THE ORDER OF PRIMITIVE GROUPS* (III)

BY

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1. The theorem which I now propose to prove is

Theorem XIII. Let q be any positive integer greater than 5, and let p be any prime greater than 2q — 2; then the degree of any primitive group G that contains a substitution of order p and degree qp but none of order p and of degree less than qp does not exceed qp + 4q — 4; if G is not triply (doubly) transitive its degree does not exceed qp + 4q — 6 (qp + 4q — 7); the order of G is not divisible by p^2.

2. In the two former papers in these Transactions† under this same title, and to which references are indicated by the Roman numerals I and II in parenthesis, a proof and a slight extension were given (for q greater than unity) of the theorem which Jordan stated in the Memoir on Primitive Groups in the first volume of the Bulletin of the Mathematical Society of France, page 175:

Let q be a positive integer less than 6; p any prime greater than q; the degree of a primitive group G that contains a substitution of order p on q cycles (without including the alternating group) can not exceed qp + q + 1.

To this one may add that when p is greater than q + 1, the order of G is not divisible by p^2.

3. The memoir at the end of which this theorem is given is devoted to the larger question of the corresponding limit for the degree of G when q is not confined to numbers less than 6. Jordan’s general result may be stated thus:

Let q be any positive integer, p any prime greater than 2q log_2 q + q + 1; the degree of a primitive group G that contains a substitution of order p on q cycles (without including the alternating group) can not exceed qp + 2q log_2 2q.

4. This is supplemented in certain directions by the theorem:‡

If a primitive group of class greater than 3 contains a substitution of prime order p and of degree qp (q less than 2p + 3), it includes a transitive subgroup of degree not greater than the larger of the two numbers qp + q^2 — q, 2q^2 — p^2.

In particular, if q is less than p + 2, the degree of G, when it is simply transitive, is not greater than qp + q^2 — q.

* Presented to the Society, April 7, 1917.
† These Transactions, vol. 10 (1909), pp. 247–258; vol. 16 (1915), pp. 139–147. Theorem X asserts that the upper limit of the degree is qp + q when p is greater than q + 1, and q is greater than 1 and less than 5.
‡ These Transactions, vol. 12 (1911), pp. 375–386.
5. Simply transitive primitive groups are known which contain a substitution of prime order \( p \) and of degree \( qp \) \( (q < p) \) and whose degree is \( qp + q(q - 2)/8 \). For example, if the alternating group of degree \( n \) is represented as a transitive group on the \( n(n - 1)/2 \) binary products \( ab, ac, \cdots \), the number of these products left fixed by a circular substitution of prime order \( p \) is exactly \( (n - p)(n - p - 1)/2 \). Then the given substitution of order \( p \) in the new representation of the alternating group is of degree \( [n - (p + 1)/2]p \); the condition that the number of cycles in this substitution is less than \( p \), \( n - (p + 1)/2 < p \), may be written \( n < 3p/2 \). The number of letters left fixed by the given substitution of order \( p \) has therefore its maximum value when \( n = (3p - 1)/2 \), viz., \( (p - 1)(p - 3)/8 \), when \( n - (p + 1)/2 = p - 1 \).

Now

\[
n(n-1)/2 = (p-1)p + (p-1)(p-3)/8 = qp + q(q-2)/8.
\]

If

\[
n = 3p/2 - (2k + 1)/2, \quad n - (p + 1)/2 = p - k,
\]

\[
(n - p)(n - p - 1)/2 = (p - 2k + 1)(p - 2k - 1)/8,
\]

and we have

\[
n(n-1)/2 = (p - k)p + (p - 2k + 1)(p - 2k - 1)/8,
\]

\( k = 1, 2, \cdots, (p - 3)/2 \), as the degree of a simply transitive primitive group which contains a substitution of order \( p \) and degree \( qp \), \( q < p \).

It is not improbable that the true limit \( (q < p) \) is \( qp + q(q - 2)/8 \) instead of \( qp + q^2 - q \) but we know so few primitive groups that an induction from those known has not much value. At any rate we need not expect to extend the formula \( qp + q + 1 \) to all primitive groups in which \( q \) is less than \( p \).

6. Another related theorem is that of Bochert:* "

The class \( (> 3) \) of a substitution group of degree \( n \) exceeds \( n/3 - 2 \sqrt{n}/3 \) if it is doubly, \( n/3 - 1 \) if triply, \( n/2 - 2 \) if quadruply, transitive.

7. This theorem, with that of Sylow,† is indispensable in the proof of Theorem XIII. Another theorem which has been of constant use in the two preceding numbers, and without which the present development would be well-nigh, probably quite, impossible, is

**Theorem XIV.** The largest subgroup of a transitive group \( G \) of degree \( n \), in which a subgroup \( H \) that leaves fixed \( m \) \( (0 < m < n) \) letters is invariant, has as many transitive constituents in these \( m \) letters as there are different conjugate sets in \( G_1 \) (a subgroup of \( G \) that leaves one of the \( m \) letters fixed) which, under the substitutions of \( G \), enter into the complete set of conjugates to which \( H \) belongs. Moreover, the degree of each of these constituents is proportional to the number of subgroups in the several conjugate sets of \( G_1 \) in question.

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A clear comprehension of this theorem is so necessary to the reader that I venture to insert here a proof of it, considerably fuller than the brief indication given in the *Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society*.

