

*Pacific  
Journal of  
Mathematics*

FIXED POINT SPACES IN ACTIONS OF EXCEPTIONAL  
ALGEBRAIC GROUPS

ROSS LAWThER, MARTIN W. LIEBECK, AND GARY M. SEITZ

## FIXED POINT SPACES IN ACTIONS OF EXCEPTIONAL ALGEBRAIC GROUPS

ROSS LAWThER, MARTIN W. LIEBECK, AND GARY M. SEITZ

**Let  $G$  be a simple algebraic group of exceptional type acting transitively on an algebraic variety. We provide estimates for the dimensions of the subvarieties of fixed points of elements of  $G$ . These translate into estimates for the dimensions of intersections of conjugacy classes of  $G$  with closed subgroups.**

### Introduction.

In this paper we consider actions of simple algebraic groups of exceptional Lie type over algebraically closed fields. Let  $G$  be such a group, so that  $G$  is of type  $G_2, F_4, E_6, E_7$  or  $E_8$  over an algebraically closed field  $K$  of arbitrary characteristic. Suppose that  $M$  is a closed subgroup of  $G$ , and denote by  $\Omega$  the coset variety  $G/M$  on which  $G$  acts transitively. For  $x \in G$ , the fixed point space

$$\text{fix}_\Omega(x) = \{\omega \in \Omega : \omega x = \omega\}$$

is a subvariety of  $\Omega$ , and we are interested in investigating its codimension, which we denote by

$$f(x, \Omega) = \dim \Omega - \dim \text{fix}_\Omega(x).$$

Theorems 1 and 2 below provide lower bounds for  $f(x, \Omega)$  for all  $x, \Omega$  as above.

There are a number of motivations for studying this problem. The value of  $f(x, \Omega)$  gives some measure of how much of the space  $\Omega$  is fixed by  $x$ , and of course if we know  $\dim \Omega$  then lower bounds for  $f(x, \Omega)$  give corresponding upper bounds for  $\dim \text{fix}_\Omega(x)$ . Moreover, in Proposition 1.14 below we prove that if  $x \in M$  and  $x^G$  denotes the conjugacy class of  $x$  in  $G$ , then

$$f(x, G/M) = \dim x^G - \dim(x^G \cap M)$$

(note that  $x^G \cap M$  is open in  $\overline{x^G} \cap M$ , hence is a variety and has a dimension — see [16]). Hence our bounds for  $f(x, G/M)$  translate into bounds for the dimensions of intersections of conjugacy classes of exceptional algebraic groups with closed subgroups.

Originally, though, our motivation came from a problem about finite groups. If  $X$  is a finite group acting on a set  $\Delta$ , then for  $x \in X$  the quantity analogous to  $-f(x, \Omega)$  is the *fixed point ratio*

$$\text{fpr}(x, \Delta) = \frac{\text{fix}_\Delta(x)}{|\Delta|},$$

the proportion of points fixed by  $x$ . Fixed point ratios of finite groups of Lie type, particularly for classical groups, have been studied in a number of papers, and have been applied to a variety of problems (see for example [12, 15, 20]). A sequel [19] to this paper contains bounds for fixed point ratios of elements of finite exceptional groups of Lie type in their transitive actions. A crucial part of the proof in [19] is to use the dimension estimates of Theorem 2 below, passing from algebraic to finite groups via a Frobenius morphism.

Using Proposition 1.14 (already mentioned), it is clear that if  $M \leq N \leq G$ , then  $f(x, G/M) \geq f(x, G/N)$ . Thus for the purpose of obtaining lower bounds for  $f(x, G/M)$  it suffices to consider the case where  $M$  is maximal in  $G$ . Observe also that if  $x = su$ , where  $s$  is the semisimple part of  $x$ , and  $u$  the unipotent part, then for  $g \in G$  we have  $x \in M^g$  if and only if both  $s \in M^g$  and  $u \in M^g$ , and hence  $\text{fix}_{G/M}(x) = \text{fix}_{G/M}(s) \cap \text{fix}_{G/M}(u)$ . Hence it also suffices to consider only cases where  $x$  is a semisimple or unipotent element of  $G$ .

Theorem 2 contains our strongest result on lower bounds for  $f(x, \Omega)$ , but as its statement is rather involved and requires reference to some tables at the end of the paper, we first state the following somewhat simplified version.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $G$  be a simple adjoint exceptional algebraic group over an algebraically closed field, let  $P$  be a maximal parabolic subgroup of  $G$ , and  $M$  a maximal closed subgroup of  $G$  which is not parabolic. If  $u$  is a nonidentity unipotent element of  $G$ , and  $s$  a nonidentity semisimple element of  $G$ , then*

$$f(u, G/P) \geq c_G, \quad f(s, G/P) \geq d_G,$$

$$f(u, G/M) \geq e_G, \quad \text{and} \quad f(s, G/M) \geq f_G,$$

where  $c_G, d_G, e_G, f_G$  are as in Table 1 below.

*In particular, for any nonidentity element  $g \in G$ , and any closed subgroup  $X$  of  $G$ ,*

$$f(g, G/X) \geq c_G.$$

$G$	$c_G$	$d_G$	$e_G$	$f_G$	$e'_G$	$h_G$
$E_8$	12	24	24	48	40	48
$E_7$	6	11	12	22	20	22
$E_6$	4	6	6	12	10	12
$F_4$	4	4	4	8	6	6
$G_2$	2	2	2	3	4	4

Table 1.

**Remarks.**

(1) The bounds in Theorem 1 are sharp, in the sense that there exist a parabolic  $P$  and a unipotent element  $u$  such that  $f(u, G/P) = c_G$ , and so on. Nevertheless it is possible to improve the bounds greatly by subdividing the possibilities for  $u, s, P, M$  into a larger number of cases, and this we do in Theorem 2 below.

(2) As observed above, Proposition 1.14 shows that for  $x \in M$  we have  $f(x, G/M) = \dim x^G - \dim(x^G \cap M)$ , so the bounds in Theorem 1 (and Theorem 2) also give information about how conjugacy classes of  $G$  intersect with a maximal subgroup.

Now we state Theorem 2, our strongest result concerning upper bounds for  $f(x, \Omega)$  for exceptional algebraic groups, of which Theorem 1 is an immediate consequence. The conclusion refers to a number of tables which can be found in Section 7 at the end of the paper.

According to [22, 31], the maximal closed subgroups of positive dimension in  $G$  can be classed as follows:

- (1) parabolic subgroups,
- (2) reductive subgroups of maximal rank (i.e., containing a maximal torus of  $G$ ),
- (3) a few other isomorphism types (mostly of small dimension compared to  $\dim G$ ).

The conclusion of Theorem 2 is accordingly divided into three parts.

We need a little standard notation for the statement. Let  $P_i$  denote the standard parabolic subgroup of  $G$  which corresponds to deleting the  $i^{\text{th}}$  node from the Dynkin diagram. Let  $\alpha$  be a long root in the root system of  $G$ , and, when  $G = F_4$  or  $G_2$ , let  $\beta$  be a short root. Let  $U_\alpha, U_\beta$  be corresponding root subgroups of  $G$ , and  $u_\alpha, u_\beta$  nonidentity elements of  $U_\alpha, U_\beta$  respectively. We call  $u_\alpha$  a long root element of  $G$ , and  $u_\beta$  a short root element. Observe that when  $(G, p) = (F_4, 2)$  or  $(G_2, 3)$ , the elements  $u_\alpha$  and  $u_\beta$  are conjugate by a graph automorphism of  $G$ . This accounts for some of the parenthetical exclusions in the statement of Theorem 2.

A number of constants are referred to in the statement. The numbers  $c_{G,i,\alpha}$ ,  $c_{G,i,\beta}$  and  $c'_{G,i}$  are defined in Tables 7.1 and 7.2 at the end of the paper, the numbers  $d_{G,i,D}$  are defined in Table 7.3, and the numbers  $f_{G,M,D}$  are defined in Table 7.4. Finally, the numbers  $e_G, e'_G, h_G$  are defined in Table 1 above.

