

# Inner Finite Order Automorphisms of Type $A$

Ching-I Hsin

Department of Multimedia and Game Development, Minghsin University of Science and Technology, Hsinchu County, Taiwan

Email: chingihsin@gmail.com

**Abstract:** Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a complex simple Lie algebra, and let  $\text{aut}(\mathfrak{g})$  be the group of all automorphisms on  $\mathfrak{g}$ . The finite order members of  $\text{aut}(\mathfrak{g})$  have been classified by Kac, up to conjugation by  $\mathfrak{g}$ -automorphisms. In other words, this classification does not distinguish two finite order  $\mathfrak{g}$ -automorphisms  $\sigma, \tau$  if there exists  $u \in \text{aut}(\mathfrak{g})$  such that  $\sigma = u^{-1}\tau u$ . For  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{C})$  and  $\sigma, \tau$  inner, we provide a finer classification up to conjugation by inner  $\mathfrak{g}$ -automorphisms, namely we do not distinguish  $\sigma, \tau$  only if  $u$  is an inner automorphism.

**Keywords:** complex simple Lie algebras, inner automorphisms.

## 1 Introduction

Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a complex simple Lie algebra, and let  $\text{aut}(\mathfrak{g})$  denote the  $\mathfrak{g}$ -automorphisms. The finite order  $\mathfrak{g}$ -automorphisms play important roles in algebra, such as the construction of Kac-Moody algebras. For this reason, they are well-studied and classified by Kac [4], which prompts generalization in the super setting by Chuah [1]. Kac's classification is up to conjugation by  $\mathfrak{g}$ -automorphism, namely it does not distinguish  $\sigma, \tau \in \text{aut}(\mathfrak{g})$  if there exists  $u \in \text{aut}(\mathfrak{g})$  such that  $\sigma = u^{-1}\tau u$ . Here  $\text{aut}(\mathfrak{g})$  is a Lie group, and we let  $\text{int}(\mathfrak{g})$  denote the inner  $\mathfrak{g}$ -automorphisms, namely the  $\mathfrak{g}$ -automorphisms in the identity component of  $\text{aut}(\mathfrak{g})$ . One may consider the classification under a stricter notion of conjugation, by requiring  $u \in \text{int}(\mathfrak{g})$  in above. Obviously this concerns only  $\mathfrak{g}$  of types  $A, D$  and  $E_6$ , since they are the only cases where  $\text{int}(\mathfrak{g}) \neq \text{aut}(\mathfrak{g})$  (this is equivalent to the existence of nontrivial symmetry on the Dynkin diagram of  $\mathfrak{g}$ ). In this article, we classify the finite order inner automorphisms on  $\mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{C}) = A_{n-1}$  up to conjugation by inner automorphisms.

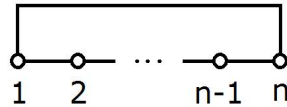


Figure 1: Extended Dynkin diagram of  $\mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{C})$ .

Let  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{C})$ . Its extended Dynkin diagram is as given in Figure 1. Let  $D$  denote the diagram in Figure 1, with vertices labeled  $1, \dots, n$  as indicated. A Kac diagram  $c$  is an assignment of nonnegative integers  $c_j$  to the vertices  $j$  of  $D$ , such that  $c_1, \dots, c_n$  have no nontrivial common factor. Let  $\mathcal{K}$  denote all the Kac diagrams.

Let  $c$  be a Kac diagram. Let  $m = \sum_1^n c_j$ , and let  $\omega = \exp(2\pi i)/m \in \mathbb{C}$ . The vertices  $\alpha \in D$  represent the union of a simple system and its lowest roots.

**Theorem 1.1.** (Kac) [2, Ch.X-5,Thm.5.15][4, Ch.8] *A Kac diagram  $c$  represents a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -automorphism  $\sigma$  of order  $m$ , where  $\sigma$  acts as multiplication by  $\omega^{c_\alpha}$  on the root space represented by  $\alpha \in D$ . Up to conjugation by  $\text{aut}(\mathfrak{g})$ , all finite order inner  $\mathfrak{g}$ -automorphisms are obtained in this way.*

The general Kac's theorem deals with all finite order automorphisms on complex simple Lie algebras. Here we focus only on finite order inner automorphisms on  $\mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{C})$ .

