

Wolf-Michael Wendler

Theory of Finite Fields

and a Comparison with Characteristic 0

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Preface to the German Edition

The theory of finite fields is a solid part of algebra and has numerous applications like coding theory and cryptography to name two of them. It is also part of discrete mathematics, frequently in conjunction with Latin squares and combinatory designs. If we restrict us to the field $\mathbb{F}(2)$, which is the smallest field with elements 0, 1 only, then this is basic for the mathematical investigation of electrical circuits in a broad sense.

But we may carry over linear systems theory over characteristic 0 to finite fields, indicating a somewhat unified representation of both worlds, which on a first glimpse are rather different. The comparison of mathematical relations in characteristic 0 and p gives a guide line, which in turn justifies the subtitle of the book. We use without exception textbooks as well as a variety of contributions of the author to the Proceedings of the Boolean Workshops in the years 2000 to 2014. These are briefly discussed (almost) chronologically in the following, because we cite them in the book, but do not give any further remarks.

The works [0], ..., [4] contain the formulation of linear and mostly time-invariant systems theory and the complete solution of the homogeneous and autonomous equations. While [0], ..., [3] exceptionally are formulated in characteristic p = 2, [4] gives for the first time a treatment for all primes p > 2. In addition, the works [5], [8] are formulated in charp = 2, they contain the Maxwell equation of electrodynamics as well classical mechanics. Thereby, we use a generalization of the well known numerical Boolean functions over $\mathbb{F}(2)$, which obey a differential calculus differing from characteristic 0. The arguments of these functions are assumed to be natural numbers. We mention that there is still almost total agreement with the result of characteristic 0.

[6], [7] treat the introduction to complex numbers of finite fields in characteristic $p \ge 2$ as well as their application to the formulation of quantum mechanics. As a matter of fact, these works partly are incomplete and not reasonable. In later works we introduce the terms number theoretical and algebraic approach in conjunction with quadratic field extensions. Complex numbers in the sense of the number theoretical approach are given in [9].

The investigation of conic sections may be found in [10]. There distinction is to be made between the two cases of odd primes and prime powers, namely $p^k \equiv 1 \mod 4$ (I) and $p^k \equiv 3 \mod 4$ (II), which appear throughout the book. Real functions, like powers, polynomials, and in particular transcendent functions are subject to [11]. Finally, we give in [12] a real analysis,

which nicely goes along with the results we know from characteristic 0. Thereby we use a "set-operation" $\Delta x = 0$, which circumvents the term "limes".

The works [13], [14] contain again complex numbers, but within the algebraic approach as compare to the number theoretical approach as well as the formulation of the fundamental theorem of algebra. On this basis, in [14] Clifford-algebras and quaternions are treated, by which means than Dirac's theory may be carried over to characteristic $p \ge 2$.

In [15] we treat geometric and analytic properties of complex transcendental functions based on the complex exponential function in our Gaussian plane. The structure and meaning of these functions is recovered by investigating the multiplicative group of the field under consideration as wells the subgroups and cosets.

[16] contains classical Lie-groups and -algebras where in advance, manifolds on finite fields are introduced. This also is essential for [19], where the calculus of differential forms is worked out on the basis of the Grassmann-algebra. Moreover, in [17] we derive the matrix exponential function and its inverse which in turn is required for the classical Lie-groups and -algebras. This is accomplished by using the substitution polynomial, which may be carried over from characteristic 0.

By introducing rotation matrices in [18], the structure on ball of arbitrary dimension is explained: We derive the number of points of n-balls and moreover the number of circles and rotationally invariant points contained in them. As an aside we obtain the numbers of points (vector) with real, complex, and vanishing distance from the origin. The later are isotropic vectors, which are characteristic and natural over finite fields.

One aim of this brief discussion consists of showing that the development is all but linear and has its origin in the treatment of linear systems theory. Over the years, it spread out to a variety of disciplines in mathematics. Consequently, we arrive at the following arrangement of the Chapters.