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $G$  be a simple adjoint exceptional algebraic group over an algebraically closed field, and let  $M$  be a maximal closed subgroup of  $G$ . Let  $u$  be a nonidentity unipotent element of  $G$ , and  $s$  a nonidentity semisimple element; write  $D = C_G(s)$ .*

(I) *Suppose  $M = P_i$  is a maximal parabolic subgroup. Then:*

(a) *We have*

$$f(u_\alpha, G/P_i) = c_{G,i,\alpha}, \quad f(u_\beta, G/P_i) = c_{G,i,\beta}, \quad \text{and} \quad f(u, G/P_i) \geq c'_{G,i}$$

*if  $u$  is not a long or short root element.*

(b) *For  $D$  as in column 2 of Table 7.3, we have  $f(s, G/P_i) \geq d_{G,i,D}$ .*

(II) *Suppose  $M$  is reductive of maximal rank. Then:*

(a)  *$f(u, G/M) \geq e_G$ , and moreover  $f(u, G/M) \geq e'_G$ , provided  $u$  is not a long root element (or a short root element when  $(G, p) = (F_4, 2)$  or  $(G_2, 3)$ ).*

(b)  *$f(s, G/M) \geq f_{G,M,D}$ .*

(III) *Suppose  $M$  is neither parabolic nor reductive of maximal rank. Then  $f(s, G/M) \geq h_G$ ,  $f(u, G/M) \geq e_G$ , and moreover  $f(u, G/M) \geq e'_G$  provided  $u$  is not a long root element (or a short root element when  $(G, p) = (F_4, 2)$  or  $(G_2, 3)$ ).*

The layout of the paper is as follows. Section 1 consists of various preliminary results taken from the literature, mostly concerning properties of unipotent elements, semisimple elements and subgroups of exceptional algebraic groups. In Section 2 we start the proof of Theorem 2, proving Part (I)(a), the case of unipotent elements in parabolic subgroups. Section 3 contains the proof of Part (I)(b), semisimple elements in parabolics. In Sections 4 and 5 we prove Part (II), the cases of unipotent and semisimple elements in maximal rank subgroups. Finally, Section 6 contains the proof of Part (III), and Section 7 has Tables 7.1-7.4 referred to in the statement of Theorem 2.

### 1. Preliminaries.

In this section we present various results from the literature which we shall need, most of which concern properties of unipotent and semisimple elements in exceptional algebraic groups.

Throughout,  $G$  is a simple algebraic group over an algebraically closed field  $K$  of characteristic  $p$  (allowing  $p = 0$ ).

**A. Semisimple elements and subsystems.**

A (not necessarily connected) reductive subgroup of  $G$  which contains a maximal torus is called a *subsystem subgroup*. The root system of such a subgroup is a subsystem of the root system of  $G$ .

**Proposition 1.1.** *For  $G$  of exceptional type, the maximal subsystem subgroups  $M$  of  $G$  are as follows:*

$G$	$M^0$	$M/M^0$
$E_8$	$A_1E_7, D_8, A_8, A_2E_6, D_4D_4,$ $A_4A_4, A_2^4, A_1^8, T_8$	$1, 1, Z_2, Z_2, S_3 \times Z_2,$ $Z_4, GL_2(3), AGL_3(2), 2.O_8^+(2)$
$E_7$	$T_1E_6, A_1D_6, A_7, A_2A_5,$ $A_1^3D_4, A_1^7, T_7$	$Z_2, 1, Z_2, Z_2,$ $S_3, L_3(2), 2 \times Sp_6(2)$
$E_6$	$T_1D_5, T_2D_4, A_1A_5, A_2^3, T_6$	$1, S_3, 1, S_3, O_6^-(2)$
$F_4$	$A_1C_3, B_4, C_4(p = 2), D_4, A_2A_2$	$1, 1, 1, S_3, Z_2$
$G_2$	$A_1A_1, A_2$	$1, Z_2$

*Proof.* This is immediate from Tables A,B in [21, p. 302]. □

If  $s$  is a semisimple element of  $G$  then  $C_G(s)$  is a subsystem subgroup. Complete lists of the subsystems occurring are available (see for example [9] for types  $E_7, E_8$ ). In the next result we record the subsystem subgroups which can occur as centralizers of semisimple elements of orders 2 and 3. This result is well-known (see for example [14, Tables 4.3.1, 4.7.1]).

**Proposition 1.2.** *Let  $G$  be adjoint and of exceptional type. The centralizers in  $G$  of semisimple involutions and elements of order 3 are as follows (where for  $G = E_6$  we only include elements of order 3 which lift to elements of order 3 in the simply connected group  $\hat{E}_6$ ):*

$G$	<i>involution centralizers</i>	<i>centralizers of elements of order 3</i>
$E_8$	$A_1E_7, D_8$	$A_8, A_2E_6, E_7T_1, D_7T_1$
$E_7$	$A_1D_6, (A_7).2, (T_1E_6).2$	$A_2A_5, E_6T_1, D_6T_1, A_6T_1, A_1D_5T_1$
$E_6$	$A_1A_5, D_5T_1$	$A_5T_1, (D_4T_2).3, (A_2^3).3$
$F_4$	$A_1C_3, B_4$	$A_2A_2, B_3T_1, C_3T_1$
$G_2$	$A_1A_1$	$A_2, A_1T_1$

Further, the involutions in  $E_7$  with centralizers  $A_1D_6, (A_7).2, (T_1E_6).2$  lift to elements of orders 2, 4, 4, respectively, in the simply connected group  $\hat{E}_7$ .

Next we record an elementary fact about conjugacy of semisimple elements. For  $M$  a reductive (not necessarily connected) subgroup of  $G$ , let  $T_M$  be a maximal torus of  $M^0$ , and let  $T$  be a maximal torus of  $G$  containing  $T_M$ . Define  $W(M) = N_M(T_M)/T_M$ . From the Bruhat decomposition of

elements of  $G$  we see that there is a subgroup of  $W(G) = N_G(T)/T$  which induces  $W(M)$  on  $T_M$ . With abuse of notation, we refer to this subgroup also as  $W(M)$ .

**Proposition 1.3.** *Let  $M$  be a reductive subgroup of  $G$ , and let  $P = QL$  be a parabolic subgroup of  $G$  with unipotent radical  $Q$  and Levi subgroup  $L$ . If  $s$  is a semisimple element of  $G$ , and  $D = C_G(s)^0$ , then:*

- (i) *The number of  $M$ -conjugacy classes contained in  $s^G \cap M^0$  is at most  $|W(D) \backslash W(G) / W(M)|$ , the number of  $(W(D), W(M))$ -double cosets in  $W(G)$ .*
- (ii) *The number of  $P$ -conjugacy classes contained in  $s^G \cap P$  is at most  $|W(D) \backslash W(G) / W(L)|$ .*

*Proof.* For (i) we may take  $s \in T_M$ . Every element of  $s^G \cap M^0$  is  $M$ -conjugate to an element of  $T_M$ . Moreover, if two elements of  $T$  are  $G$ -conjugate then they are  $W(G)$ -conjugate ([36, II, 3.1]), and if two elements of  $T_M$  are  $M$ -conjugate then they are  $W(M)$ -conjugate. Part (i) follows. Part (ii) follows likewise, since every element of  $s^G \cap P$  is  $P$ -conjugate to an element of  $L$ .  $\square$

The next two results concern the dimensions of centralizers of certain types of elements.