In the above theorem, "up to conjugation" means that it does not distinguish  $\sigma, \tau$  if they are related by  $\sigma = u^{-1}\tau u$  for some  $u \in \text{aut}(\mathfrak{g})$ . It also does not distinguish two Kac diagrams  $c, d \in \mathcal{K}$  if they are related by a symmetry on  $D$ . In this article, we study a stricter condition, namely we do not distinguish  $\tau$  and

$u^{-1}\tau u$  only if  $u$  is an inner automorphism. We shall see in the theorem below that a stricter condition is imposed on  $\mathcal{K}$ , namely we do not distinguish  $c, d \in \mathcal{K}$  only if they are related by the cyclic group  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  in the symmetry group of  $D$ .

The symmetry group of  $D$  is the dihedral group  $\mathbb{D}_n = \mathbb{Z}_n \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_2$ , where the normal subgroup  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  acts as rotations and  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  contains a nontrivial reflection. It induces a  $\mathbb{D}_n$ -action on  $\mathcal{K}$  by

$$(gc)_j = c_{g(j)} ; g \in \mathbb{D}_n, c \in \mathcal{K}.$$

**Theorem 1.2.** *Two inner finite order  $\mathfrak{g}$ -automorphisms are conjugate by inner  $\mathfrak{g}$ -automorphisms if and only if their Kac diagrams are in the same  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ -orbit.*

Theorem 1.2 is the main result of this article. In Section 2, we prove Theorem 1.2. In Section 3, we provide some examples to illustrate the ideas.

## 2 Kac Diagrams of $\mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{C})$

Recall that  $D$  is the extended Dynkin diagram of  $\mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{C})$  with vertices labeled as  $1, \dots, n$  as in Figure 1. Let  $\mathcal{K}$  be the Kac diagrams on  $D$ . In Kac's Theorem 1.1, he does not distinguish two Kac diagrams which are related by a symmetry on  $D$ . However we consider two such diagrams as distinct members of  $\mathcal{K}$ . So for example Figure 3(b) and Figure 3(c) are distinct members of  $\mathcal{K}$ . The dihedral group  $\mathbb{D}_n = \mathbb{Z}_n \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_2$  acts on  $D$ , and hence on  $\mathcal{K}$ . Given  $c \in \mathcal{K}$ , we let  $\mathbb{Z}_n(c) \subset \mathcal{K}$  denote its  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ -orbit.

The group of  $\mathfrak{g}$ -automorphisms has a semi-direct product

$$\text{aut}(\mathfrak{g}) = \text{int}(\mathfrak{g}) \rtimes \text{aut}(D_0), \quad (1)$$

where  $\text{int}(\mathfrak{g})$  consists of the inner automorphisms and is a normal subgroup, and  $\text{aut}(D_0)$  is the automorphism group of the Dynkin diagram  $D_0$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . We let  $D_0$  denote the Dynkin diagram, because the notation  $D$  has been used for the extended Dynkin diagram. See for instance [5, Thm.7.8]. Fix a Cartan subalgebra  $\mathfrak{h}$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$ , and let  $\Delta \subset \mathfrak{h}^*$  be its root system. We have the root space decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{h} + \sum_{\alpha \in \Delta} \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha}$ . Each member  $\sigma$  of  $\text{aut}(\mathfrak{g})$  which stabilizes  $\mathfrak{h}$  induces an automorphism  $\theta$  on  $\Delta$ , given by  $\sigma \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha} = \mathfrak{g}_{\theta\alpha}$ . So by considering  $\mathfrak{g}$ -automorphisms which stabilize  $\mathfrak{h}$ , (1) leads to

$$\text{aut}(\Delta) = W \rtimes \text{aut}(D_0),$$

where  $W$  is the Weyl group of  $\Delta$ .

Given  $\alpha \in \Delta$ , it defines a reflection  $R_{\alpha} : \Delta \rightarrow \Delta$ , where  $R_{\alpha}$  maps  $\alpha$  to  $-\alpha$ , and  $R_{\alpha}(\beta) = \beta$  if  $\beta$  is perpendicular to  $\alpha$ . Then  $W$  is generated by the reflections  $\{R_{\alpha} ; \alpha \in \Delta\}$  [3, III-9].