Chapter 1 gives elements of algebra and number theory necessary for what follows and moreover supports those readers which not acquainted with these topics. Chapter 2 we have entitled as Algebraic Analysis, because the contents of definitions and investigation of in our sense transcendental functions is dominated by algebraic methods. First we treat complex functions and then come to the special case of real functions. The set-operation $\Delta x = 0$ mentioned above then yields a differential and integral calculus as we know from characteristic 0. The Sections on sequences and series as well as complex integration [20] are not published yet. In our case the division between real and complex analysis seems some what weaker, because it is more or less a matter of definition whether an even field is interpreted as real or complex.

Chapter 3 contains usual topics of linear algebra, i.e. vectors, matrices, linear systems of equations, eigenvalue problems, Jordan canonical form, and the derivation of the matrix exponential function and its inverse. The Chapter ends with a Section on tensor algebra and - analysis. It is noted that in the textbook literature there exist some examples for using instead of the fields \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C} in conjunction with vector spaces, more generally a \mathbb{K} -vector space is assumed. Usually this ends, if complex numbers for vectors and matrices come into play. Hence, our work gives a certain unification.

Chapter 4 deals with geometry, i.e. conic sections, balls, and *n*-balls and hyperboloids in the frame of Euclidean geometry, where we briefly also treat pseudo-Euclidean geometry. The Section on spinors gives an example for symplectic geometry. Within the Section on differential geometry we treat elementary theories of curves and surfaces. The last two Sections are not published yet [21], [22], too.

Chapter 5 contains classical Lie-groups and -algebras, Clifford algebras, and the Grassmann algebra and its application to differential forms.

Chapter 6 gives an application of finite fields to linear systems theory, where at the beginning of the Chapter we show briefly the corresponding theories in characteristic 0 in the continuum and time-discrete case for better comparison. In characteristic p we rely on the works of [Gössel] and [Wunsch], for which the idea of unification also plays a role. By transforming the system matrix of the state space equations to its Jordan canonical form, we obtain complete solution of the homogeneous and autonomous case. Moreover, we see close analogies to characteristic 0.

Finally, Chapter 7 deals with the formulation of elementary theories of physics, namely mechanics, electrodynamics, and quantum mechanics, all in the classical and special relativistic case.

Now we come to some general aspects of the book. In Chapter 1 to 6 we use throughout a mathematical oriented style, i.e. we give definitions, formulate theorems and prove them, which makes sense in view of the number of assertions as well as the number of terms to be introduced. In Chapter 7 we regret to do so, in physics it is not as pronounced. All Chapters are given uniformly in characteristic p. Discarding the new Sections with respect to the publications we have added numerous definitions, specifications, and supplements. Moreover, Chapters 2, 4, 6 contain a variety of figures, where we choose one out of q! possible orderings of the numbers of finite fields. They are supposed to represent certain results in a more pictorial way, which for a skilled physicist may be allowed. In conjunction to some figures, we also give elementary graph theoretical interpretations.

In addition, Chapter 6 and 7 may be viewed as test cases: We intend to show that prominent and well known theories in characteristic may be *formulated* over finite fields. This does not say that for instance classical mechanics in characteristic p is physically useful. On the other hand, the Maxwell equations yield a reasoning for transversal waves, which per se could be an interesting object of investigation. Possibly, quantum mechanics over finite fields may have relations to quantum computing.

Finally we remark that the average size of a Chapter is about 70 pages. On the contrary, for each topic there exist textbooks with up to several hundred pages. From this sight we can not in a first step map all what we know in characteristic 0 to finite fields. One may also think of the fact that the huge area of differential equations here is almost neglected.

The preconditions for reading this book are little: With the fourth or fifth semester of a bachelor study in physics/mathematics the book may be read, lectures on analysis and linear algebra are elementary. A variety of things, like trigonometric functions are usually a matter of high school knowledge, but indeed one has to get used to our functions. The book is readable also by theoretical physicists or theoretically interested engineers.