**Proposition 1.4.** *Let  $\tau$  be either an involutory graph automorphism of  $E_6$  or  $A_n$ , or a graph automorphism of  $D_4$  of order 3.*

- (i) *There are 2 classes of involutions in the coset  $E_6\tau$ ; these have centralizers  $F_4, C_4$  in  $E_6$  if  $p \neq 2$ , and centralizers  $F_4, C_{F_4}(t)$  if  $p = 2$ , where  $t$  is a long root involution in  $F_4$ .*
- (ii) *There are  $(2, n + 1)$  classes of involutions in the coset  $A_n\tau$ ; if  $n = 2m$  is even the class has centralizer  $B_m$ , and if  $n = 2m - 1$  is odd the classes have centralizers  $C_m, D_m$  if  $p \neq 2$ , and centralizers  $C_m, C_{C_m}(t)$  if  $p = 2$ , where  $t$  is a long root involution in  $C_m$ .*
- (iii) *There are 2 classes of elements of order 3 in the coset  $D_4\tau$ ; these have centralizers  $G_2, A_2$  if  $p \neq 3$ , and centralizers  $G_2, C_{G_2}(t)$  if  $p = 3$ , where  $t$  is a long root element of  $G_2$ .*

*Proof.* See [14, Tables 4.3.1, 4.7.1] for the cases where  $|\tau| \neq p$ , and [2, §19] and [13, 9.1] for the cases where  $|\tau| = p = 2$  and  $|\tau| = p = 3$ , respectively.  $\square$

**Proposition 1.5.** *Let  $D$  be a connected reductive algebraic group.*

- (i) *If  $t$  is an automorphism of  $D$  (as algebraic group) of order 2, then*

$$\dim C_D(t) \geq |\Sigma^+(D)| + \text{rank}(D) - \text{rank}(D'),$$

*where  $\Sigma^+(D)$  denotes the set of positive roots in the root system  $\Sigma(D)$  of  $D$ .*

(ii) If  $v \in D$  is a semisimple element of order 3, then

$$\dim C_D(v) \geq \frac{2}{3}|\Sigma^+(D)| + \text{rank}(D) - \text{rank}(D').$$

*Proof.* It suffices to prove this for  $D$  simple, in which case it follows easily from the proofs of [26, 4.1, 4.3 and 4.4]. (A simple, uniform proof of the bound for  $\dim C_D(t)$  with  $p \neq 2$  and  $t \in D$  can be found in [32, 2.1].)  $\square$

## B. Unipotent elements and parabolics.

The classes of unipotent elements in exceptional algebraic groups can be found in [6, p. 401] over  $\mathbb{C}$ , and in [7, 11, 27, 28, 33, 34] for arbitrary characteristics. Convenient notation and tables of all unipotent classes can be found in [17], where the Jordan canonical forms of all such elements on various  $G$ -modules are given. We adopt the notation of [17].

The following result is taken from [6, 5.9.6]. It is stated there for large primes, and was extended to all good primes in [29, 30].

**Proposition 1.6.** *Let  $G$  be a simple algebraic group in characteristic  $p$ , and suppose  $p$  is not a bad prime for  $G$ . Then the unipotent classes in  $G$  are in bijective correspondence with  $G$ -classes of pairs  $(L, P_{L'})$ , where  $L$  is a Levi subgroup of  $G$  and  $P_{L'}$  is a distinguished parabolic subgroup of  $L'$ . An element in the class corresponding to  $(L, P_{L'})$  is a distinguished unipotent element of  $L'$ .*

The distinguished parabolic subgroups of simple algebraic groups are described in [6, p. 174], and this gives rise to the labelling of unipotent classes in [6], [17], etc. In particular, for type  $A_l$  only the Borel subgroups are distinguished, and accordingly, the only distinguished unipotent elements of  $A_l$  are the regular unipotent elements. Thus in the (fairly common) case that the Levi subgroup  $L$  has  $L'$  a product of factors of type  $A_l$ , there is just one corresponding unipotent class in  $G$ , consisting of elements which are regular in each factor.

When  $p$  is a bad prime, the labelling of unipotent classes of  $G$  given by Proposition 1.6 remains valid, except that there are a few extra classes, as summarised in [17] for  $G$  of exceptional type, and in [6, p. 180] for  $G$  of classical type. An interesting consequence of the unipotent class determination is that, excluding the extra classes,  $\dim C_G(u)$  depends only on the label of the unipotent element  $u$ , and not on the characteristic. These numbers are tabulated in [6, pp. 401-407] for exceptional types.

The next result contains some consequences of the unipotent classification for exceptional groups.

**Proposition 1.7.** *Let  $G$  be an exceptional algebraic group, and let  $1 \neq u \in G$  be a unipotent element such that  $\dim C_G(u) > l_G$ , where  $l_G$  is as in Table 2 below.*



Then  $u$  belongs to one of the conjugacy classes listed in the table; also given are the dimensions of  $R = R_u(C^0)$  (where  $C = C_G(u)$ ), the type of  $C^0/R$ , the dimension of the variety  $\mathcal{B}_u$  of Borel subgroups of  $G$  containing  $u$ , and the order of  $C/C^0$ . When  $p = 2$ , the involution classes in  $G$  are those labelled  $kA_1$  for some  $k$  (also  $3A_1'', 3A_1'$  in  $E_7$ , and  $\tilde{A}_1, \tilde{A}_1^{(2)}$  in  $F_4, G_2$ ).

$G$	$l_G$	$u$ with $\dim C_G(u) > l_G$	$\dim u^G$	$\dim R$	$C^0/R$	$\dim \mathcal{B}_u$	$ C/C^0 $
$E_8$	80	$A_1, 2A_1, 3A_1,$	58,92,112,	57,78,81,	$E_7, B_6, A_1F_4,$	91,74,64,	1,1,1,
		$A_2, 4A_1, A_2 + A_1,$	114,128,136,	56,84,77,	$E_6, C_4, A_5,$	63,56,52,	2,1,2,
		$A_2 + 2A_1, A_3, A_2 + 3A_1,$	146,148,154,	78,45,77,	$A_1B_3, B_5, A_1G_2,$	47,46,43,	1,1,1,
		$2A_2, 2A_2 + A_1,$	156,162,	64,69,	$G_2^2, A_1G_2,$	42,39,	2,1,
		$A_3 + A_1, D_4(a_1)$	164,166	60,54	$A_1B_3, D_4$	38,37	1,6
$E_7$	41	$A_1, 2A_1, 3A_1'',$	34,52,54,	33,42,27,	$D_6, A_1B_4, F_4,$	46,37,36,	1,1,1,
		$3A_1', A_2, 4A_1,$	64,66,70,	45,32,42,	$A_1C_3, A_5, C_3,$	31,30,28,	1,2,1,
		$A_2 + A_1, A_2 + 2A_1, A_3,$	76,82,84,	41,42,25,	$A_3T_1, A_1^3, A_1B_3,$	25,22,21,	2,1,1,
		$2A_2, A_2 + 3A_1,$	84,84,	32,35,	$A_1G_2, G_2,$	21,21,	1,1,
		$(A_3 + A_1)'', 2A_2 + A_1$	86,90	26,37	$B_3, A_1^2$	20,18	1,1
$E_6$	26	$A_1, 2A_1, 3A_1,$	22,32,40,	21,24,27,	$A_5, B_3T_1, A_1A_2,$	25,20,16,	1,1,1,
		$A_2, A_2 + A_1,$	42,46,	20,23,	$A_2A_2, A_2T_1,$	15,13,	2,1,
		$2A_2, A_2 + 2A_1$	48,50	16,24	$G_2, A_1T_1$	12,11	1,1
$F_4$	18	$A_1, \tilde{A}_1(p = 2), \tilde{A}_1(p \neq 2),$	16,16,22,	15,15,15,	$C_3, B_3, A_3,$	16,16,13,	1,1,2,
		$\tilde{A}_1^{(2)}(p = 2), A_1\tilde{A}_1,$	22,28,	20,18,	$B_2, A_1A_1,$	13,10,	1,1,
		$A_2, \tilde{A}_2(p \neq 2), \tilde{A}_2(p = 2)$	30,30,30	14,8,14	$A_2, G_2, A_2$	9,9,9	2,1,2
$G_2$	4	$A_1, \tilde{A}_1(p = 3),$	6,6,	5,5,	$A_1, A_1,$	3,3,	1,1,
		$\tilde{A}_1(p \neq 3), \tilde{A}_1^{(3)}(p = 3)$	8,8	3,6	$A_1, 1$	2,2	1,1

**Table 2.**

**Remark.** In fact for  $G = F_4$ , the groups  $C^0/R$  are not explicitly given in the references [33, 34], but the entries in Table 2 giving these groups are easily verified.