Let  $c \in \mathcal{K}$ , and let  $m = \sum_D c_j$ . As discussed in Theorem 1.1, it represents some  $\mathfrak{g}$ -automorphisms  $\sigma$  of order  $m$ . This means that there exists  $\Pi \subset \Delta$ , which is a simple system together with its lowest root, such that the vertices of  $D$  represent  $\Pi$ , and  $\sigma$  has eigenvalue  $\omega^{c_j}$  on the root space of  $c_j$ . Here  $\omega = \exp(2\pi i)/m$ .

Suppose  $c, d \in \mathcal{K}$  both represent  $\sigma$ , but with respect to  $\Pi, \Pi'$ . Then we have  $\Pi' = g\Pi$  for some  $g \in \text{aut}(\Delta)$ , because  $\text{aut}(\Delta)$  acts transitively on the family of simple systems. If  $g$  is induced by an inner automorphism, then  $g \in W$ . And since the reflections generate  $W$ ,  $g$  is the composite of a sequence of reflections  $R_1, \dots, R_n$ . In this case we write  $c \sim d$ . We shall investigate the necessary and sufficient conditions for  $c \sim d$ .

**Proposition 2.1.** *If  $\mathbb{Z}_n(c) = \mathbb{Z}_n(d)$ , then  $c \sim d$ .*

*Proof:* Let  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  be the roots which are represented by the vertices of  $D$ . Let  $R_j$  be the root reflection which maps  $\alpha_j$  to  $-\alpha_j$  and fixes the roots perpendicular to  $\alpha_j$ . We claim that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(a)} \quad & R_2 \cdot \dots \cdot R_n(\alpha_j) = \alpha_{j+1} \text{ for } j = 1, \dots, n-1; \\ \text{(b)} \quad & R_2 \cdot \dots \cdot R_n(\alpha_n) = \alpha_1. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

For  $j = 2, \dots, n - 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} R_2 \cdot \dots \cdot R_n(\alpha_j) &= R_2 \cdot \dots \cdot R_{j+1}(\alpha_j) \\ &= R_2 \cdot \dots \cdot R_j(\alpha_j + \alpha_{j+1}) \\ &= R_2 \cdot \dots \cdot R_{j-1}((-\alpha_j) + (\alpha_{j+1} + \alpha_j)) \\ &= R_2 \cdot \dots \cdot R_{j-1}(\alpha_{j+1}) = \alpha_{j+1}. \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

Also,

$$\begin{aligned} R_2 \cdot \dots \cdot R_n(\alpha_1) &= R_2 \cdot \dots \cdot R_{n-1}(\alpha_1 + \alpha_n) \\ &= R_2 \cdot \dots \cdot R_{n-2}(\alpha_1 + \alpha_{n-1} + \alpha_n) \\ &= R_2 \cdot \dots \cdot R_{n-3}(\alpha_1 + (\alpha_{n-2} + \alpha_{n-1}) + \alpha_n) \\ &= \dots = R_2(\alpha_1 + \alpha_3 + \dots + \alpha_n) \\ &= (\alpha_2 + \alpha_1) + (\alpha_2 + \alpha_3) + \alpha_4 + \dots + \alpha_n. \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

Since  $\sum_1^n \alpha_j = 0$ , the last line of (4) becomes  $\alpha_2$ . Thus (3) and (4) lead to (2)(a). We can also prove (2)(b) directly, or simply note that (2)(a) implies (2)(b). This proves (2) as claimed.

Let  $\theta \in \mathbb{Z}_n$  be the 1-step counter-clockwise rotation on  $D$ . Namely it rotates the vertices by

$$\theta : 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow n \rightarrow 1. \tag{5}$$

By (2),  $\theta = R_2 \cdot \dots \cdot R_n$ . Hence  $\theta c \sim c$ . Since  $\theta$  generates  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ , the proposition follows.  $\square$