At last I like to thank in chronological ordering: Thanks to Prof. Dr. D. Bochmann for encouraging me to publish the work [0] at the 4th International Workshop on Boolean Problems in 2000 and to continue this work further. Thanks to Prof. Dr. W. Borho for the idea, to employ the Jordan canonical form to resolve the structure of the solution of the homogeneous state equations in systems theory. He also suggested to generalize these works such that they are valid for all primes and prime powers. Finally, I thank Prof. Dr. B. Steinbach for his generosity, that I could present my work in a predominantly Boolean community. Also thanks to him for his question at the last workshop in 2012, if it would be possible to comprise all my works in a systematic manner. This is may be judged by the editor and the reader.

Braunschweig, Spring 2014

Wolf-Michael Wendler

Preface to the English Edition

This edition mainly is a translation into English as compared to the German edition, but has gained some pages too. These arise by including in Chapter 5 an additional Section 5 on elements of graph theory. This is felt adequate because in Chapter 7 on systems theory graph theoretical considerations are valuable with respect to the various state graphs given. Also this Section contains in Subsection 5.2 polyhedrons and in particular the planar graphs of the Platonic solids. We come to them in Chapter 6, Section 4. In addition we treat rudimentary in Subsection 5.3 elements of algebraic graph theory, which is used also in $[Wendler_2]$ with respect to the hypercycles of M. Eigen.

Chapter 6 is new and is concerned with the orders of classical matrix Lie-groups. It is inserted such that the old Chapters 6, 7 now become Chapters 7 and 8. As preliminaries in Section 1 some supplements to groups are given, while in Section 2 the results for the number of points of balls and hyperboloids are generalized such that we are dealing now with *m*-dimensional balls and *n*-dimensional hyperboloids. Section 3 gives the order of the general linear group $GL(n; \mathbb{F}(q))$, for which H. Weyl suggested the name "Her All-embracing Majesty" [Grove]. This Section also gives a reordering of the factors for the order, such that the formulae of the orders of the classical Lie-groups may be rewritten and reproved by using our results in Chapter 4, Subsection and Chapter 6, Section 2.

Section 4 of Chapter 6 contains the orders of the orthogonal groups $O(n; \mathbb{F}(q))$ and $SO(n; \mathbb{F}(q))$. In Subsection 4.2 the 3-dimensional case is investigated in particular over $\mathbb{F}(3)$. Thereby, we rediscover the octahedron group and its isomorphic counterpart, i.e. the group of the cube, as well as the tetrahedron subgroup. Platonic solids are tightly connected to quaternions, where the latter are investigated in Section 4, Chapter 5.

Section 5 treats the unitary groups $U(n; \mathbb{F}(q))$ and $SU(n; \mathbb{F}(q))$, where we investigate in Subsection 5.2 again the 3-dimensional case. Unitary matrices of format (3, 3), (4, 4) play an important role in elementary particle physics. Besides we resolve the little obstacle that (3, 3)-matrices must contain at least one zero entry, which is also the case for (3, 3)- rotation matrices over $\mathbb{F}(4)$ [Wendler₂], where we recovered the icosahedron group.

The last Section 6 contains the orders of the Euclidean group of motions E(n), the generalized orthogonal group $O(m, n; \mathbb{F}(4))$, and the symplectic group $Sp(2n; \mathbb{F}(q))$.

Of course as compared to the German edition there are a variety of minor changes, clarifications, and supplements. We wish to mention only one of them, because it gives a somewhat different sight and is found in the course of working out the book "Mathematics and Codons" [Wendler₂]: Despite the fact that we use linear state equations in the scope of systems theory in Chapter 7, their solutions show self-reproducing behaviour as well as period doubling, which both usually are obtained in characteristic 0 by non-linear equations. The reason lays in the fact that over finite fields the term non-linear is considerably different than in char 0. An example for powers of the elements of $\mathbb{F}(25)$ is given in Chapter 2, Subsection 1.1.