8. Let $g$ be the order of $G$, and let those conjugates of $H$, which are found in $G_1$, lie in $k$ different sets, in so far as they are permuted by the substitutions of $G_1$ only, with $r$ conjugates in the set that includes $H$, $r_1$ in a second set, and so on. In $G_1$, $H$ is invariant in a subgroup of order $g/nr$, while $H_1$, a subgroup in the second set, is invariant in a group of order $g/nr_1$. The largest subgroup $I$ of $G$ in which $H$ is invariant is of order $g/nr + \ldots + r_{k-1}$. Now $I$ does not connect transitively the $n - m$ letters displaced by $H$ and the $m$ letters it leaves fixed. Since the largest subgroup of $G_1$ in which $H$ is invariant is of order $g/nr$, $I$ has one transitive constituent of degree $(gm/ns)/(g/nr) = mr/s$ in letters left fixed by $H$. Let $a_1, a_2, \ldots, b_1, b_2, \ldots$ be the letters of $G$ left fixed by $H$. The letter fixed by $G_1$ is $a_1$. Consider a substitution $S = a_1 b_1 \ldots$ of $G$. Since there are substitutions of $G$ which transform $H_1$ into $H$ we may assume that $S$ transforms $H_1$ into $H$. Then $S H S^{-1} = H_1$, $(G_1 S) H (G_1 S)^{-1} = G_1 H_1 G_1^{-1} = H_1'$, that is, every substitution $G_1 S = a_1 b_1 \ldots$ of $G$ transforms some subgroup $H_1'$ (conjugate to $H_1$ under substitutions of $G_1$) into $H$: $(G_1 S)^{-1} H_1' (G_1 S) = H$. Then no matter by which of the substitutions $a_1 b_1 \ldots$ of $G$ we transform $G_1$ we get a group $G_2$ that fixes $b_1$ and in which $H$ is a member of that set of $r_1$ conjugate subgroups by which every substitution $G_1 S = a_1 b_1 \ldots$ replaces the set $H_1, \ldots$ of $G_1$. Then $b_1$ is one of the letters of a transitive constituent of degree $mr_1/s$ in $I$. Since no substitution $a_1 b_1 \ldots$ transforms $H$ into itself, the letter $a_1$ is not an element of this transitive constituent in the $mr_1/s$ letters $b_1, b_2, \ldots$. If $mr_1/s$ is not unity, there is a substitution $T_2 = b_1 b_2 \ldots$ in $I$, and the product $S T_2 = a_1 b_2 \ldots$ transforms $H_1$ into $H$, as do also the products $S T_3 = a_1 b_3 \ldots, \ldots$, where $T_3 = b_1 b_3 \ldots, \ldots$. Every substitution $G_1 S T_i, i = 2, 3, \ldots$, transforms some subgroup $H_i'$ (conjugate of $H_1$ in $G_1$) into $H$. Suppose that a substitution $S_1 = a_1 c_1 \ldots$ transforms $H_1$ into $H$. Then $S^{-1} = b_1 a_1 \ldots$ transforms $H$ into $H_1$, so that $S^{-1} S_1 = b_1 c_1 \ldots$ transforms $H$ into itself, thereby showing that $c_1$ is one of the letters $b_1, b_2, \ldots$. If $S_1$ had transformed $H_i'$ (some other member of the set $H_1$ of $G_1$) into $H$, a properly chosen substitution $G_1 S_1 = a_1 c_1 \ldots$ would have transformed $H_1$ into $H$, and that substitution could have been called $S_1$. Then no substitution $a_1 c_1 \ldots (c_1$ not one of the letters $b_1, \ldots$) can transform any member of the set $H_1$ into $H$. Next, there must be a substitution in $G$ to transform $H_2$ into $H$: call it $U = a_1 c_1 \ldots$. We know that $c_1$ does not belong to the same transitive constituent in $I$ as $a_1$ or $b_1$. Then just as before $I$ has a transitive constituent in the $mr_2/s$ letters $c_1, c_2, \ldots$ associated with the conjugate set $H_2, \ldots$ of $G_1$.  

Thus we find \( k - 1 \) transitive constituents in \( r_1 m/s \) letters \( b_1, b_2, \ldots, \) in \( r_2 m/s \) letters \( c_1, c_2, \ldots, \) in \( r_3 m/s \) letters \( d_1, d_2, \ldots, \), and so on, associated with the \( k - 1 \) conjugate sets \( H_1, \ldots, H_2, \ldots, H_3, \ldots, \ldots \) of \( G_1 \) in addition to the constituent of degree \( rm/s \) in the letters \( a_1, a_2, \ldots, \). Every substitution \( a_1 a_2 \ldots, a_1 a_3 \ldots, \ldots \) transforms some subgroup \( H' \) (of the set \( H, \ldots \) of \( G_1 \)) into \( H \).

We now pass to the consideration of Theorem XIII, which will be proved after the necessary preparation by a complete induction. The reader would do well to have freshly in mind the arguments of the two preceding numbers of this series on the Order of Primitive Groups and is recommended also to fortify himself by a perusal of the first twenty or thirty pages of Jordan’s great Memoir on Primitive Groups. It will be seen that in setting up the subgroups \( H_{ij} \) in § 10 I have effected a combination of Jordan’s method with that of my two earlier papers.

**The subgroups \( H_{ij} \)**

9. The group \( G \) is by hypothesis a primitive group in which there is a substitution of order \( p \) and degree \( qp \) but no substitution of the same order and of lower degree. From the beginning we assume that \( q \) is less than \( p \), and ultimately we shall introduce the condition that \( p \) is greater than \( 2q - 3 \), but not before it seems unavoidable.

10. Let \( H_i \) be a subgroup of \( G \) that is generated by the similar substitutions \( A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_i, A'_1, A'_2, \ldots, A'_i, A''_1, A''_2, \ldots, A''_i, \ldots, \), of order \( p \) and degree \( qp \). It is to be understood as a part of the definition of \( H_i \) that all the substitutions of \( G \) of order \( p \) and degree \( qp \) and which are not in \( H_i \) displace one or more letters new to \( H_i \).

If \( H_i \) is intransitive there exists in \( G \) a substitution \( A_{i+1} \) similar to \( A_1 \), that unites two or more of the transitive sets of \( H_i \) (I, Theorem I). It is legitimate to assume that no other substitution similar to \( A_1 \) that joins two of the transitive sets of \( H_i \) displaces fewer new letters than does \( A_{i+1} \). This being granted, \( A_{i+1} \) has at most one new letter in any cycle (I, Theorem IV). To \( \{H_i, A_{i+1}\} \) are now to be adjoined all the other substitutions of \( G \) on the same letters that are similar to \( A_1 \). Call the resulting group \( H_{i+1} \). It may be that there are in \( H_{i+1} \) and not in \( H_i \) certain substitutions of order \( p \) and degree \( qp \) which displace fewer letters new to \( H_i \) than \( A_{i+1} \) does. If so, no one of them connects sets of \( H_i \). Let then \( H_{ij}, j = 1, 2, \ldots, (H_{i0} = H_i) \), be a subgroup of \( H_{i+1} \) that includes \( H_i, H_{i1}, H_{i2}, \ldots, H_i, j-1 \), and which is generated by \( H_i, j-1 \), a substitution \( B_{ij} \), similar to \( A_1 \), which displaces a minimum number of letters new to \( H_i, j-1 \), hence at most one to any cycle, and all other substitutions of \( G \) of order \( p \) and degree \( qp \) on letters of \( \{H_i, j-1, B_{ij}\} \) only. Let \( H_{i,j} \) be the last of these groups before \( H_{i+1} \). Let \( x_1, x_2, \ldots, \)
Let $x_m (m > 0)$ be the letters of $H_{i+1}$ that are not displaced by $H_{ik}$. Any substitution of $H_{i+1}$ that replaces one of the $m$ letters $x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_m$ by one of the same letters permutes these $m$ letters only among themselves. This holds true of any two successive groups, as $H_{ij}$ and $H_{i, j-1}$. Those of the letters $x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_m$ of $H_{i+1}$ that belong to a transitive constituent of $H_{i+1}$ form a system of imprimitivity of that constituent if their number exceeds unity. Since the number of letters in any system of imprimitivity of a group generated by substitutions of order $p$ and degree less than $p^2$ is less than $p$, no letter $x_1$, say, can be associated in a system of imprimitivity with any letter of $H_{ik}$. It follows that a transitive constituent of $H_{i+1}$ with just one new letter in it is primitive. This holds not only for $H_{i+1}$ but for any group of the series, as $H_{ij}$.