We shall illustrate the arguments of Proposition 2.1 by an example later (see Figure 2). Fix a positive integer  $m > 1$ . Let

$$\omega = \exp(2\pi i/m).$$

We shall work on  $\mathfrak{g}$ -automorphisms of order  $m$ , and they are represented by Kac diagrams  $c$  such that  $\sum_1^n c_j = m$ . The diagram  $c$  represents the automorphism which acts as multiplication by  $\omega^{c_j}$  on the root space of vertex  $j$ . Define

$$\phi : \mathcal{K} \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}; \quad \phi(c) = \sum_{j=1}^n \omega^{c_n + \dots + c_j}.$$

Thus  $\phi(c) = \omega^{c_n + \dots + c_1} + \dots + \omega^{c_n} = 1 + \omega^{c_n + \dots + c_2} + \dots + \omega^{c_n}$ . Let

$$S(c) = \{\omega^{c_1 + \dots + c_j} \phi(c); j = 1, \dots, n\} \subset \mathbb{C}.$$

The next proposition shows that  $S(c)$  is an invariance of rotations and equivalence relation on  $\mathcal{K}$ .

**Proposition 2.2.**

- (a)  $S(c) = \phi(\mathbb{Z}_n(c))$ .
- (b) If  $d \in \mathbb{Z}_n(c)$ , then  $S(c) = S(d)$ .
- (c) If  $c \sim d$ , then  $S(c) = S(d)$ .

*Proof:* Let  $\theta \in \mathbb{Z}_n$  be the rotation (5), and let  $d = \theta c$ . Then  $d_1 = c_n$  and  $d_r = c_{r-1}$  for all  $r > 1$ . Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(\theta c) &= 1 + \omega^{c_{n-1} + \dots + c_1} + \omega^{c_{n-1} + \dots + c_2} + \dots + \omega^{c_{n-1}} \\ &= \omega^{-c_n} (\omega^{c_n} + 1 + \omega^{c_n + \dots + c_2} + \dots + \omega^{c_n + c_{n-1}}) \\ &= \omega^{-c_n} \phi(c). \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

Then  $\phi(\theta^2 c) = \omega^{-(\theta c)_n} \phi(\theta c) = \omega^{-c_{n-1} - c_n} \phi(c)$ . Continue this process and get

$$\phi(\theta^j c) = \omega^{-c_{n-j+1} - \dots - c_n} \phi(c) = \omega^{c_1 + \dots + c_{n-j}} \phi(c).$$

Hence  $S(c) = \{\omega^{c_1 + \dots + c_j}\}_j \cdot \phi(c) = \{\phi(\theta^j c)\}_{n-j} = \phi(\mathbb{Z}_n(c))$ , and part (a) follows.

By (6),

$$S(d) = \{\omega^{d_1 + \dots + d_r}\}_{r=1}^n \cdot \phi(d) = (\{\omega^{c_n}\} \cup \{\omega^{c_n + c_1 + \dots + c_r}\}_{r=1}^{n-1}) \cdot \omega^{-c_n} \phi(c) = S(c).$$

Since  $\theta$  generates  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ , this proves part (b) of the proposition.

Next we prove part (c). If  $c$  is a Kac diagram with respect to  $\Pi \subset \Delta$  (where  $\Pi$  is a simple system and its lowest root), we let  $F_j c$  be the resulting Kac diagram with respect to  $R_j \Pi$ . We claim that

$$S(F_j c) = S(c) ; j = 1, \dots, n. \quad (7)$$

Let  $j = 2, \dots, n-1$  and let  $d = F_j c$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} d_r &= c_r \text{ for all } r = 1, \dots, j-2, j+2, \dots, n; \\ d_{j\pm 1} &= c_{j\pm 1} + c_j, \quad d_j = -c_j. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

By (8),  $d_{j-1} + d_j + d_{j+1} = c_{j-1} + c_j + c_{j+1}$ . Hence

$$d_r + \dots + d_n = c_r + \dots + c_n \text{ for all } r \leq j-1 \text{ or } r > j+1. \quad (9)$$

Also,

$$\omega^{d_j + d_{j\pm 1}} + \omega^{d_{j\pm 1}} = \omega^{-c_j + (c_{j\pm 1} + c_j)} + \omega^{c_{j\pm 1} + c_j} = \omega^{c_{j\pm 1}} + \omega^{c_{j\pm 1} + c_j}. \quad (10)$$