The following is another consequence of the unipotent class classification.

**Proposition 1.8.** *Upper bounds for the numbers  $u(G)$  of classes of unipotent elements in exceptional algebraic groups  $G$  are as follows:*

$$u(E_8) \leq 74, u(E_7) \leq 46, u(E_6) \leq 21, u(F_4) \leq 20, u(G_2) \leq 6.$$

Next we record a result of Spaltenstein [35]:

**Proposition 1.9.** *If  $u$  is a unipotent element of the simple algebraic group  $G$ , and  $B$  is a Borel subgroup of  $G$ , then*

$$\dim(u^G \cap B) = \frac{1}{2} \dim u^G.$$

*Moreover, if  $P$  is a parabolic subgroup of  $G$ , and  $\mathcal{B}_P$  the variety of Borel subgroups of  $P$ , then*

$$\dim(u^G \cap P) \leq \frac{1}{2} \dim u^G + \dim \mathcal{B}_P.$$

*Finally, if  $\mathcal{B}_u$  is the variety of Borel subgroups of  $G$  containing  $u$ , then*

$$\dim \mathcal{B}_u = \frac{1}{2}(\dim C_G(u) - \text{rank}(G)).$$

*Proof.* The first and last statements are in [35, p. 54] (see also [6, 5.10.2]). For the second statement, let  $B \leq P$  and consider the surjective map  $(u^G \cap B) \times P \rightarrow u^G \cap P$ , sending  $(u_1, x) \rightarrow u_1^x$ . The preimage of  $u_1^x$  contains  $\{(u_1^{b^{-1}}, bx) : b \in B\}$ . So all fibres have dimension at least  $\dim B$ . The result follows.  $\square$

We shall also need information in the following proposition concerning unipotent classes in classical groups.

**Proposition 1.10.** *Let  $G$  be a classical group  $GL_n(K)$ ,  $GSp_n(K)$  or  $GO_n(K)$ , where  $K$  is an algebraically closed field of characteristic  $p$ , and let  $u$  be a nonidentity unipotent element in  $G$ . Suppose for each  $i$ , the Jordan canonical form for  $u$  has  $n_i$  Jordan blocks of size  $i$ .*

(i) *If  $G = GL_n(K)$ , then*

$$\dim C_G(u) = 2 \sum_{i < j} in_i n_j + \sum_i in_i^2.$$

(ii) *If  $G = GSp_n(K)$  with  $p \neq 2$ , then  $n_i$  is even whenever  $i$  is odd, and*

$$\dim C_G(u) = \sum_{i < j} in_i n_j + \frac{1}{2} \sum_i in_i^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \text{ odd}} n_i.$$

(iii) *If  $G = GO_n(K)$  with  $p \neq 2$ , then  $n_i$  is even whenever  $i$  is even, and*

$$\dim C_G(u) = \sum_{i < j} in_i n_j + \frac{1}{2} \sum_i in_i^2 - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \text{ odd}} n_i.$$

(iv) *Let  $G = GO_n(K)$  with  $p = 2$ , and set  $m = \lfloor n/2 \rfloor$ . Involutions in  $G$  are represented by elements  $a_{m-k}, c_{m-k}$  ( $0 \leq k \leq m$  and  $m - k$  even),  $b_{m-k}$  ( $0 \leq k \leq m$  and  $m - k$  odd), where each of  $a_{m-k}, b_{m-k}, c_{m-k}$*

has  $m - k$  Jordan blocks of size 2 and the rest of size 1. Further, if  $n = 2m + 1$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \dim C_G(a_{m-k}) &= m^2 + m + k^2, \\ \dim C_G(b_{m-k}) &= \dim C_G(c_{m-k}) = m^2 + k^2 + k; \end{aligned}$$

and if  $n = 2m$  then

$$\begin{aligned} \dim C_G(a_{m-k}) &= m^2 + k^2 - k, \\ \dim C_G(b_{m-k}) &= \dim C_G(c_{m-k}) = m^2 - m + k^2, \end{aligned}$$

and  $a_{m-k}, c_{m-k}$  lie in  $G' = SO_n(K)$ , while  $b_{m-k} \in G - G'$ .

*Proof.* Parts (i)-(iii) follow from [37, pp. 34-39]. (For  $K = \mathbb{C}$  the same results can be found in [6, p. 398].) Part (iv) follows from [2, Sections 7, 8]. □

Next we give some information concerning parabolic subgroups of the simple algebraic group  $G$ . Recall first that the highest root in the root system  $\Sigma(G)$  of  $G$  is the root  $\alpha_0 = \sum c_i \alpha_i$  with  $\sum c_i$  maximal (where  $\alpha_i$  are the fundamental roots). The highest roots of the simple root systems are as follows, where we use the notation of [5, p. 250], and denote  $\sum_1^l c_i \alpha_i$  by the sequence  $c_1 c_2 \dots c_l$ :

$$\begin{aligned} G = A_l : \quad & \alpha_0 = 111 \dots 1 \\ G = B_l : \quad & \alpha_0 = 122 \dots 2 \\ G = C_l : \quad & \alpha_0 = 22 \dots 21 \\ G = D_l : \quad & \alpha_0 = 122 \dots 211 \\ G = G_2 : \quad & \alpha_0 = 23 \\ G = F_4 : \quad & \alpha_0 = 2342 \\ G = E_6 : \quad & \alpha_0 = 122321 \\ G = E_7 : \quad & \alpha_0 = 2234321 \\ G = E_8 : \quad & \alpha_0 = 23465432 \end{aligned}$$

As usual, denote by  $P_{i,j,\dots}$  the standard parabolic subgroup of  $G$  corresponding to deletion of nodes  $i, j, \dots$  from the Dynkin diagram.

**Proposition 1.11.** *Suppose the Dynkin diagram of  $G$  is simply laced, and let  $\alpha_0 = \sum c_i \alpha_i$  be the highest root. Then the nilpotence class of the unipotent radical  $R_u(P_{i,j,\dots})$  is equal to  $c_i + c_j + \dots$ .*

*Proof.* This is [3, Lemma 4]. □

**Proposition 1.12.** *Denote by  $U_{\alpha_0}$  the long root subgroup of  $G$  corresponding to  $\alpha_0$ , and let  $1 \neq u_{\alpha_0} \in U_{\alpha_0}$ . Then  $P = N_G(U_{\alpha_0})$  is a parabolic subgroup of  $G$ , as in Table 3; we also give  $\dim R_u(P)$  (and also  $\dim u_{\alpha_0}^G$ , since  $\dim u_{\alpha_0}^G = \dim R_u(P) + 1$ ).*

*Proof.* The appropriate parabolic is obtained by deleting those nodes adjacent to  $\alpha_0$  in the extended Dynkin diagram of  $G$  (see [5, p. 250]). For the last equality, observe that

$$\dim u_{\alpha_0}^G = \dim(G/C_G(u_{\alpha_0})) = \dim(G/P) + 1 = \dim R_u(P) + 1.$$

$G$	$P = N_G(U_{\alpha_0})$	$\dim R_u(P)$
$A_l$	$P_{1l}$	$2l - 1$
$B_l$	$P_2$	$4l - 5$
$C_l$	$P_1$	$2l - 1$
$D_l$	$P_2$	$4l - 7$
$G_2$	$P_1$	5
$F_4$	$P_1$	15
$E_6$	$P_2$	21
$E_7$	$P_1$	33
$E_8$	$P_8$	57

**Table 3.**

We conclude this subsection with a few further properties of long root elements.