Braunschweig, Autumn 2020

Wolf-Michael Wendler

Contents

	e	iii :
		ix
List of	Figures, Tables, and Examples	xvii
Elem	entary Number Theory and Algebra	1
1	Elementary Number Theory	1
1.1	Natural numbers, integers, and divisibility	1
1.2	Gcd, lcm, and the Euclidean algorithm	3
1.3	Prime numbers and factorization into prime numbers	5
1.4	Congruences, residue classes, and arithmetic	6
1.5	Number theoretical functions	9
1.6	Power residues	12
2	Elementary Algebra	15
2.1	Groups	15
2.1.1	Definitions and laws	15
2.1.2	Subgroups, cosets, and the Theorem of Lagrange	17
2.1.3	Morphisms: Isomorphisms and homomorphisms	20
2.1.4	Examples for groups: Cyclic groups and factor groups	24
2.2	Rings	29
2.2.1	Definitions, laws, and zero divisors	29
2.2.2	Subrings	32
2.2.3	Morphisms: Isomorphisms and homomorphisms	32
2.2.4	Examples for rings: Residue class rings and polynomial rings	34
2.3	Finite fields	37
2.3.1	Definitions and laws	37
2.3.2	Field extensions	42
2.3.3	Mean Theorem of finite fields	46
2.3.4	Representations of elements of a finite field	48
2.4	Quadratic field extensions and complex numbers	51

Contents

2.4.1 2.4.2	Complex numbers in the number theoretical approach Complex numbers in the algebraic approach	51 55
Algebr	aic Analysis	59
1	Functions of one independent Variable	60
1.1	Powers and roots	61
1.2	Polynomials and the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra	65
1.3	Rational functions and partial fraction decomposition	69
1.4	Transcendental functions	71
1.4.1	Preliminaries	71
1.4.2	Definitions and formulae of transcendental functions in char $p > 2$	71
1.4.3	Algebraic properties	73
1.4.4	Analytic properties	81
1.4.5	Real transcendental functions for char $p > 2$	84
1.4.6	Inverse transcendental functions for char $p > 2$	91
1.4.7	Transcendental functions for char $p = 2$	94
2	Differential- and Integral Calculus of real Functions	96
2.1	Differential calculus of functions with one real independent variable	96
2.1.1	Continuity	96
2.1.2	Difference- and differential quotients	97
2.1.3	Elementary applications of differential calculus	101
2.1.4	Derivatives of elementary functions	104
2.1.4.1	Algebraic functions	104
2.1.4.2	Transcendental functions	106
2.2	Integral calculus for functions of one real independent variable	107
2.2.1	Definition of integrals	107
2.2.2	Mean value Theorems of integral calculus	109
2.3	Outlook to functions with more than one independent variable	111
3	Sequences and Series	113
3.1	Sequences and series	114
3.2	Polynomials, polynomial ring, and power series	117
4	Complex algebraic Analysis	123
4.1	Elementary definitions and terms	123
4.2	Differentiation of complex functions and the differential equations of	
	Cauchy-Riemann for char $p > 2$	129
4.3	Complex integration for char $p > 2$	134
4.3.1	Complex curve integrals	134
4.3.2	Integral theorem of Cauchy and conclusions	137
4.3.3	Laurent-series and the residue theorem	143
4.4	Complex differentiation and integration for char $p = 2$	148