By (9) and (10), we have  $\{\omega^{d_1 + \dots + d_r}\}_{r=1}^n = \{\omega^{c_1 + \dots + c_r}\}_{r=1}^n$  as well as

$$\phi(d) = \sum_1^n \omega^{d_r + \dots + d_n} = \sum_1^n \omega^{c_r + \dots + c_n} = \phi(c).$$

This implies that

$$S(d) = \{\omega^{d_1 + \dots + d_r}\}_{r=1}^n \cdot \phi(d) = \{\omega^{c_1 + \dots + c_r}\}_{r=1}^n \cdot \phi(c) = S(c).$$

This proves (7) for  $j = 2, \dots, n-1$ .

One can also check directly (7) for  $j = 1$  and  $j = n$ . Alternatively, for  $j = 1, n$ , there exists a rotation  $g$  and  $k \in \{2, \dots, n-1\}$  such that  $F_j c = g^{-1} F_k g c$ . Then by part (b) of this proposition,  $S(F_j c) = S(g^{-1} F_k g c) = S(c)$ . This completes the proof of (7), which leads to part (c) of this proposition.  $\square$

An element of  $\mathbb{D}_n \setminus \mathbb{Z}_n$  of order 2 is called a reflection. We say that a Kac diagram  $c$  is *symmetric* if there exists a reflection  $r$  such that  $rc = c$ . Equivalently for any  $z \in \mathbb{D}_n \setminus \mathbb{Z}_n$ , there exists  $g \in \mathbb{Z}_n$  such that  $zc = gc$ . Let  $\overline{S(c)}$  denote the complex conjugation on the elements of  $S(c) \subset \mathbb{C}$ .

**Proposition 2.3.** *If  $S(c) = \overline{S(c)}$ , then  $c$  is symmetric.*

*Proof:* Use the polar coordinates to write  $re^{it} \in \mathbb{C}^\times$ , where  $r > 0$  and  $t \in [0, 2\pi)$ . Define a partial order on  $\mathbb{C}^\times$  by  $re^{it} \succeq r'e^{it'}$  if  $t \geq t'$ .

Suppose that  $S(c) = \overline{S(c)}$ . By Proposition 2.2(b), if  $c' \in \mathbb{Z}_n(c)$ , then  $S(c') = S(c)$ . Furthermore  $c$  is symmetric if and only if  $c'$  is symmetric. Therefore, replacing  $c$  by another member in  $\mathbb{Z}_n(c)$  if necessary, we may assume that  $\phi(c) \preceq \phi(c')$  for all  $c' \in \mathbb{Z}_n(c)$ . The elements of  $S(c)$  are

$$\phi(c) \preceq \omega^{c_1} \phi(c) \preceq \omega^{c_1 + c_2} \phi(c) \preceq \dots \preceq \omega^{c_1 + \dots + c_{n-1}} \phi(c). \quad (11)$$

*Case 1:*  $\phi(c) \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $\omega^{c_1 + \dots + c_n} = 1$ , by (11), the elements of  $\overline{S(c)}$  are

$$\phi(c) \preceq \omega^{c_n} \phi(c) \preceq \omega^{c_n + c_{n-1}} \phi(c) \preceq \dots \preceq \omega^{c_n + \dots + c_2} \phi(c). \quad (12)$$

Since  $S(c) = \overline{S(c)}$ , by (11) and (12), we have  $c_1 = c_n$ ,  $c_2 = c_{n-1}$  and more generally  $c_j = c_{n-j+1}$ . Then  $c$  is symmetric by the reflection  $r(j) = n - j + 1$ . *Case 2:*  $\phi(c) \notin \mathbb{R}$ .

Since  $\omega^{c_1 + \dots + c_n} = 1$ , by (11), the elements of  $\overline{S(c)}$  are

$$\omega^{c_n} \overline{\phi(c)} \preceq \omega^{c_n + c_{n-1}} \overline{\phi(c)} \preceq \omega^{c_n + \dots + c_2} \overline{\phi(c)} \preceq \overline{\phi(c)}. \quad (13)$$

Since  $S(c) = \overline{S(c)}$ , by (11) and (13), we have  $\phi(c) = \omega^{c_n} \overline{\phi(c)}$ ,  $\omega^{c_1} \phi(c) = \omega^{c_n + c_{n-1}} \overline{\phi(c)}$  and more generally  $\omega^{c_1 + \dots + c_j} \phi(c) = \omega^{c_n + \dots + c_{n-j}} \overline{\phi(c)}$ . It implies that  $c_1 = c_{n-1}$ ,  $c_2 = c_{n-2}$  and so on. Then  $c$  is symmetric by the reflection  $r(j) = n - j$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2.4.** For any  $z \in \mathbb{D}_n \setminus \mathbb{Z}_n$ , we have  $S(zc) = \overline{S(c)}$ .