**Proposition 1.13.** *Let  $u_\alpha$  be a long root element of the simple algebraic group  $G$ . Then:*

- (i) *If  $P$  is a parabolic subgroup, then the number of  $P$ -classes in  $u_\alpha^G \cap P$  is finite, with representatives given by long root elements  $u_\alpha$  for  $\alpha$  in a fixed root system of  $P$ .*
- (ii) *Let  $D$  be a connected semisimple subgroup of  $G$  containing  $u_\alpha$ . Then  $u_\alpha$  lies in a simple factor  $D_0$  of  $D$ . Moreover, either  $u_\alpha$  is a long root element of  $D_0$ , or  $p = 2$ ,  $D_0 = B_n$  lying in a subsystem subgroup  $A_{2n}$  of  $G$ , and  $u_\alpha$  is a short root element of  $D_0$ .*
- (iii) *Let  $M$  be a connected reductive subgroup of  $G$ , and suppose that  $u_\alpha$  normalizes  $M$  but does not induce an inner automorphism on  $M$ . Then  $p = 2$  and  $M = XY$ , a commuting product, where  $u_\alpha$  centralizes  $Y$  and  $X = D_n$  or  $T_1$ . Moreover, if  $X = D_n$  then  $C_X(u_\alpha) = B_{n-1}$ .*

*Proof.* (i) Set  $P_0 = N_G(U_\alpha)$ , a parabolic subgroup. We may assume that  $P$  and  $P_0$  contain a common Borel subgroup and maximal torus  $T$ . Then the double coset space  $P \backslash G / P_0$  is finite, with double coset representatives lying in  $N_G(T)$ . Replacing  $P_0$  by  $P'_0 = C_G(u_\alpha)$ , the number of double cosets does not change since  $P_0 = P'_0 T$ .

(ii) Say  $D = D_1 \times D_2$ , where each  $D_i$  is a product of simple factors. Set  $u = u_\alpha$ , and suppose we can write  $u = u_1 u_2$ , with  $1 \neq u_i \in D_i$ . By

[1, 2.1], there exists  $d_1 \in D_1$  such that  $u_1^{-1}u_1^{d_1}$  is not a  $p$ -element. Then  $u^{-1}u^{d_1} = u_1^{-1}u_1^{d_1}$  is not a  $p$ -element. So  $J = \langle U_\alpha, U_\alpha^{d_1} \rangle$  is a group of type  $A_1$  (see [23, 1.1]) and  $a = u^{-1}u^{d_1}$  can be computed in  $J$ . It follows that  $a$  is a  $p'$ -element, not of order 2. Hence by [23, 1.2],  $C_G(a)' = C_G(J)$ . However,  $D_2$  centralizes  $a$ , but does not centralize  $u \in J$ , a contradiction.

This shows that  $u_\alpha$  is contained in a simple factor of  $D$ . The last statement follows from [23, 2.2, 3.2 and 3.3].

(iii) We first assert that if  $u_\alpha$  normalizes but does not centralize a torus  $T$  in  $G$ , then  $p = 2$  and  $u_\alpha$  centralizes a sub-torus of codimension 1 in  $T$ . To see this, pick  $t \in T$  such that  $a = [u_\alpha, t] \neq 1$ . Then  $a \in T$ , so  $J = \langle U_\alpha, U_\alpha^t \rangle$  is a fundamental  $SL_2$  in  $G$  (see [23, 1.1]). Moreover,  $u_\alpha$  normalizes  $T_1 = T \cap J$ . Since  $|N_J(T_1)/T_1| = 2$ , it follows that  $p = 2$  and  $|a| > 2$ . By [23, 1.2],  $C_G(a) = C_G(T_1) = T_1D$ , where  $D = C_G(J)$ . Since  $T \leq C_G(T_1)$ , it follows that  $u_\alpha$  centralizes  $T \cap D$ , a torus of codimension 1 in  $T$ . The assertion is proved.

Now  $M = M'Z$ , where  $Z = Z(M)^0$  and  $M'$  is semisimple. Now  $M'$  is a product of simple factors. Some may be permuted by  $u_\alpha$  in orbits of size  $p$ : Let the product of these factors be  $H = H_1 \dots H_a$ . Some may be fixed by  $u_\alpha$  but have  $u_\alpha$  inducing an outer automorphism on them: Let the product of these be  $L = L_1 \dots L_b$ . The rest are fixed by  $u_\alpha$  and have  $u_\alpha$  inducing an inner automorphism: Call the product of these  $S$ . Then  $M = HLSZ$ .

Suppose that  $H \neq 1$ , and say  $u_\alpha$  permutes the simple factors  $H_1, \dots, H_p$  cyclically. If  $T_0$  is a maximal torus of  $H_1$ , then  $u_\alpha$  normalizes the torus  $T = T_0T_0^{u_\alpha} \dots T_0^{u_\alpha^{p-1}}$  of  $H_1 \dots H_p$ . By the earlier assertion,  $p = 2$  and  $u_\alpha$  centralizes a sub-torus of codimension 1 in  $T$ , whence  $\dim T_0 = 1$  and  $H = H_1H_2$  with  $H_1 \cong H_2 \cong A_1$ . Thus in this case  $p = 2$  and  $H \cong D_2$ , which is a configuration allowed for in the conclusion of the proposition.

Now consider a factor  $L_i$  of  $L$ . If  $p \neq 2$ , then  $L_i \cong D_4$  and  $p = 3$ . By 1.4, there are two classes of graph automorphisms of  $D_4$ , represented by  $\tau$  and  $\tau t$ , where  $C_{D_4}(\tau) = G_2$ , and  $t$  is a long root element of this  $G_2$ . Both these automorphisms normalize a subgroup  $(A_1)^3$  of  $D_4$ , permuting the 3 factors cyclically. Hence by the previous paragraph, neither can be induced by a root element of  $G$ . Therefore  $p = 2$ , and now it follows from [23, 3.3] that  $L_i \cong D_n$  and  $C_{L_i}(u_\alpha) \cong B_{n-1}$ . Moreover, if  $T_{n-1}$  is a maximal torus of this  $B_{n-1}$ , then  $C_{D_n}(T_{n-1}) = T_n$ , a maximal torus of  $D_n$  normalized by  $u_\alpha$ .

Because of the assertion in the first paragraph, if  $H \neq 1$  then  $L = 1$ ; if  $L \neq 1$  then  $H = 1$  and  $L = L_1$  is simple; and if  $H = L = 1$  then  $Z \neq 1$  and  $u_\alpha$  does not centralize  $Z$ , in which case  $p = 2$  and  $u_\alpha$  induces a reflection on  $Z$ .

We have established that  $p = 2$  and  $M = XY$ , where  $X = D_n$  or  $T_1$  and  $u_\alpha$  induces an inner automorphism on  $Y$ . Now arguing as in the proof of Part (ii), we deduce that  $u_\alpha$  centralizes  $Y$ , completing the proof.  $\square$

**C. Fixed point spaces and conjugacy classes.**

We finish the section with a result relating fixed points to conjugacy classes.

**Proposition 1.14.** *Let  $G$  be an algebraic group, and let  $H$  be a closed subgroup. Write  $\Omega$  for the coset variety  $G/H$ . Then for  $x \in H$ ,*

$$f(x, \Omega) = \dim x^G - \dim(x^G \cap H).$$

*Proof.* Define

$$V = \{(g, \omega) \in G \times \Omega : \omega g = \omega\}.$$

If  $\pi, \phi : G \times \Omega \rightarrow \Omega$  are the morphisms defined by

$$(g, \omega)\pi = \omega, \quad (g, \omega)\phi = \omega g,$$

then  $V = \{(g, \omega) \in G \times \Omega : (g, \omega)\pi = (g, \omega)\phi\}$ , and hence  $V$  is a closed subvariety of  $G \times \Omega$ .