11. For some value of $i$ not greater than $q$, $H_i$ is a transitive group. Let $H_{r+1}$ be the first transitive group in the series. The group $H_{r+2}$ is formed by the adjunction of a substitution $A_{r+2}$ which displaces a minimum number of letters new to $H_{r+1}$ and then all the substitutions of order $p$ and degree $qp$ in $G$ on the letters of $\{H_{r+1}, A_{r+2}\}$. Of course $A_{r+2}$ displaces at least one new letter if $H_{r+1}$ is not the last group in the series $H_1, H_2, \cdots$. All the groups $H_{r+1}, H_{r+2}, \cdots$ are transitive. Finally a group $H_{r+i}$ will be reached which is invariant in $G$.

12. When the degree of $H_{r+1}$, the first transitive group in the series, does not exceed $qp + q$, no great difficulty is involved in finding a limit for the degree of $G$ within the limits of our theorem. For the present it is assumed that the degree of $H_{r+1}$ exceeds $qp + q$. We shall return to this case later ($\S$ 25).

13. Now $H_{r+1}$ displaces $m$ letters $x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_m$ which $H_{rk}$ leaves fixed. These letters form one of several systems of imprimitivity of $H_{r+1}$ which are permuted according to a primitive group. If $m = 1$, $H_{r+1}$ is primitive. In like manner, if $H_{r+i+1}$ displaces several letters new to $H_{r+i}$ those letters form a system of imprimitivity, permuted with other systems according to a primitive group.

14. Let $G$ be of the same degree, if possible, as $H_{r+i}$, $i = 1, 2, \cdots$. A subgroup $G_1$ of $G$ displaces all but one of the letters of $G$ and the invariant subgroup $F$ of $G_1$, generated by all the substitutions of order $p$ and degree $qp$ in $G_1$, is of the same degree as $G_1$. Hence when $H_{r+i}$ is contained in a primitive group of the same degree, $H_{r+i}$ is itself primitive. $F$ coincides with $H_{r+i-1}$, $i = 2, 3, \cdots$, and with $H_{rk}$ when $i = 1$.

15. Consider the group in the systems of imprimitivity of $m$ letters each ($m > 1$) of $H_{r+1}$. It is a primitive group and it can be shown that it is not triply transitive. One system, which we call $s$, is composed of the letters $x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_m$ and these systems of $m$ letters can be chosen in but one way.
Now $H_{rk}$ (call it $F$) permutes all the other systems of $m$ letters of $H_{r+1}$: $t, u, \ldots$. The letters which $F$ displaces but $H_{r, k-1}$ or $H_{r-1, k-1}$ (call this group $F'$) leaves fixed form one or several of the systems $t, u, v, \ldots$. Suppose that the group in the systems $s, t, \ldots$ of $H_{r+1}$ is triply transitive. Then the subgroup of $H_{r+1}$ that leaves one letter fixed is doubly transitive in the remaining systems and has an invariant subgroup generated by all its substitutions of order $p$ and degree $qp$ which coincides with $F$. Since $F$ is an invariant subgroup of a doubly transitive group (in the systems $t, u, \ldots$), it is primitive, or an imprimitive group in which every substitution displaces all or but one of the systems $t, u, \ldots$. The degree of $F$ by hypothesis exceeds $qp$, so that it is not regular in the systems $t, u, \ldots$. Then the subgroup of $F$ that leaves one system fixed displaces all the systems $u, v, \ldots$, that is, all the systems of $H_{r+1}$ except $s$ and $t$; and $N$, the subgroup of $M$ generated by all its substitutions of order $p$ and degree $qp$, also displaces the same systems $u, v, \ldots$ as $M$. This is true when $F$ is primitive in the systems in question; and when $F$ is imprimitive, every substitution of $M$ displaces all the systems $u, v, \ldots$, and $N$ does not reduce to the identity because the degree of $F$ (in the systems $t, u, \ldots$) is then the power of some prime other than $p$. Now $F'$ and $N$ coincide. For any substitution of $N$ fixes all the letters of $F$ that are not in $F'$, and no other letters of $F$ are fixed by $N$. It now follows since $F'$ displaces all the letters of $F$ except those in the systems $t$, that there is only the one way of dividing the letters of $F$ into systems of $m$ letters each.

16. Consider now the group $H_{r+2}$ that displaces just $m'$ letters $y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_{m'}$ new to $H_{r+1}$. We have seen that $m'$ divides $m$ and we know from the theory of primitive groups with transitive subgroups of lower degree† that $m/m'$ is greater than 1. Call this new system of $m'$ letters $y$ and call the $m/m'$ systems of $H_{r+2}$ in the letters $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_m: x', x'', \ldots$. $H_{r+2}$ is at least doubly transitive in its systems of $m'$ letters and contains a substitution $S = (yx') \ldots$, which certainly transforms $F$ into itself, because $S^{-1}FS$ fixes $y$ and $x'$, and therefore also $x'', \ldots, x^{m/m'}$. It follows too that $S$ permutes the systems $t, u, \ldots$ of $F$ as units. Now consider $S^{-1}H_{r+1}S$. Its systems are $t, u, v, \ldots$, and a system $s'$ composed of $y, x'', x''', \ldots, x^{m/m'}$. If we admit that $H_{r+1}$ is doubly transitive in the systems, $S^{-1}H_{r+1}S$ contains a substitution $U = (s't) \ldots$. The group $H' = U^{-1}FU$ fixes all the $m$ letters of $t$ and the letters of $x'$ but displaces the letters of $y$. Also $H_{r+1}$ contains a substitution $V = (st) \ldots$. The group $H'' = V^{-1}H'V$ fixes all the letters of $s$, but displaces $y$. From $H''$ we take a substitution $C$ of order $p$ and degree $qp$ that displaces $y$. The transitive group $S^{-1}H_{r+1}S$ contains a

†These Transactions, vol. 7 (1906), pp. 499-508.
substitution $W$ that replaces $y$ by $x''$, fixes all the letters of $x'$, and which therefore permutes the $m/m'$ systems $y$, $x''$, $x'''$, \ldots, $x^{m/m'}$ only among themselves. Hence $W^{-1} CW$ is a substitution similar to $A_1$ that fixes the letters of $y$, $x'$, $x''$, \ldots, $x^{m/m'}$ and displaces the letters of $x''$. This is contrary to the hypothesis that $F$ is the last group of the series before $H_{r+1}$.