*Proof:* A specific reflection  $r$  is given by  $1 \leftrightarrow n$ ,  $2 \leftrightarrow n - 1$ , and more generally

$$r(j) = n - j + 1. \tag{14}$$

For such  $r$  and any  $c \in \mathcal{K}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(rc) &= \omega^{c_1+\dots+c_n} + \omega^{c_1+\dots+c_{n-1}} + \dots + \omega^{c_1} \\ &= 1 + \omega^{-c_n} + \omega^{-c_n-c_{n-1}} + \dots + \omega^{-c_n-\dots-c_2} \\ &= 1 + \overline{\omega^{c_n}} + \overline{\omega^{c_n+c_{n-1}}} + \dots + \overline{\omega^{c_n+\dots+c_2}} \\ &= \overline{\phi(c)}. \end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

Recall that  $S(c) = \{\omega^{c_1+\dots+c_j} \phi(c)\}_{j=1}^n$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{S(c)} &= \{\omega^{c_{j+1}+\dots+c_n} \overline{\phi(c)}\}_{j=1}^n \quad \text{as } \omega^{c_1+\dots+c_n} = 1 \\ &= \{\omega^{(rc)_1+\dots+(rc)_j} \phi(rc)\}_{j=1}^n \quad \text{by (14) and (15)} \\ &= S(rc). \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

An arbitrary element of  $\mathbb{D}_n \setminus \mathbb{Z}_n$  is of the form  $rg$ , where  $g \in \mathbb{Z}_n$ . By Proposition 2.2(b) and (16),  $S(rgc) = \overline{S(gc)} = S(c)$ .  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 1.2:*

Let  $c, d \in \mathcal{K}$  be related by the diagram symmetry  $\mathbb{D}_n$ . By Proposition 2.1, if there exists a rotation  $g \in \mathbb{Z}_n$  such that  $gc = d$ , then  $c \sim d$ .

Conversely, suppose that  $rc = d$  for some  $r \in \mathbb{D}_n \setminus \mathbb{Z}_n$ , but  $c$  and  $d$  are not related by the rotation group  $\mathbb{Z}_n$ . Then  $c$  is not symmetric, so by Proposition 2.3,  $S(c) \neq \overline{S(c)}$ . By Proposition 2.4,  $S(c) \neq S(d)$ . By Proposition 2.2,  $c \not\sim d$ . This proves Theorem 1.2.  $\square$

### 3 Examples

We provide an example to illustrate the concepts discussed earlier. Let  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}(3, \mathbb{C})$ . Its extended Dynkin diagram  $D$  is given by Figure 2(a), namely a triangle. We denote its vertices by  $x, y, z$ , and they represent a simple system with lowest root as indicated in Figure 2(a).

Consider the Kac diagram  $c$  in Figure 2(b), where  $c_x = 1$ ,  $c_y = 2$  and  $c_z = 0$ . It represents a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -automorphism  $\sigma$  of order  $c_x + c_y + c_z = 3$ . Let  $\omega = \exp(2\pi i/3)$ . Then all the root spaces are eigenspaces of  $\sigma$ , with eigenvalues  $1, \omega$  or  $\omega^2$ . We indicate these eigenvalues with the roots in Figure 2(b).

Consider the reflection  $R_x$ , which maps  $x$  to  $-x$  and fixes the hyperplane  $x^\perp$ . The hyperplane is just the dotted line in Figure 2(b), so  $R_x$  is the reflection about the dotted line. Figure 2(c) show the resulting eigenvalues after performing  $R_x$ . The corresponding Kac diagram is given in Figure 2(c). By comparing the Kac diagrams of Figure 2(b) and Figure 2(c), we see that they are related by a rotation on the triangle. This observation verifies Proposition 2.1, namely the Kac diagrams in Figure 2(b) and Figure 2(c) are related by rotation (i.e. they are in the same  $\mathbb{Z}_3$ -orbit), and indeed they are equivalent because they are related by performing  $R_x$  to the root system.