For  $x \in H$ , define

$$V_x = \{(x^g, \omega) : g \in G, \omega \in \Omega, \omega x^g = \omega\}.$$

Then  $V_x$  is a variety, and the map  $V_x \rightarrow x^G$  given by  $(x^g, \omega) \rightarrow x^g$  has fibres of dimension  $\dim \text{fix}_\Omega(x)$ , so

$$\dim V_x = \dim x^G + \dim \text{fix}_\Omega(x).$$

On the other hand, the map  $V_x \rightarrow \Omega$  given by  $(x^g, \omega) \rightarrow \omega$  has fibres of dimension  $\dim(x^G \cap H)$ , so

$$\dim V_x = \dim \Omega + \dim(x^G \cap H).$$

The conclusion follows. □

**2. Proof of Theorem 2, Part (I)(a): Unipotent elements in parabolics.**

In this section we prove Part (I)(a) of Theorem 2. Thus let  $G$  be a simple algebraic group of exceptional type over an algebraically closed field  $K$  of characteristic  $p$  (allowing  $p = 0$ ), and let  $P_i$  be a maximal parabolic subgroup of  $G$ . Write  $P_i = Q_i L_i$ , where  $Q_i$  is the unipotent radical and  $L_i$  a Levi subgroup. Let  $u$  be a nonidentity unipotent element of  $P_i$ ,  $u_\alpha$  a long root element, and  $u_\beta$  a short root element (in the cases where these exist). If  $p > 0$  we take  $u$  to be of order  $p$  (as we may, for the purpose of proving Theorem 2).

We first establish:

**Lemma 2.1.** *We have*

$$\dim u_\alpha^G - \dim(u_\alpha^G \cap P_i) = c_{G,i,\alpha}$$

where  $c_{G,i,\alpha}$  is as in Table 7.1. Moreover, if  $(G, p) = (F_4, 2)$  or  $(G_2, 3)$ , then  $\dim u_\beta^G - \dim(u_\beta^G \cap P_i) = c_{G,i,\beta}$ , where  $c_{G,i,\beta}$  is as in Table 7.2.

*Proof.* Observe that the last statement concerning  $(F_4, 2)$  and  $(G_2, 3)$  follows from the first part of the proposition, as can be seen by applying a graph automorphism of  $G$ . Hence we just need to prove the first statement.

Write  $u = u_\alpha$ . By 1.13(i), we can take  $\dim(u^G \cap P_i) = \dim u^{P_i}$  with  $u$  lying in either  $Q_i$  or  $L_i$ .

Suppose first that  $u \in L_i$ . Let  $Q_i^-$  be the unipotent radical of the parabolic opposite to  $P_i$ . Now  $Q_i L_i Q_i^-$  is an open dense subset of  $G$ , hence  $Q_i L_i Q_i^- \cap C_G(u)$  is open dense in the connected group  $C_G(u)$ , and it follows that

$$\dim C_G(u) = \dim C_{Q_i}(u) + \dim C_{L_i}(u) + \dim C_{Q_i^-}(u).$$

Moreover, if  $w_0$  is the longest element of the Weyl group, then  $w_0$  (or, for  $G = E_6$ ,  $w_0\tau$  with  $\tau$  a graph automorphism) interchanges  $Q_i$  with  $Q_i^-$  and normalizes an  $L_i$ -conjugate of  $U_\alpha$  (a root group containing  $u$ ), whence  $\dim C_{Q_i^-}(u) = \dim C_{Q_i}(u)$ . Since  $\dim u^{P_i} = \dim u^{Q_i} + \dim u^{L_i}$ , it follows that

$$\dim u^G = \dim u^{P_i} + \dim u^{Q_i}.$$

Therefore

$$\dim u^{Q_i} = \frac{1}{2}(\dim u^G - \dim u^{L_i}),$$

and hence

$$\dim u^G - \dim u^{P_i} = \dim u^{Q_i} = \frac{1}{2}(\dim u^G - \dim u^{L_i}).$$

The right hand side of this equation is easily calculated using 1.12, and is equal to  $c_{G,i,\alpha}$ .

Finally, if  $u \in Q_i$  then  $u^{P_i} \subseteq B$  for each Borel subgroup  $B$  of  $P_i$ , and hence by 1.9,  $\dim u^{P_i} \leq \frac{1}{2} \dim u^G$ , whence

$$\dim u^G - \dim u^{P_i} \geq \frac{1}{2} \dim u^G,$$

which is larger than  $c_{G,i,\alpha}$ .

This completes the proof, except for those cases where  $L_i$  contains no conjugate of  $u$ . This occurs only when  $G = G_2$  and  $i = 1$ . In this case, by 1.13(i) we may take  $u \in Q_1 \setminus Z(Q_1)$ , and  $\dim u^G \cap P_1 = \dim u^{P_1}$ . When  $p \neq 3$ , we have  $\dim Z(Q_1) = 1$ , and  $Q_1/Z(Q_1)$  has the structure of an irreducible module for  $L'_1 \cong A_1$  of high weight  $3\lambda_1$ , with  $uZ(Q_1)$  a maximal vector. It follows that  $\dim C_{Q_1}(u) + \dim C_{L_1}(u) = 4 + 2$ , whence  $\dim u^{P_1} = 3$  and  $\dim u^G - \dim u^{P_1} = 6 - 3 = c_{G,1,\alpha}$ . And when  $p = 3$ , we again have  $\dim C_{Q_1}(u) + \dim C_{L_1}(u) = 4 + 2$ , giving the conclusion.  $\square$

Define  $\mathcal{B}_i$  to be the variety of all Borel subgroups of  $G$  lying in  $P_i$ , and  $\mathcal{P}_{i,u}$  the variety of all conjugates of  $P_i$  which contain  $u$ . For  $P \in \mathcal{P}_{i,u}$ , let  $\mathcal{B}_{P,u}$  be the variety of Borel subgroups in  $P$  which contain  $u$ , and define

$$N_{i,u} = \min \{ \dim \mathcal{B}_{P,u} : P \in \mathcal{P}_{i,u} \},$$

$$b_i = \dim \mathcal{B}_i.$$

Define also  $\mathcal{B}_u$  to be the variety of Borel subgroups of  $G$  containing  $u$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** *We have*

$$\dim u^G - \dim(u^G \cap P_i) = f(u, G/P_i) \geq \dim(G/P_i) - \dim \mathcal{B}_u + N_{i,u}.$$

*Proof.* Let  $\psi : \mathcal{B}_u \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_{i,u}$  be the surjective morphism sending a Borel subgroup  $B$  to the unique conjugate of  $P_i$  containing  $B$ . The fibres of  $\psi$  have dimension at least  $N_{i,u}$ , and hence

$$\dim \mathcal{P}_{i,u} = \dim \text{Im } \psi \leq \dim \mathcal{B}_u - N_{i,u}.$$

Since

$$f(u, G/P_i) = \dim(G/P_i) - \dim \text{fix}_{G/P_i}(u) = \dim(G/P_i) - \dim \mathcal{P}_{i,u},$$

the result follows. □

In view of the preceding lemma, it is desirable to obtain good lower bounds on the numbers  $N_{i,u}$ . The following result will be useful in this respect.

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $P = QL$  be a parabolic subgroup of  $G$  with unipotent radical  $Q$  and Levi subgroup  $L$ , and let  $x \in P$ . If  $v \in L$  is such that  $xQ = vQ$ , then  $\dim C_{L(G)}(x) \leq \dim C_{L(G)}(v)$ .*

*Proof.* Consider a  $P$ -filtration of  $L(G)$  compatible with a direct sum decomposition under the action of  $L$  (for weight spaces of the central torus  $Z(L)^0$ ). The unipotent radical  $Q$  is trivial on successive factors, so the dimension of the centralizer in  $L(G)$  of  $x$  is certainly bounded above by the sum of the dimensions of its centralizers in each of the weight spaces. But this sum is just the dimension of the centralizer in  $L(G)$  of  $v$ , giving the conclusion. □

**Lemma 2.4.** *If  $\dim u^G \geq 2(b_i + c'_{G,i})$ , then the conclusion of Theorem 2(I)(a) holds (i.e.,  $f(u, G/P_i) \geq c'_{G,i}$ ).*