17. Thus it is proved that $H_{r+1}$ ($r > 1, m > 1$) is not so much as triply transitive in its systems of imprimitivity of $m$ letters each. The primitive group in the systems is simply or doubly transitive.* As we run back through the groups $F, F', \ldots$ we see that the number of new letters introduced at any step is divisible by $m$, and that $q$ therefore is divisible by $m$; and since $H_{r+1}$ ($r > 1$) is not triply transitive in the systems, $m$ is less than $q$.

18. Now $H_{r+1}$ is the last imprimitive group in the series before the doubly transitive group $H_{r+s+1}$. Its degree is $qp + k + m + m' + \cdots + n$, where $n = m^{r-1}$, and where $qp + k$ is the degree of $F = H_{rk}$. We are now in position to state that the primitive group in the systems of $n$ letters each of $H_{r+1}$ ($r > 1$) is never more than doubly transitive. It has just been proved when $m' = 1$. If $m'$ is greater than 1, and $m'' = 1$, it is doubly and not triply transitive, because $H_{r+1}$ is neither regular nor of class $qp + k + m - 1$.† If $m''$ is greater than 1, it is doubly but not triply transitive by the general theory of primitive groups with transitive subgroups of lower degree.

**The $J$-group**

19. If all the subgroups of order $p$ and degree $qp$ in $F = H_{rk}$ form a complete set of conjugates under the substitutions of $F$, then the largest subgroup ($I_1$) of $H_{r+1}$ in which $\{A_1\}$ is invariant has a transitive constituent in the $k + m$ letters of $H_{r+1}$ that are left fixed by $A_1$ (Theorem XIV). A further consequence is that all the subgroups of order $p$ and degree $qp$ in $H_{r+1}$ are conjugate under the substitutions of $H_{r+1}$, so that in $H_{r+2}$ the largest subgroup $I_2$ of $H_{r+2}$ in which $\{A_1\}$ is invariant has a transitive constituent on the $k + m + m'$ letters of $H_{r+2}$ that $A_1$ leaves fixed, and so on. Finally in $H_{r+s+1}$, $I_{s+1}$ has a doubly transitive constituent of degree $k + m + m' + \cdots + n + 1$. For a transitive group is doubly transitive if it has a subgroup transitive in all but one of its letters. Let us call these transitive constituents of $I_1$, $I_2$, \ldots, $J_1$, $J_2$, \ldots, respectively. Then $J_{s+2}$ is triply transitive, $J_{s+3}$ is quadruply transitive

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* Cf. Jordan, *Bulletin de la Société mathématique de France*, vol. 1 (1873), pp. 185-188, where under similar conditions it is proved that the group in the systems is not quadruply transitive. It there appears to have been tacitly assumed that the group in the systems is not a simply transitive group. This is indeed the case in a corresponding passage of the discussion of primitive groups with transitive subgroups of lower degree, but in this more general problem I fail to see any valid arguments for the exclusion of those imprimitive groups whose systems of imprimitivity are permuted according to a simply transitive primitive group.

† *These Transactions*, loc. cit.
transitive, and so on. Similarly when \( m = 1 \), and \( H_{r+1} \) is a simply transitive primitive group, if all the subgroups of order \( p \) and degree \( qp \) in \( F \) are conjugate under the substitutions of \( F \), \( J_1 \) is transitive, \( J_2 \) is at least doubly transitive, \( J_3 \) is at least triply transitive, and so on. Then if \( F \) has the required property, we can be sure that \( G \) has the same property, and that the constituent \( J \) of \( I \), the largest subgroup of \( G \) in which \( \{ A_1 \} \) is invariant, is transitive on all the letters of \( G \) that are left fixed by \( A_1 \).

20. If the transitive group \( J \) is of degree greater than \( q \) as at present and is alternating or symmetric, the class of \( G \) is not greater than 3, contrary to hypothesis. For if \( I \) has a substitution which displaces only letters of \( J \), the totality of all such substitutions of \( I \) form an invariant subgroup of \( I \), and if \( J \) is alternating or symmetric, this subgroup (assumed not to be the identity) is the alternating group. And since the largest group on the same letters in which \( A_1 \) is invariant is of order \( p^q (p - 1) (q!) \) (I, page 251) \( \{ A_1 \} \) is certainly transformed into itself by substitutions leaving fixed all the letters of \( A_1 \) when \( J \) is alternating or symmetric. Hence we could apply Bochert’s theorem (§ 6) to \( J \) whenever it is multiply transitive did we but know its class.

21. It is not difficult to show that the class of \( J \) is not greater than \( 2q - 3 \). Then if \( J \) is quadruply transitive it does not displace so many as \( 4q - 3 \) letters. While we are about it we shall prove that the class of \( J \) is not greater than \( 2q - 4 \) although this result will not be used in the proof of Theorem XIII.

Since two commutative substitutions of order \( p \) and degree \( qp, q < p, \) on the same letters are powers one of the other, the order of \( H_1 \) is not divisible by \( p^2 \). Then if \( H_2 \) has a transitive constituent of degree \( rp + s, s > 1 \), the class of \( J \) is at most \( q \). Let \( H_{i+1} \) be the first among the groups \( H_1, H_2, \cdots \) in which any transitive constituent is of degree \( rp + s, s > 1 \). Then the transitive constituents of \( H_i, i > 1 \), are of the degrees \( rp + 1, r'p + 1, \cdots, \), \( tp, t'p, \cdots \), \((r > 1 \text{ or } t > 1)\), and the order of \( H_i \) is not divisible by \( p^2 \) because its degree is less than \( qp + p \). In consequence the \( J \)-group of each transitive constituent of degree \( up + v, v > 1 \), in \( H_{i+1} \) is transitive of degree \( v \), and these \( v \) letters constitute a transitive constituent of the \( J \)-group of \( H_{i+1} \). We do not however assert that this transitive constituent of the \( J \)-group of \( H_{i+1} \) coincides with the \( J \)-group of the transitive constituent of degree \( up + v \). The degree of \( H_{i+1} \) is \( qp + 2q - 1, qp + 2q - 2, \) or \( qp + 2q - 3 \), if it is argued that the class of \( J \) exceeds \( 2q - 4 \). If \( H_{i+1} \) is of degree \( qp + 2q - 1 \), \( H_{i+1} \) has a transitive constituent of degree \( kp + 2k - 1, k \) a positive integer greater than unity, and transitive constituents of degree \( mp + 2m, m \) a positive integer or zero. The transitive constituent of degree \( kp + 2k - 1 \) is primitive and is not alternating. No such group exists if \( k \) is less than 6 (§ 2). It can be shown that the subgroup \((L)\) of \( H_{i+1} \) that leaves one letter of the primitive constituent of degree \( kp + 2k - 1 \) fixed and which includes
$H_i$ has just the same transitive constituents as $F$ ($= H_{ik}$): $2p + 2, p + 2, \ldots, p + 2$. For in the $J$-group of $L$ the substitution of order 2 from $F$ is invariant and has one invariant cycle that belongs to the constituent of $F$ of degree $2p + 2$, so that if $L$ has a transitive constituent of degree $mp + 2m$, $m > 1$, the class of $J$ is at most $2q - 4$. Then the transitive constituent of degree $kp + 2k - 1$ in $H_{i+1}$ is a simply transitive primitive group and in its subgroup that leaves one letter fixed the constituent of degree $2p + 2$ should be simply transitive in accordance with the theorem:*

If the degree of a transitive constituent of the subgroup leaving one letter fixed in a simply transitive primitive group exceeds by two (or more) units the degree of any other transitive constituent of that subgroup, then the transitive constituent of highest degree is a simply transitive group.

But because it includes a transitive subgroup of degree $2p + 1$, that constituent is doubly transitive. Let $H_{i+1}$ be of degree $qp + 2q - 2$. If $H_{i+1}$ has a primitive constituent of degree $kp + 2k - 2$, $k > 2$, $F$ supplies to $J$ a substitution of degree less than $2q - 2$ and of order 2. If a constituent of degree $kp + 2k - 2$, $k > 2$, is imprimitive, systems of two letters each are permuted by that constituent according to a non-alternating primitive group, so that $k$ is greater than 10, and $F$ again contains substitutions which throw substitutions of order 2 and degree less than $2q - 2$ into $J$. If $H_{i+1}$ has one constituent of degree $2p + 2$, it must have a transitive constituent of degree $mp + 2m$, $m > 1$, generated by similar substitutions of order $p$ and degree $mp$, an imprimitive group with systems permuted according to a triply transitive group of degree $p + 2$. In $H_{i+1}$ a substitution conjugate to $A_1$ can be found that unites two cycles of $A_1$ (in letters of our imprimitive constituent) and introduces in $m$ of its cycles exactly $m$ new letters that form one of the $p + 2$ systems of imprimitivity of the constituent in question, and that fixes the $m$ letters of another system. Thus the class of $J$ is something less than $2q - 3$ when the degree of $H_{i+1}$ is $qp + 2q - 2$. Let $H_{i+1}$ be of degree $qp + 2q - 3$. Since now the $J$-group of $H_{i+1}$ is of odd order, $H_{i+1}$ has no transitive constituent of degree $mp + 2m$, $m = 1, 2, \ldots$, or of degree $kp + 2k - 2$, $k > 1$. Nor has $J$ a primitive constituent. Then $H_{i+1}$ is an imprimitive group with systems of three letters each permuted according to a primitive group of degree $(qp + 2q - 3)/3$ which is not triply transitive, and which therefore does not exist if $q$ is less than 18. The subgroup $F$ of $H_{i+1}$ is of degree $qp + 2q - 6$ and certainly has a transitive constituent of degree $rp + s$, $s > 1$. Hence $J$ is of class less than $2q - 3$.

22. From this point on we confine our attention to those primitive groups $G$ whose $J$-groups (whether transitive or not) contain substitutions of degree not greater than $2q - 3$.


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Let $G$ be of degree $qp + p$. The order of $G_1$, leaving one letter fixed, is not divisible by $p^2$ because its degree is $qp + p - 1$. It follows that the constituent $J$ of the largest subgroup $I$ in which $\{A_1\}$ is invariant is a transitive group of degree $p$. Any invariant subgroup (not identity) of $J$ is also a transitive group of degree $p$. So that if $I$ includes substitutions that leave fixed all the letters of $A_1$, they constitute an invariant subgroup of $I$ and $G$ contains a substitution of order $p$ and degree $p$ contrary to hypothesis. The largest group on the same letters in which $\{A_1\}$ is invariant is a subgroup of order $\mathcal{P}q(p-1)(q!)$ in which there is just one subgroup of order $p^2$, generated by $q$ cycles of order $p$ in $q$ ($q < p$) different sets of letters. Now $J$, being of degree $p$, can not have an invariant subgroup of order $p^2$. Then $J$, whose order is not divisible by $p^2$, has an invariant subgroup of degree and order $p$, and is of class $p - 1$. To verify the statement that the class of $J$ is $p - 1$ and not $p$, it is only necessary to notice that $F$ of degree $qp + p - 1$ has not so many as $q$ constituents and therefore has at least one transitive constituent of degree $rp + s$, $s > 1$. Hence $p - 1$ is less than $2q - 3$.

23. This primitive group $G$ of degree $qp + p$ does not exist unless $p$ is less than $2q - 2$, and then is not a subgroup of another group $G'$ of higher degree. For if we grant that $I'$, the largest subgroup of $G'$ in which $\{A_1\}$ is invariant, has no substitutions on the letters of $J'$ alone, we must unless $G'$ contains a transitive subgroup of degree $p + 1$, $J'$ becomes impossible because the substitutions of order $p$ in it should generate an invariant abelian subgroup of $J'$ (I, Theorem VI, Corollary). But if $G'$ contains a transitive subgroup of degree $p + 1$ the degree of $G'$ does not exceed $2p + 2$.*

24. Let $G$ be of degree $qp + 2p$. If the $J$-group of $G$ is primitive and of degree $2p$, every invariant subgroup of $J$ contains substitutions of order $p$, and $I$ has no substitutions which fix all the letters of $A_1$. Therefore all the substitutions of order $p$ in $J$ generate an invariant abelian subgroup of $J$, an impossibility in a primitive group of degree $2p$.

25. Suppose now that the degree of $H_{r+1}$ is not greater than $qp + q$. Its order therefore is not divisible by $p^2$ and its $J_1$-group is in consequence transitive. If $H_{r+1}$ is imprimitive the degree of $H_{r+s}$, the last imprimitive group before the doubly transitive group $H_{r+s+1}$, is certainly less than $qp + q + q(1/2 + 1/4 + 1/8 + \cdots),$† which in turn is less than $qp + 2q$. If $H_{r+1}$ is primitive and if it permits of a quadruply transitive group $H_{r+4}$, the $J_4$ of $H_{r+4}$ is of class not greater than $q$, so that by no possibility can the degree of a primitive group $G$ which contains this primitive $H_{r+1}$ of degree

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* Marggraf, Dissertation, Über primitive Gruppen mit transitiven Untergruppen geringer Grades, Giessen, 1889; and also, Wissenschaftliche Beilage zum Jahresberichte des Sophien-Gymnasiums zu Berlin, 1895, Programm nr. 65.