3	Linea	r Algebra	153
	1	Vector Spaces and Vectors	154
	1.1	Definitions	154
	1.2	Scalar product	156
	1.3	Morphisms	161
	2	Matrices	164
	2.1	Matrix algebra and determinants	164
	2.2	Matrix inversion	167
	2.3	Special matrices	170
	3	Vectors and Matrices: Linear Systems of Equations	173
	4	Eigenvalue Problems	176
	4.1	Definitions	176
	4.2	Properties of the eigenvalues and the characteristic polynomial	177
	4.3	Eigenvectors and eigenspaces	178
	4.4	Symmetric, hermitian, and unitary matrices	181
	4.5	Rotation matrices	184
	4.6	Jordan canonical form	189
	4.6.1	Definition and construction of the Jordan canonical form	189
	4.6.2	Properties of the Jordan canonical form	192
	4.7	Theorem of Cayley-Hamilton and the minimal polynomial	195
	5	Matrix Functions	197
	5.1	The substitution polynomial of a matrix function and its Taylor sum	198
	5.2	Computation of the matrix exponential functions	202
	5.2.1	Formulae	202
	5.2.2	Computation of the matrix exponential function for char $p > 2$	203
	5.2.3	Computation of the matrix logarithm for char $p > 2$	208
	5.2.4	Computation of the matrix exponential function and logarithm for	
		$\operatorname{char} p = 2$	211
	5.3	Properties of the matrix exponential and logarithm function	214
	6	Tensor Algebra and Tensor Analysis	216
	6.1	Tensor algebra	217
	6.1.1	Introduction	217
	6.1.2	Tensors of second rank	219
	6.1.3	Tensors of arbitrary rank and rules	222
	6.2	Tensor analysis	223
	6.2.1	Introduction	223
	6.2.2	Christoffel symbols	226
	6.2.3	Covariant derivative	227

4	Geom	letry	231
	1	Elementary algebraic Geometry and geometric Algebra	232
	1.1	Elementary algebraic geometry	232
	1.2	Elementary geometric algebra	234
	2	Conic Sections: Circles, Ellipses, and Hyperbolas	238
	2.1	Introduction	238
	2.2	Pythagorean equation and its solutions	239
	2.3	Circles and ellipses	242
	2.4	Hyperbolas and parabolas	248
	2.5	Circles and hyperbolas in pseudo-Euclidean geometry	253
	3	<i>N</i> -balls and <i>n</i> -dimensional Hyperboloids	257
	3.1	Number of points of <i>n</i> -balls and <i>n</i> -dimensional hyperboloids	258
	3.2	Graphical representation of balls and hyperbolas for $n = 3$	265
	3.3	Number of circles in <i>n</i> -balls and hyperboloids	271
	3.4	Some aspects of <i>n</i> -balls and hyperboloids	
	3.5	<i>N</i> -balls in char $p = 2$	275
	4	Symplectic Geometry and Spinors	277
	4.1	Spinors and spinor algebra	277
	4.2	Spinors, quaternions, and 4-vectors	281
	4.3	Relation of the groups $SU(2; \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{C}})$ and $SO(3; \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{R}})$	284
	5	Differential Geometry	288
	5.1	Differential geometry of space curves	288
	5.1.1	Definitions and the formulae of Frenet	288
	5.1.2	Complete system of invariants of space curves	295
	5.2	Surfaces and curves	304
	5.3	Inner geometry of surfaces	309
	5.3.1	Geodetic curvature and geodesics	309
	5.3.2	Normal and mean curvatures	311
5	Algeb	ras and elementary Graph Theory	315
	1	Introduction to Manifolds	316
	1.1	Topological definitions and manifolds	316
	1.2	Tangent spaces and vector fields over manifolds	320
	2	Lie-Groups and -Algebras	323
	2.1	Lie-groups	323
	2.1.1	Definitions and the 1-parameter subgroup	323
	2.1.2	Classical matrix Lie-groups	325

