The first part of this work has already appeared as a Preprint of the *Università degli Studi di Milano* (1992, N.12). However since the second part heavily depends on the first one, we decided to reproduce it here for reader's convenience. Using this opportunity we corrected some minor inaccuracies in it.

(2,3)-GENERATION OF $\mathbf{SL(n,q)}$. I. CASES $\mathbf{n = 5, 6, 7}$

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Abstract. In this paper we prove that the groups $\mathrm{SL}(n,q)$, $q = p^m$, are factors of the modular group $\mathrm{PSL}(2,\mathbb{Z})$ when $n = 5, 6, 7$ and $p \neq 2$, $q \neq 9$.

Introduction

There is growing evidence that most finite simple groups (and closely related groups) appear as factor-groups of the classical modular group $\mathrm{PSL}(2,\mathbb{Z})$. It is well known that $\mathrm{PSL}(2,\mathbb{Z})$ is isomorphic to the free product of the groups of orders 2 and 3 and thus a group appears as a factor-group of $\mathrm{PSL}(2,\mathbb{Z})$ if and only if it is generated by an involution and an element of order 3. Such groups are often called (2,3)-*generated.*

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