† These Transactions, vol. 7 (1906), pp. 499–508.
not greater than \( q \rho + q \) exceed \( q \rho + 2q + 2 \). So too the class of the doubly transitive group \( J_1 \) in \( H_{r+s+1} \) (\( H_{r+1} \) imprimitive) is not greater than \( q \), and \( G \) in that case can not be of degree greater than \( q \rho + 2q + 2 \). If \( p \) is greater than \( q + 1 \) none of these groups is of degree \( q \rho + p \) or \( q \rho + 2p \). Then the order of none of the primitive groups \( G \) in which \( H_{r+1} \) is of degree not greater than \( q \rho + q \) is divisible by \( p^2 \), provided \( q \) is less than \( p - 1 \).

26. We have seen that if \( H_{r+1} \) is imprimitive, the last group \( H_{r+s} \), just before \( H_{r+s+1} \), has systems of \( n \) letters permuted according to a primitive group which is not triply transitive. Then if we assume the truth of Theorem XIII for primitive groups which contain a substitution of order \( p \) on less than \( q \) cycles, the degree of \( H_{r+s} \) is not greater than \((q \rho/n + 4q/n - 6)n = q \rho + 4q - 6n\), and the degree of the doubly transitive group \( H_{r+s+1} \) is not greater than \( q \rho + 4q - 11 \). This appears to fail when \( n = q \), in which case the degree of the group in the systems is at most \( p + 1 \), and hence the degree of \( H_{r+s} \) is at most \( q \rho + q \). The order of \( H_{r+s} \) is not divisible by \( p^2 \). If the degree of one of the following groups \( H_{r+s+t} \) (\( t = 1, 2, \ldots \)) is \( q \rho + 2p \), the corresponding \( J_{s+1} \)-group is multiply transitive and therefore impossible. If that degree is \( q \rho + p \), \( s = t = 1 \), and the group \( J_2 \) of \( H_{r+2} \) is of order \( p(p - 1) \). Since \( J_1 \) is regular, the degree of \( H_{r+1} \) is at most \( q \rho + q \) and therefore \( p = q + 1 \).

In the remainder of this paper \( H_{r+1} \), wherever mentioned, is understood to be a primitive group.

27. This question must now be answered: If the order of no transitive constituent of \( H_{ij} \) is divisible by \( p^2 \), can the order of \( H_{ij} \) be divisible by \( p^2 \)? Look at \( H_{ij} \) as an isomorphism between one of its transitive constituents and one other (in general intransitive) constituent. The isomorphism in question is not a direct product, for substitutions of order \( p \) must be of degree not less than \( q \rho \), while there are substitutions like \( A_1 \) in \( H_{ij} \) that involve letters of both constituents and which are of degree \( q \rho \). Every transitive constituent of \( H_{ij} \) is generated by its complete set of conjugate subgroups of order \( p \). Then \( H_{ij} \) is an \((m, n)\) isomorphism between the two constituents, and \( m \) is not divisible by \( p \). Suppose \( n \) is divisible by \( p \). The common quotient group is of order \( kp \), where \( k \) is prime to \( p \). If in the constituent of order \( nkp \), a transitive constituent has one subgroup of order \( p \) in the subgroup of order \( n \), every subgroup of order \( p \) of the transitive constituent, and hence every substitution of that constituent is in the subgroup of order \( n \). But this means that all those substitutions of \( H_{ij} \) which are of order \( p \) and involve letters of the first transitive constituent of order \( mkp \) displace no letters of a certain other transitive constituent. But \( A_1 \) involves letters of all the transitive constituents. Then in the subgroup of order \( n \) of the second constituent there is no substitution of order \( p \) of any one of the transitive constituents of \( H_{ij} \). Then \( n \) is not divisible by \( p \), nor is the order of \( H_{ij} \) divisible by \( p^2 \).
Alternating constituents of $H_{ij}$

28. Let us now see if $H_{ij}$ can have an alternating constituent.

Suppose that an alternating constituent involves letters of two or more cycles of $A_1$. Then we may transform $A_1$ by the substitution $(a_1 a_2 a_3) \cdots$ of $H_{ij}$ into a substitution $C$ which has $(a_2 a_3 a_4 a_5 \cdots a_p)$ for its first cycle, $(b_1 b_2 b_3 \cdots b_p)$ for its second cycle. If $C$ has two letters new to

$$A_1 = (a_1 a_2 a_3 \cdots a_p) (b_1 b_2 b_3 \cdots b_p) \cdots$$

in any cycle, in some power $C^n, n = 1, 2, \cdots, or (p - 1)/2$, these two new letters are adjacent and in $C^{-n} A_1 C^n$ the second of the two new letters is omitted. Now if $\{A_1, C^{-n} A_1 C^n\}$ is again an alternating group in the constituent on the letters $a_1, a_2, \cdots, a_p$ the process may be repeated until we have $C_1$, similar to $A_1$, with $(a_2 a_3 a_4 \cdots a_p)$ and $(b_1 b_2 b_3 \cdots b_p)$ for its first two cycles. Write $A = (123 \cdots p)$, and $B = (132) A (123)$. Then

$$B^{-n} A B^n = (132) A^{-n} (123) A (132) A^n (123)$$

$$= (132) A^{-n} A (234) (132) A^n (123)$$

$$= A (243) A^{-n} (134) A^n (123)$$

$$= A (243) (1 + n, 3 + n, 4 + n) (123)$$

$$= A (12534) \quad \text{(for } n = 1),$$

$$= A (12456) \quad \text{(for } n = 2),$$

$$= A (12674) \quad \text{(for } n = 3),$$

and

$$= A (124) (1 + n, 3 + n, 4 + n) \quad (3 < n \leq (p - 1)/2.)$$

Now the group $\{A, B^{-n} A B^n\}$ is a primitive group of degree $p$ and of class at most 6, and hence is alternating. It is now evident that $\{A_1, C_1\}$ of degree less than $qp + q$ has two simple constituents of degree $p$ each, one alternating and one cyclic, so that $G$ certainly contains a substitution of order $p$ and of degree less than $qp$. Then no alternating constituent of $H_{ij}$ involves letters of two or more cycles of $A_1$.

29. Suppose an imprimitive constituent of $H_{ij}$ has systems of imprimitivity permuted according to an alternating group such that $A_1$ permutes more than $p$ of these systems. Then we may read the preceding paragraph with the understanding that $a_1, a_2, \cdots, b_1, b_2, \cdots$ are not single letters but are systems of imprimitivity, and draw the conclusion that $A_1$ does not permute more than $p$ of these systems.

30. Any alternating constituent of $H_{ij}$ implies the existence of (1) a subgroup $\{A_1, C\}$, where $C$ is the transform of $A_1$ by the substitution $(a_1 a_2 a_3) (a_4) \cdots$ of $H_{ij}$, and (2) a subgroup $E_1 = \{A_1, C_1\}$ of the latter in which $C_1$,
a transform of $A_1$, has at most one letter new to $A_1$ to a cycle, and generates
with $A_1$ an alternating group in the $p$ letters $a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_p$.

When the prime $p$ is greater than 7 a transitive group simply isomorphic
to an alternating group of degree $p$ is, if of degree greater than $p$, of degree
$(p - 1)p/2$. Corresponding to values of $p$ greater than 7 there is this
one transitive representation of the alternating group and no other of degree
less than $(q - 1)p + q$. For the two largest intransitive subgroups of the
alternating group of degree $p$ are of the orders $(p - 2)!$ and $3(p - 3)!;
the largest imprimitive subgroup is of order $[(p - 1)/2]!2!$; the two largest
alternating subgroups of the alternating group of degree $p$ are of the orders
$(p - 1)!/2$ and $(p - 2)!/2$; the largest non-alternating primitive subgroup
of the alternating $p$-group is of index greater than $p(p - 1)$.

31. Now for the first time we shall use the condition that $p$ is greater than
$2q - 5$.

Since $p$ is greater now than $2q - 5$ this transitive constituent of degree
$(p - 1)p/2$ simply isomorphic to the alternating group of degree $p$ can occur
only if $E_1$ has at most three transitive constituents and is of degree at most
$qp + 2$. Whence it follows that $H_{r+1}$ is of degree not greater than $qp + 2q
+ 2$.

32. If all the transitive constituents of $E_1$ are alternating groups, $E_1$
contains a substitution of any odd prime order $P$ less than $p$ and of degree $qP$.
In particular there is a prime $P$ such that $(q + 1)/2 < P \leq q - 1$;* hence
one of the two numbers, $qP + q^2 - q$ or $2q^2 - P^2$, either of which is less than
$qP + q$, can be used for the limit of the degree of $H_{r+1}$, at least if $H_{r+1}$ is
simply transitive.

If $H_{r+1}$ is doubly transitive it can contain no transitive subgroup of lower
degree generated by substitutions that have fewer than $p$ cycles each. For
if $H_{r+1}$ had such a transitive subgroup, its subgroup that leaves one letter
fixed, and in which $F$ is invariant, would also be an imprimitive group with
no systems of so many as $p$ letters. But $F$ is intransitive.

33. Let there be at least one transitive constituent of order greater than
$p!/2$ in multiple isomorphism to the alternating constituent of degree $p$.
From the manner of the derivation of $C_1$, we know that $C_1$ can be taken
similar to $A_1$ in the two generators of any transitive constituent of $E_1$. In a
primitive constituent of order greater than $p!/2$ the head that corresponds to
the identity of the alternating constituent is of order $(mp + n)k$ ($n \leq m
< q$). If $n = 0$, $E_1$ contains a substitution of order $p$ and of degree less than
$qp$. Then let $n$ be greater than zero. The subgroup of this constituent that
leaves one letter fixed is of order $k(p!/2)$ and has an invariant subgroup of

order \( k \) (which may be unity), with respect to which the quotient group is an alternating group of order \( p!/2 \). The subgroup of \( E_1 \) that leaves this letter fixed has the same alternating constituent as before. Call it \( E' \); if \( E' \) has a primitive constituent of order greater than \( p!/2 \), pass on to \( E'' \); we must at last reach a group without a primitive constituent of order greater than \( p!/2 \) or with such a constituent of degree \( mp \). Hence we may as well assume in the first place that \( E_1 \) has no primitive constituent of order greater than \( p!/2 \).

34. Let there be an imprimitive constituent of order greater than \( p!/2 \). If the invariant subgroup that corresponds to the identity of the alternating constituent is transitive, we have the same condition as when it was assumed primitive. Then the head may be taken to be intransitive. The two similar generators of order \( p \) permute systems of less than \( q \) letters. The largest possible systems are permuted according to a primitive group. Now the transitive sets of the head are systems of imprimitivity. There is no larger head because the quotient group with respect to the first is alternating. The group according to which these systems are permuted is simply isomorphic to the alternating group, that is, is the alternating group of degree \( p \) or its transitive representation on \( p(p-1)/2 \) letters, which last is impossible when \( q \) is less than \( p \) and \( p \) is greater than 7.

Then if there are \( m \) letters in each system of imprimitivity of a certain transitive constituent, the degree of this imprimitive constituent is \( mp \). Let \( P \) be the largest prime less than \( 2q - 6 \) so that an imprimitive constituent of \( E_1 \) has a substitution of order \( P \) which permutes systems, and since \( m \), less than \( q - 2 \), is less than \( P \), it displaces no other letter of that constituent. Hence \( E_1 \) has a substitution of order \( P \) and degree \( qP \). The substitutions of order \( P \) and degree \( qP \) in \( E_1 \) generate an invariant subgroup of \( E_1 \) which is an alternating-\( p \) group or has an alternating group of degree \( p \) as a quotient group. But this subgroup coincides with \( E_2 \) because it contains all \( E_1 \)'s substitutions of order \( p \), two of which generate \( E_1 \). Take, in one of the imprimitive constituents of \( E_1 \), a subgroup that leaves \( p - P \) systems fixed. This subgroup \(( E) \) is an isomorphism between alternating groups of degree \( P \) and imprimitive groups (for it respects the systems of \( E_1 \)) having alternating quotient groups. Its degree is \( qP \). Not all the constituents are alternating groups (we have discussed such a possibility before). Since \( H_{r+1} \) is primitive the substitutions of order \( P \) and degree \( qP \) in \( H_{r+1} \) generate a transitive group. Imprimitive constituents of \( E \) are of the degrees \( M_1 P \), \( M_2 P \), \( \ldots \), \(( M_1 \equiv M_2 \equiv \cdots ) \). If \( M_1 \) is greater than \( P/2 \), \( E \) has at most \( q - M_1 + 1 \) transitive constituents. Therefore \( H_{r+1} \) contains a transitive subgroup of degree not greater than

\[
qP + (q - M_1)q \equiv q^2 + qP/2 - q/2 < 2q^2 - 3q < qP.
\]