*Proof.* By 1.9,  $\dim(u^G \cap P_i) \leq \frac{1}{2} \dim u^G + b_i$ , and hence

$$f(u, G/P_i) = \dim u^G - \dim(u^G \cap P_i) \geq \frac{1}{2} \dim u^G - b_i.$$

The conclusion follows. □

**Lemma 2.5.** *The conclusion of Theorem 2(I)(a) holds if  $G = E_8$ .*



*Proof.* Suppose  $G = E_8$ . For convenience we record the values of  $\dim Q_i$ ,  $b_i$  and  $c_i = c'_{E_8,i}$  below:

$i =$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
$L'_i =$	$D_7$	$A_7$	$A_1 A_6$	$A_1 A_2 A_4$	$A_3 A_4$	$A_2 D_5$	$A_1 E_6$	$E_7$
$\dim Q_i =$	78	92	98	106	104	97	83	57
$b_i =$	42	28	22	14	16	23	37	63
$c_i =$	28	34	36	40	39	36	30	20

By 2.1 and 2.4, we may suppose that  $\dim u^G < 2(b_i + c_i)$  and  $u$  is not a long root element. Hence using 1.7 we see that  $u$  belongs to one of the following classes of unipotent elements in  $G$ :

$i$	$u \in$ one of
1	$2A_1, 3A_1, A_2, 4A_1, A_2 + A_1$
2, 3, 6	$2A_1, 3A_1, A_2$
4, 5	$2A_1$
7	$2A_1, 3A_1, A_2, 4A_1$
8	$2A_1, 3A_1, A_2, 4A_1, \dots, A_3 + A_1$

(In the last row, the list is ordered as in 1.7.)

By 2.2 we have  $f(u, G/P_i) \geq \dim(G/P_i) - \dim \mathcal{B}_u + N_{i,u}$ , where

$$N_{i,u} = \min \{ \dim \mathcal{B}_{P,u} : P \in \mathcal{P}_{i,u} \}.$$

The values of  $\dim \mathcal{B}_u$  are given by 1.7. We now establish lower bounds for  $N_{i,u}$ .

Let  $v \in L_i$  be such that  $uQ_i = vQ_i$ . By 2.3,  $\dim C_{L(G)}(u) \leq \dim C_{L(G)}(v)$ , so we see from 1.7 and the dimensions of  $C_{L(G)}(u)$  which are given in [17], that  $v$  is either in the same class as  $u$ , or in a class which occurs earlier in the list of classes above (but including the classes  $A_1$  and  $\{1\}$ ). For example, if  $i = 1$  and  $u$  lies in class  $A_2$ , then  $v$  lies in one of the classes  $1, A_1, 2A_1, 3A_1, A_2$ . Note also that as  $L_i$  is a Levi subgroup, the label for  $v$  as an element of  $L_i$  is the same as its label as an element of  $G$ .

Suppose first that  $i = 1$ . Then  $u$  lies in one of the classes  $2A_1, 3A_1, A_2, 4A_1, A_2 + A_1$ . Consider  $u \in 2A_1$ . Then  $v$  lies in one of the classes  $1, A_1, 2A_1$ . The minimal value of  $\dim \mathcal{B}_{P,u}$  will be attained when  $v$  lies in class  $2A_1$ . There are two such classes in  $L'_1 = D_7$ : One corresponding to  $2A_1$  acting as  $SO_4$  on the usual 14-dimensional module  $V_{14}$ , and the other corresponding to  $2A_1$  lying in an  $A_6$  subgroup. For  $v$  in the  $SO_4$ -type class, with  $p \neq 2$ ,  $v$  acts as  $J_3 \oplus J_1^{11}$  on  $V_{14}$  (where  $J_i$  denotes a Jordan block of size  $i$ ), and it follows from 1.10 that  $\dim C_{D_7}(v) = 67$ , whence by 1.9,

$$\dim \mathcal{B}_{P,u} = \frac{67 - 7}{2} = 30.$$

And for  $v$  in the  $SO_4$ -type class with  $p = 2$ , we have  $v = c_2$  in the notation of 1.10, and 1.10 gives  $\dim C_{D_7}(v) = 67$  again. For  $v$  in the other  $2A_1$  class

of  $D_7$ , with  $p \neq 2$ ,  $v$  acts on  $V_{14}$  as  $J_2^4 \oplus J_1^6$ , and 1.10 gives  $\dim C_{D_7}(u) = 55$ ; the same holds for  $p = 2$ , in which case  $v = a_4$  in the notation of 1.10. Hence by 1.9,

$$\dim \mathcal{B}_{P,u} = 24.$$

It follows that for  $u \in 2A_1$  we have  $N_{1,u} = 24$ . Also  $\dim \mathcal{B}_u = 74$ , so by 2.2,

$$f(u, G/P_1) \geq \dim G/P_1 - \dim \mathcal{B}_u + N_{1,u} = 78 - 74 + 24 = 28 = c'_{G,1},$$

as required.

This handles the case where  $u \in 2A_1$ . For the other possibilities for the class of  $u$  we argue in the same way: Use 1.10 to calculate the possibilities for  $\dim C_{D_7}(v)$  - the minimum occurs when  $v$  is in the same class as  $u$ ; for each such possibility we calculate  $\dim \mathcal{B}_{P,u}$  using 1.9; hence we work out  $N_{1,u}$ , and finally application of 2.2 gives the required bound. The numbers which come out are given in the following table:

class of $u, v$	$\dim C_{D_7}(v)$	$\dim \mathcal{B}_{P,u}$	$N_{1,u}$
$3A_1$	49 or 51	21 or 22	21
$A_2$	49	21	21
$4A_1$	43	18	18
$A_2 + A_1$	39	16	16

This completes the proof when  $i = 1$ .

For  $i = 2, 3$  or  $6$  we argue in the same way, obtaining the following information:

class of $u, v$	$\dim C_{A_7}(v) (i = 2)$	$\dim C_{A_1A_6}(v) \geq (i = 3)$	$\dim C_{A_2D_5}(v) \geq (i = 6)$
$2A_1$	39	$3 + 28$	$8 + 25$
$3A_1$	33	$3 + 24$	$8 + 21$
$A_2$	37	$3 + 26$	$8 + 19$

Using 1.9 we deduce that  $N_{i,2A_1} = 16, 12, 13$  according as  $i = 2, 3, 6$  respectively; likewise  $N_{i,3A_1} = 13, 10, 11$  and  $N_{i,A_2} = 15, 11, 10$ . The conclusion follows, using 2.2.

When  $i = 4$  or  $5$ , we have  $u \in 2A_1$  and the above arguments yield  $N_{4,u} = 8, N_{5,u} = 9$ , again giving the result by 2.2.

Next consider  $i = 7$ , so  $L'_7 = A_1E_6$ . Here  $u \in 2A_1, 3A_1, A_2$  or  $4A_1$ , and in the first three cases the minimal value of  $\dim \mathcal{B}_{P,u}$  is achieved when  $v$  lies in  $E_6$ , in the class of  $E_6$  with the same label as  $u$ . Hence in these cases  $N_{7,u} = 1 + \dim \mathcal{B}_v^{E_6}$ , where  $\dim \mathcal{B}_v^{E_6}$  is the value of  $\dim \mathcal{B}_v$  regarding  $v$  as an element of  $E_6$  (i.e., the dimension of the variety of Borels of  $E_6$  containing  $u$ ). And when  $u \in 4A_1$  the minimal value is achieved when  $v$  projects to an element in the class  $3A_1$  of  $E_6$ , and  $N_{7,u} = \dim \mathcal{B}_v^{E_6}$ . These values are given

by 1.7, so we have

$u \in$	$N_{7,u}$
$2A_1$	$21$
$3A_1$	$17$
$A_2$	$16$
$4A_1$	$16$

The conclusion follows from 2.2.