Next we classify all inner automorphisms on  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}(3, \mathbb{C})$  of order 3, up to conjugation by inner automorphisms. All Kac diagrams are assignments of nonnegative integers  $\{c_1, c_2, c_3\}$  without nontrivial common factor such that  $c_1 + c_2 + c_3 = 3$ . So the only possibilities are  $\{1, 1, 1\}$  and  $\{0, 1, 2\}$ .

Figure 3 provides all possibilities, where two diagrams are not distinguished if they are related by a rotation  $\mathbb{Z}_3$ . So there are three such  $\mathfrak{g}$ -automorphisms. Note that Figure 3(b) and Figure 3(c) are related by a diagram reflection but not rotation, so they represent order-3 automorphisms  $\sigma, \tau \in \text{aut}(\mathfrak{g})$  such that  $\sigma = u^{-1}\tau u$  for some  $u \in \text{aut}(\mathfrak{g})$ , but  $u \notin \text{int}(\mathfrak{g})$ . So  $\sigma, \tau$  are not distinguished by Kac's Theorem 1.1, but are distinguished by our stricter Theorem 1.2. Diagram rotations are not needed, as discussed in Figure 2 above. So Figure 3 exhausts all possibilities up to conjugation by inner automorphisms.

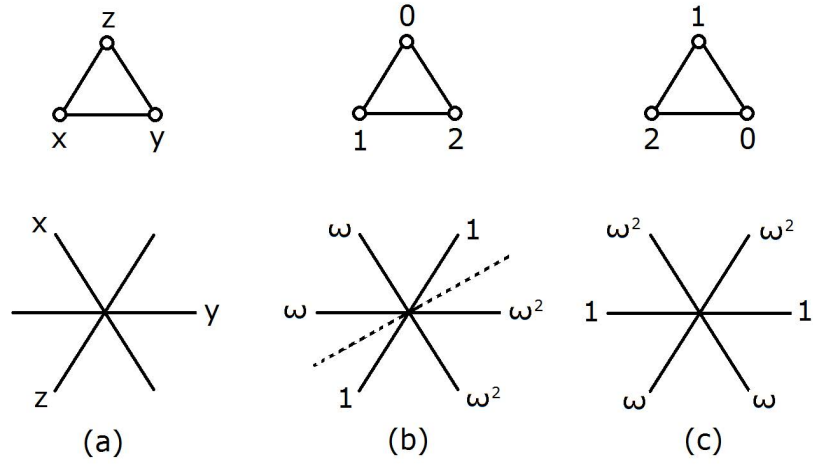


Figure 2: Reflection and Kac diagrams.

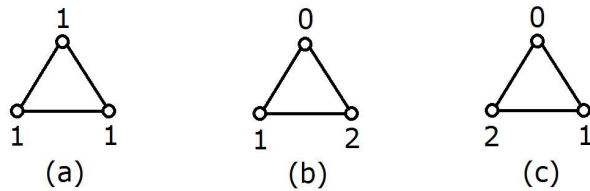


Figure 3: Automorphisms of order 3 on  $\mathfrak{sl}(3, \mathbb{C})$ .

## References

- [1] Chuah, M. K., 2012, Finite order automorphisms on contragredient Lie superalgebras, *Journal of Algebra*, 351, 138-159.
- [2] Helgason, S., 2001, *Differential Geometry, Lie Groups, and Symmetric Spaces*, Graduate Studies in Mathematics 34, American Mathematical Society, Providence.
- [3] Humphreys, J. E., 1972, *Introduction to Lie Algebras and Representation Theory*, Springer-Verlag, New York.
- [4] Kac, V. G., 1990, *Infinite Dimensional Lie Algebras, 3rd. ed.*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- [5] Knapp, A. W., 2002, *Lie groups beyond an introduction, 2nd. ed.*, Progress in Mathematics 140, Birkhäuser, Boston.