If \( M_1 \) is less than \( P/2 \), there are in \( E \) substitutions of order \( P' \) and degree \( qP' \),
where $P'$ is the largest prime less than $P$, and certain ones of which, just as before, generate a group $E'$ with imprimitive constituents of degree $M'_1 P'$, $M'_2 P'$, \ldots ($M'_i \geq M'_2 \geq \cdots$), each of which are alternating-$P'$ groups in their systems of imprimitivity. Not all the transitive constituents are alternating groups of degree $P'$, nor is $M'_i$ greater than $P'/2$. Another subgroup $E''$ generated by substitutions of prime order $P''$ and of degree $qP''$, where $P''$ is the largest prime less than $P'$, and with imprimitive constituents of degree $M''_1 P''$, $M''_2 P''$, \ldots ($M''_i \geq M''_2 \geq \cdots$) can next be set up, and so on. Thus we can find a substitution of order $p'$ and degree $qp'$, $q - 1 \geq p' > (q + 1)/2$, which insures that the degree of $H_{r+1}$ is at most

$$qp' + q^2 - q < 2q^2 - 2q \leq qp + q,$$

or else is at most

$$2q^2 - p'^2 < 2q^2 - (q + 1)^2/4 < qp + q.$$

With the next paragraph in view, it should be noticed that $E_1$ may be free from alternating constituents of degree $p$ without affecting the above conclusion.

35. Any imprimitive constituent of $H_{ij}$ is generated by substitutions of order $p$, one of which must permute systems, so that the number of letters in a system of imprimitivity is at most $q$ and all these generators permute systems. There are at least $p$ systems in such an imprimitive constituent. Suppose that the group in the systems is alternating. Then $H_{ij}$ contains a substitution which in that constituent is a circular permutation of just three systems. Transform $A_1$ by it, and the transform $C$ generates with $A_1$ a group with an imprimitive constituent of degree $mp$, which is alternating in its systems. Continuing step by step we can find a group $E_1 = \{A_1, C_1\}$, in which $C_1$, similar to $A_1$, generates with $A_1$ an imprimitive constituent, alternating in the systems, and has not more than one new letter in a cycle. All the transitive constituents of $E_1$ are imprimitive groups with systems permuted according to alternating groups of degree $p$.

Hence $H_{ij}$, when $p$ is greater than $2q - 5$, can have no transitive constituent which is alternating or permutes systems of imprimitivity according to an alternating group.

The degree of $F$

36. If $H_{r+1}$ is a primitive group, its subgroup $F$ ($= H_{rk} \ldots$), of degree lower by unity, is an isomorphism between groups generated by substitutions of order $p$, which are not alternating, nor, if imprimitive, are the groups in the systems alternating. Then if we assume the truth of our theorem for smaller values of $q$ than the one actually under consideration, we may say that $F$ is an isomorphism between $x_1$ primitive constituents of degree at most $q_1 p/x_1 + 4q/x_1 - 4$ (or by the same symbolism an imprimitive constituent of degree
\[ q_i(p + 4) - 4x_i \text{ with systems of } x_i \text{ letters each permuted according to a primitive group of degree } q_i(p/x_i + 4q_i/x_i - 4), i = 1, 2, \ldots, \text{ and } y \text{ constituents of degree } p, y_1 \text{ of degree } p + 1, y_2 \text{ of degree } p + 2, \text{ including imprimitive groups with systems permuted according to groups of these degrees, making the degree of } F \text{ at most} \]

\[ yp + y_1(p + 1) + y_2(p + 2) + \sum x_i(q_i p/x_i + 4q_i/x_i - 4) = qp + 4q - 4y - 3y_1 - 2y_2 - 4 \sum x_i. \]

Here \( \sum x_i \) is not zero, so that the maximum degree of \( F \) is got by putting \( \sum x_i = 1, y_2 = 1, \text{ and } y = y_1 = 0. \) This maximum degree is then \( qp + 4q - 6 \), so that the maximum degree of \( H_{r+1} \) appears to be \( qp + 4q - 5 \). The next highest degree of \( F \) is got by putting \( \sum x_i = 1, y = 0, y_1 = 1, \text{ and } y_2 = 0, \) whence \( F \) is of degree \( qp + 4q - 7 \); and after this we have the degree \( qp + 4q - 8 \), by putting \( \sum x_i = 2, y = y_1 = y_2 = 0, \) or by putting \( \sum x_i = 1, y = y_1 = 0, y_2 = 2, \) etc. This last limit, \( qp + 4q - 8 \) we may accept, for when \( H_{r+1} \) is a simply transitive primitive group a constituent of \( F \) on more than half the letters of \( F \) is not more than simply transitive (by the theorem quoted in § 21). Then when there are just two transitive constituents in \( F, \) and one is of degree \( p + 1 \) or \( p + 2, \) the other constituent is of degree not greater than \( (q - 1)p + 4(q - 1) - 7, \) making the degree of \( F \) at most \( qp + 4q - 8. \) If the large constituent is imprimitive, we have \( \sum x_i \) greater than unity. If \( H_{r+2}, H_{r+3}, H_{r+4} \) exist, their degrees are not greater than \( qp + 4q - 6, qp + 4q - 5, qp + 4q - 4, \) respectively. A group \( H_{r+3} \) of degree \( qp + 4q - 3 \) that contains the primitive group \( H_{r+1} \) we have seen to be impossible because its group \( J_5 \) is a quintuply transitive group of class less than \( 2q - 2, \) the degree of which therefore can not be so great as \( 4q - 3 \) (§ 21).

37. If \( p \) is greater than \( 2q - 5, \) \( 2p \) is greater than \( 4q - 7, \) so that the degree of \( H_{r+1} \) can not be \( qp + 2p. \) It was noted (§ 24) that no one of the groups \( H_{r+2}, H_{r+3}, \ldots \) is of degree \( qp + 2p, \) and if at last we impose the strong condition, that \( p \) be greater than \( 2q - 3, \) the degree of no one of our primitive groups is \( qp + p \) (§ 23). Then the order of \( G \) is in no case divisible by \( p^2, \) and the proof of Theorem XIII by induction is complete.

38. The degrees of the primitive groups of class 4 and of class 6 do not exceed 8 and 10 respectively so that it is possible to formulate the clean-cut

**Theorem XV.** The degree of a primitive group of class greater than 3 which contains a substitution of prime order \( p \) on \( q \) cycles \( (p > 2q - 3, q > 1) \) does not exceed \( qp + 4q - 4. \)

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**December, 1916**