2.2	Lie-algebras	329
2.2.1	Definitions and properties of Lie-algebras	329
2.2.2	Algebraic approach to Lie-algebras	331
2.2.3	Classical Lie-algebras	333
	c .	
3	Grassmann-Algebra and its Application to the Calculus of	
	of Differential Forms	335
3.1	Grassmann algebra	335
3.2	Calculus of differential forms	340
3.2.1	Exterior differentiation and the operators of vector analysis	341
3.2.2	Integration of differential forms and integral theorems	344
3.2.3	Application of differential forms to the Maxwell equations	347
4	Clifford-Algebras	348
4.1	Definitions	348
4.2	Special Clifford-algebras	350
4.3	Pauli and Dirac matrices: The algebras $Cl_{0,2}$ and $Cl_{1,3}$ in char 0	352
4.3.1	Pauli-matrices	353
4.3.2	Dirac-matrices	354
4.4	Quaternions, Pauli-, and Dirac-matrices over finite fields	356
4.4.1	Quaternions, radii-, and Dirac-matrices over mile fields Quaternions and Pauli-matrices for char $p > 2$	356
4.4.2	Quaternions and Pauli-matrices for char $p \neq 2$	360
4.4.3	Dirac-matrices for char $p > 2$	362
	<i>F</i>	
5	Elements of Graph Theory	365
5.1	Graphs	365
5.1.1	Definitions	365
5.1.2	Walks and connectedness	367
5.1.3	Operations on graphs	368
5.1.4	Some special graphs	369
5.1.5	Polyhedrons	372
5.2	Elements of algebraic graph theory	374
5.2.1	Adjacency matrix	374
5.2.2	Connectedness and reachability matrix	375
5.2.3	Incidence and cycle matrix	376
5.2.4	Spectrum of the adjacency matrix	380
Classic	cal Matrix Lie-Groups and their Orders	383
1	Some Supplements to Groups	384
1.1	Operations on group	384
1.2	Operations on cosets	386
1.3	Operations of a group on itself	389
1.4	Operations on subsets	391

2	Generalization of results for <i>n</i> -balls and Hyperboloids	392
2.1	Generalization of results for non-vanishing radii	392
2.2	Generalization of results for vanishing radii	401
		40.
3	General linear group $GL(n; \mathbb{F}(q))$	405
4	Orthogonal groups $O(n; \mathbb{F}(q))$ and $SO(n; \mathbb{F}(q))$	406
4.1	Orthogonal groups $O(2; \mathbb{F}(q))$ and $SO(2; \mathbb{F}(q))$	406
4.2	Orthogonal groups $O(3; \mathbb{F}(q))$ and $SO(3; \mathbb{F}(q))$	409
4.2.1	Orders of orthogonal groups $O(3; \mathbb{F}(q))$ and $SO(3; \mathbb{F}(q))$	409
4.2.2	Rotation matrices of $SO(3; \mathbb{F}(3))$	411
4.2.3	Platonic solids in SO(3; $\mathbb{F}(3)$)	415
4.2.4	Reflection matrices of $O(3; \mathbb{F}(3q))$	420
4.2.5	Investigation of the characteristic polynomial of a $(3, 3)$ -matrix	
4.3	over $\mathbb{F}(q)$ Orders of the groups $O(2n; \mathbb{F}(q))$ and $SO(2n+1; \mathbb{F}(q))$	423 425
4.3 4.4	Orders of the groups $O(2n; \mathbb{F}(2^k))$ and $SO(2n+1; \mathbb{F}(2^k))$	423
4.4 4.5	Supplements	429
4.5	Supprements	431
5	Unitary groups $U(2n; \mathbb{F}(q))$ and $SU(2n+1; \mathbb{F}(q))$	432
5.1	Unitary groups U(2; $\mathbb{F}(q)$) and SU(2; $\mathbb{F}(q)$)	432
5.1.1	Unitary groups U(2; $\mathbb{F}(q)$) and SU(2; $\mathbb{F}(q)$) in case (II)	432
5.1.2	Unitary groups U(2; $\mathbb{F}(q)$) and SU(2; $\mathbb{F}(q)$) in cases (I) and (III)	438
5.2	Unitary groups U(3; $\mathbb{F}(q)$) and SU(3; $\mathbb{F}(q)$) in cases (II) and (I)	443
5.3	Investigation of the characteristic polynomial of a $(3, 3)$ -matrix	450
5 1	over $\mathbb{F}(q)$	452
5.4 5.5	Orders of the groups $U(2n; \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{C}}(q))$ and $SU(2n+1; \mathbb{F}_{\mathbb{C}}(q))$ Supplements	454 456
5.5	Supponents	450
6	Further Matrix Lie-groups	456
6.1	Euclidean group of motions E(<i>n</i>) and its order	456
6.2	Order of generalized orthogonal group $O(m, n; \mathbb{F}(q))$	461
6.3	Order of symplectic group $Sp(2n; \mathbb{F}(q))$	464
Applica	ation of finite Fields to linear Systems Theory	467
1	Systems Theory in Characteristic 0	468
1.1	Definitions	468
1.1	Linear continuous-time systems	470
1.2	Linear time-dependent systems	470
1.2.1	Linear time-dependent systems	470
1.2.2	Linear discrete-time systems theory	475
1.3	Linear uisciele-uine systems meory	4/0