Finally, the case where  $i = 8$  is entirely similar: The minimal value of  $\dim \mathcal{B}_{P,u}$  is achieved when  $v$  lies in  $L'_8 = E_7$ , in the class of  $E_7$  with the same label as  $u$ ; so  $N_{8,u} = \dim \mathcal{B}_v^{E_7}$ , which is given by 1.7. In all cases 2.2 gives the required bound. □

**Lemma 2.6.** *The conclusion of Theorem 2(I)(a) holds if  $G = E_7$ .*

*Proof.* The argument is very similar to that of the previous proposition, and we just give a sketch. The values of  $\dim Q_i$ ,  $b_i$  and  $c_i = c'_{E_7,i}$  are as follows:

$i =$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
$L'_i =$	$D_6$	$A_6$	$A_1A_5$	$A_1A_2A_3$	$A_2A_4$	$A_1D_5$	$E_6$
$\dim Q_i =$	33	42	47	53	50	42	27
$b_i =$	30	21	16	10	13	21	36
$c_i =$	12	16	18	21	20	16	10

Again we may suppose that  $\dim u^G < 2(b_i + c_i)$  and  $u$  is not a long root element, so by 1.7  $u$  belongs to one of the following classes:

$i$	$u \in$ one of
1	$2A_1, \dots, A_2 + 2A_1$
2, 6	$2A_1, 3A''_1, 3A'_1, A_2, 4A_1$
3	$2A_1, 3A''_1, 3A'_1, A_2$
4	$2A_1, 3A''_1$
5	$2A_1, 3A''_1, 3A'_1$
7	$2A_1, \dots, 2A_2 + A_1$

Let  $v \in L_i$  with  $uQ_i = vQ_i$ . As in the previous proof, we find that the minimal value of  $\dim \mathcal{B}_{P,u}$  is realised when  $v$  is in the class of  $L_i$  having the same label as that of  $u$  (when such a class exists in  $L_i$ ).

For  $i = 1$ , we use 1.10 to calculate  $\dim C_{L_1}(v) = \dim C_{D_6}(v)$ :

class of $u, v$	$\dim C_{D_6}(v)$	$N_{1,u}$
$2A_1$	38 or 46	16
type $3A_1$	36 or 34	15 or 14
$A_2$	32	13
$4A_1$	30	12
$A_2 + A_1$	26	10
$A_2 + 2A_1$	24	9

The only slightly subtle point to note concerns the classes of type  $3A_1$ . There are three such classes in  $D_6$ . One, represented by  $v_1$  say, corresponds to a  $3A_1$  subgroup of type  $SO_4 \times A_1$ , and hence acts on the usual module  $V_{12}$  as  $J_3 \oplus J_2^2 \oplus J_1^5$  (when  $p \neq 2$ ) and as  $c_4$  (when  $p = 2$  - notation of 1.10). As  $V_{56} \downarrow D_6 = V_{12}^2 \oplus V_{D_6}(\lambda_5)$ , it follows that  $v_1$  has  $J_1$  blocks on  $V_{56}$ , and hence by [17, Table 7],  $v_1$  lies in the class  $3A_1'$  of  $E_7$ . The other classes of type  $3A_1$  in  $D_6$  correspond to  $3A_1$  subgroups of  $D_6$  lying in an  $A_5$  Levi, and have centralizer in  $D_6$  of dimension 36.

The conclusion now follows for  $i = 1$ , using 2.2.

For  $i = 2$ , we have  $L'_2 = A_6$  and 1.10 gives:

$v \in$	$\dim C_{A_6}(v)$	$N_{2,u}$
$2A_1$	28	11
$3A_1$	24	9
$A_2$	26	10

As above, the action of a  $3A_1$  element of  $A_6$  on  $V_{56}$  shows that it is in the class  $3A_1'$  of  $G$ . Now the conclusion follows from 2.2.

The argument for  $i = 3, 4, 5, 6$  is similar. And for  $i = 7$ ,  $L'_7 = E_6$ , as at the end of the previous proposition we have  $N_{7,u} = \dim \mathcal{B}_u^{E_6}$ , which is given by 1.7, and now 2.2 gives the required bound.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.7.** *The conclusion of Theorem 2(I)(a) holds if  $G = E_6$ .*

*Proof.* The argument is entirely similar to that of the previous propositions, and is left to the reader.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.8.** *The conclusion of Theorem 2(I)(a) holds if  $G = F_4$  or  $G_2$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose first that  $G = F_4$  and  $p \neq 2$ . As usual choose  $v \in L_i$  with  $uQ_i = vQ_i$ . For  $i = 1$  we may assume  $\dim u^G < 2(b_1 + c'_{F_4,1}) = 34$ , so by 1.7,  $u$  lies in one of the classes  $\tilde{A}_1, A_1\tilde{A}_1, \tilde{A}_2, A_2$ . In the usual way, the minimal value of  $\mathcal{B}_u$  is realised when  $v$  is in the same class as  $u$ . When  $u, v \in \tilde{A}_1$ ,  $v$  acts as  $J_2^2 \oplus J_1^2$  on the natural module  $V_6$  for  $L'_1 = C_3$ , so  $\dim C_{C_3}(v) = 11$  by 1.10. Therefore  $N_{1,u} = 4$ , and 2.2 gives

$$f(u, G/P_1) \geq 15 - 13 + 4 = 6 = c_{F_4,1,\beta},$$

as required. When  $u, v \in A_1\tilde{A}_1$ ,  $v$  acts as  $J_2^3$  and 1.10 gives  $\dim C_{C_3}(v) = 9$ , whence  $N_{1,u} = 3$  and  $f(u, G/P_1) \geq 8 = c'_{F_4,1}$ , as required. If  $u, v \in \tilde{A}_2$  then  $v$  acts as  $J_3^2$ ,  $\dim C_{C_3}(v) = 7$  so  $N_{1,u} = 2$ , giving the result by 2.2. And if  $u \in A_2$  then no conjugate of  $u$  lies in  $C_3$ , so  $v$  lies in one of the “earlier” classes  $1, A_1, \tilde{A}_1, A_1\tilde{A}_1, \tilde{A}_2$ , and the result follows from previous calculations.

This completes the argument for  $i = 1$ . The remaining values of  $i$  (with  $p \neq 2$ ) are handled very similarly, and we leave this to the reader.

Now consider  $G = F_4, p = 2$ . By 1.7 this group has 4 classes of involutions, namely  $A_1, \tilde{A}_1, A_1^{(2)}, A_1\tilde{A}_1$ . By 2.1 we may assume that  $u$  lies in one of the latter two classes. Both are fixed by a graph automorphism of  $G$ , so we only need to deal with  $i = 1$  or 2. For  $i = 1$ , the class  $A_1^{(2)}$  is represented by  $u = x_{\alpha_3}(1)x_{\alpha_2+2\alpha_3}(1)$  (see [17, Table A]). The roots  $\alpha_3, \alpha_2 + 2\alpha_3$  span a  $C_2$  subsystem, and hence a conjugate  $v$  of  $u$  lies in  $C_3 = L_1$ , and is in the class of  $c_2$  (in the notation of 1.10). Then  $\dim C_{C_3}(v) = 11, N_{1,u} = 4$ , and 2.2 gives  $f(u, G/P_1) \geq 6 = c'_{F_4,1}$ , as required. The class  $A_1\tilde{A}_1$  is represented by  $b_3 \in C_3$ , and a similar argument gives the conclusion for this class when  $i = 1$ .

Now suppose  $i = 2$ . The group  $L'_2 = A_1\tilde{A}_2$  has three involution classes, with representatives in the classes  $A_1, \tilde{A}_1$  and  $A_1\tilde{A}_1$  of  $G$ . Hence for  $u \in A_1^{(2)}$  we must have  $v \in \{1\}, A_1$  or  $\tilde{A}_1$ , whence  $N_{2,u} \geq 2$ , giving  $f(u, G/P_2) \geq 9$  by 2.2. And for  $u \in A_1\tilde{A}_1$ , we have  $\dim \mathcal{B}_u = 10$ , so 2.2 gives  $f(u, G/P_2) \geq 10$  immediately.

Finally, the proof for  $G = G_2$  is carried out in similar fashion, and we leave it to the reader. □

This completes the proof of Theorem 2(I)(a).

### 3. Proof of Theorem 2, