in this way we have defined  $a^*$  by (3). Then by denoting  $b := a_m$  we can see that for any  $a \in \mathcal{P}$  it exists the square root "b" i.e.  $b \in \mathcal{P}$  such that  $b^2 = a$ .

4.2. - Let  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, \not\parallel, \circ)$  be an incidence loop with parallelism fulfilling the following conditions:

- i) if 1 denotes the unitary element of  $(\mathcal{P}, \circ)$ , for any  $a \in \mathcal{P}$  there exists  $a^{-1} \in \mathcal{P}$  such that  $a \circ a^{-1} = a^{-1} \circ a = 1$ ;

- ii) there exists a dilatation  $\omega \in \text{Aut}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, \not\parallel) \setminus \{id\}$  such that  $\omega(1) = 1$ ,  $\omega^2 = id$  and, for any  $a \in \mathcal{P}$ ,  $\omega(a) = a^{-1}$ ;
- iii) for any  $x, y \in \mathcal{P}$  there exists a unique solution "a" for the equation

$$(5) \quad (a^{-1}x) (a^{-1}y) = 1.$$

Then a set of reflections  $\Lambda : \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}; a \rightarrow \hat{a}$  can be defined fulfilling the axioms (A1)-(A4) such that  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, \not\parallel, \hat{\mathcal{P}})$  is a point-reflection geometry.

PROOF. - For any  $a \in \mathcal{P}$  let us define:  $\hat{a} := a^* \circ \omega \circ (a^*)^{-1}$ ; since  $a^*$  is a translation for  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, \not\parallel)$ ,  $(a^*)^{-1} \in \text{Aut}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, \not\parallel)$  and thus  $\hat{a} \in \text{Aut}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, \not\parallel)$ . Since by definition  $a = a^*(1)$  implies  $(a^*)^{-1}(a) = 1$ , we have  $\hat{a}(a) = a^* \circ \omega \circ (a^*)^{-1}(a) = a^* \circ \omega(1) = a$  and thus (A1) is fulfilled. Furthermore by  $\hat{a} \circ \hat{a} = a^* \circ \omega \circ (a^*)^{-1} \circ a^* \circ \omega \circ (a^*)^{-1} = id$ , (A3) is fulfilled too. Since  $1^* = id$  we have also  $\omega = \hat{1}$ . In order to prove the axioms (A2) and (A4) we have to compare  $(a^*)^{-1}$  and  $(a^{-1})^*$ . By the definition of  $a^*$  we have  $(a^*)^{-1}(a) = 1$  and, by (i),  $a^*(a^{-1}) = 1$  implies  $(a^*)^{-1}(1) = a^{-1}$ ; furthermore by (i) we have  $(a^{-1})^*(a) = 1$  and, by definition,  $(a^{-1})^*(1) = a^{-1}$ . Thus since  $(a^*)^{-1}, (a^{-1})^* \in \text{Aut}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, \not\parallel)$  we have  $(a^*)^{-1} = (a^{-1})^*$ .

Let us now consider, for any  $x, y \in \mathcal{P}$  the condition  $\hat{a}(x) = y$ : this is equivalent to  $a^* \circ \omega \circ (a^*)^{-1}(x) = y$  i.e.  $\omega \circ (a^*)^{-1}(x) = (a^*)^{-1}(y)$ . By the properties of  $\omega$  and  $(a^*)^{-1}$  we have  $(a^*)^{-1}(y) = (a^{-1})^*(y) = a^{-1}y$  and  $\omega \circ (a^*)^{-1}(x) = (a^{-1}x)^{-1}$ . Then  $\hat{a}(x) = y$  gives rise to the equation (5) which has a unique solution  $a \in \mathcal{P}$ ; thus (A2) and (A4) are fulfilled. Furthermore, since  $\hat{\mathcal{P}} := \{\hat{a} : a \in \mathcal{P}\} \subseteq \text{Aut}(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, \not\parallel)$ , the axiom (D2) is fulfilled, while (D3) is a consequence of the existence of lines and parallelism.  $\square$

REMARK III. - Let us suppose in the loop  $(\mathcal{P}, \cdot)$  the property L.I.P. (left inverse property; cf. [7]) holds, i.e. for any  $a, b \in \mathcal{P}$ :  $a^{-1}(a \cdot b) = (a^{-1} \cdot a)b$ .

Then the existence of solutions for the equation (5) implies the existence of square roots for any element of  $(\mathcal{P}, \cdot)$ . Actually by assuming  $x := 1$ , for any  $y \in \mathcal{P}$ , the solution "a" of (5) is such that  $a^{-1}[a^{-1}(a \cdot a)] = a^{-1}[(a^{-1} \cdot a) \cdot a] = 1$ , i.e.  $y = a^2$ .

REMARK IV. - Let us now suppose that incidence loop  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, //, \cdot)$  considered in (4.2) is provided as well with a set of reflections  $\bar{\mathcal{P}}$  which means it is an *incidence loop with reflections*  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, //, \cdot, \sim)$ . By (3.3, ii) we know that, for any  $a \in \mathcal{P}$ ,  $\hat{a} \in \bar{\mathcal{P}}$ ; thus, since  $\hat{a}(a) = a$ , by (A2) we have  $\hat{a} = \bar{a}$ ; hence  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, //, \cdot, \sim)$  and  $(\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{L}, //, \cdot, \wedge)$  are isomorphic.

## REFERENCES

- [1] J. ANDRÉ, *Über Parallelstrukturen*, II. Math. Z.; 76 (1961), 155-163.
- [2] F. BACHMANN, *Aufbau der Geometrie aus dem Spiegelungsbegriff*, Springer Verlag, Berlin, Göttingen, Heidelberg, 1959.
- [3] H. KARZEL, G.P. KIST, *Kinematic Algebras and their Geometries*, Ring and Geometry (Kaya et al. editors). Nato ASI Series C, vol. 160 (1985), 437-509.
- [4] H. KARZEL, K. SØRENSEN, D. WINDELBERG, *Einführung in die Geometrie*, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Göttingen, 1973.
- [5] M. MARCHI, *Configurations in Incidence Loops*, J.C.I.S.S., 15 (1990), 287-300.
- [6] M. MARCHI, *Incidence Loops and their Geometry*, COMBINATORICS '90; Proceedings of the conference on Combinatorics, Gaeta, Italy, 20-27 May, 1990; (Barlotti et al. editors). North Holland (1992), 347-364.
- [7] E. ZIZIOLI, *Fibered Incidence Loops and Kinematic Loops*, Journal of Geometry, 30 (1987), 144-156.