xiv

1.3.1	Linear time-varying systems theory	476
1.3.2	Linear time-invariant systems theory	478
2	Systems Theory in Characteristic <i>p</i>	481
2.1	Automata and linear time-invariant systems	481
2.1.1	Automata	481
2.1.2	Linear time-invariant systems	482
2.1.2.1	\mathcal{A} -Transformation	482
2.1.2.2	Linear time-invariant systems	490
2.2	Solution of the homogeneous equation: Structure of the state space	492
2.2.1	Structure of the state space for the eigenvalue $\lambda = 0$	493
2.2.2	Structure of the state space for the eigenvalue $\lambda = 1, \dots, p-1$	498
2.2.3	Structure of the state space for the eigenvalue $\lambda = \alpha \in \mathbb{F}(4)$	500
2.2.4	General case	505
2.2.5	Stability of systems	507
2.3	Solution of the inhomogeneous equations	509
2.3.1	Autonomous systems	509
2.3.2	Non-autonomous systems	518

8 Formulation of elementary Theories of Physics over finite Fields 531

1	Classical and special relativistic mechanics	532
1.1	Classical mechanics in char <i>p</i>	532
1.1.1	Elementary analysis of variations	532
1.1.2	Principles of d'Alembert and Hamilton	536
1.1.3	Equations of Lagrange and Hamilton	537
1.1.3.1	Derivation of the Lagrange equations of the second kind	537
1.1.3.2	Derivation of the equations of Hamilton	539
1.1.3.3	Canonical transformation of Hamilton equations and Poisson brackets	541
1.2	Special relativistic mechanics in char p	543
1.2.1	Minkowski space and Lorentz transformation	543
1.2.2	Relativistic kinematics	545
1.2.3	Equation of motion of a point particle	548
1.3	System theoretical aspects	550
2	Classical and special relativistic Electrodynamics	552
2.1	Classical electrodynamics in char $p > 2$	553
2.1.1	Maxwell equations and conservation laws	553
2.1.2	Decoupling of Maxwell equations and derivation of wave equations	554
2.1.3	Solutions of wave equations	556
2.2	Relativistic electrodynamics in char $p > 2$	558
2.2.1	Definition of the electromagnetic field tensor	558
2.2.2	Covariant formulation of Maxwell equations	560

2.2.3	Energy momentum tensor	561
2.3	Electrodynamics in char $p = 2$	564
3	Classical and special relativistic quantum mechanics	568
3.1	Classical Quantum mechanics	568
3.1.1	Axiomatic foundation of quantum mechanics	568
3.1.2	Representations of Hilbert-vectors and operators	571
3.1.3	Classical and quantum mechanical commutator rules	573
3.1.4	Uncertainty relations of Heisenberg	575
3.1.5	Invariance properties, Schrödinger- and Heisenberg representation	577
3.1.6	Example: Quantum mechanical oscillator	579
3.2	Relativistic quantum mechanics: Dirac theory	582
3.2.1	Dirac equation in char 0	583
3.2.2	Dirac equation in char $p > 2$	586
3.2.2.1	Properties of the Dirac equation	586
3.2.2.2	Solution of Dirac equation for plane electron waves	590
3.2.3	Dirac equation in char $p = 2$	592
Appendix	x A: Tables	595
Referenc	es	603
Index		613