

Contents

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Introduction | <i>page vii</i> |
| 1 Basic concepts | 1 |
| 1.1 Introduction | 1 |
| 1.2 Basic definitions and properties | 2 |
| 1.3 Examples | 11 |
| 1.4 Related structures | 22 |
| 1.5 The incidence matrix | 32 |
| 1.6 Block's Lemma and the Orbit Theorem | 43 |
| 1.7 Graphs | 48 |
| | |
| 2 Symmetric designs | 52 |
| 2.1 Introduction | 52 |
| 2.2 Residual structures | 52 |
| 2.3 The Bruck–Ryser–Chowla Theorem | 55 |
| 2.4 Singer groups and difference sets | 59 |
| 2.5 Multipliers | 66 |
| 2.6 Arithmetical relations and Hadamard 2-designs | 75 |
| 2.7 The Dembowski–Wagner Theorem | 77 |
| | |
| 3 Some families of symmetric designs | |
| 3.1 Introduction | 83 |
| 3.2 Projective and affine planes | 83 |
| 3.3 Latin squares | 93 |
| 3.4 Nets | 98 |
| 3.5 Hadamard matrices and Hadamard 2-designs | 101 |
| 3.6 Biplanes | 109 |
| 3.7 Strongly regular graphs | 119 |

vi *Contents*

| | | |
|----------|--|-----|
| 4 | 3-Designs and related topics | 127 |
| 4.1 | Introduction | 127 |
| 4.2 | Cameron's Theorem and Hadamard 3-designs | 127 |
| 4.3 | Inversive planes and a class of 3-designs | 133 |
| 4.4 | Hadamard designs, the little Mathieu designs and the little Mathieu groups | 137 |
| 4.5 | Some 4-designs and 5-designs | 144 |
| 4.6 | Tight designs | 149 |
| 5 | Resolutions | 153 |
| 5.1 | Introduction | 153 |
| 5.2 | Resolutions | 153 |
| 5.3 | Strong resolutions | 159 |
| 5.4 | Strongly resolvable designs | 163 |
| 5.5 | Examples of strongly resolvable designs | 170 |
| 6 | Other 2-designs | 173 |
| 6.1 | Introduction | 173 |
| 6.2 | Steiner triple systems | 173 |
| 6.3 | Unitals | 176 |
| 6.4 | Groups and more 2-designs | 180 |
| 7 | Some 1-designs | 185 |
| 7.1 | Introduction | 185 |
| 7.2 | Semilinear spaces and Γ_x -geometries | 186 |
| 7.3 | Generalised quadrangles | 193 |
| 7.4 | Semisymmetric designs | 196 |
| 7.5 | Divisible semisymmetric designs | 206 |
| 8 | The large Mathieu designs | 212 |
| 8.1 | Introduction | 212 |
| 8.2 | Properties of a 5-(24, 8, 1) | 213 |
| 8.3 | Existence of \mathcal{M}_{24} | 217 |
| 8.4 | The Golay codes | 225 |
| 8.5 | The Mathieu groups | 229 |
| 8.6 | Some more combinatorics | 233 |
| | List of abbreviations | 237 |
| | Index | 238 |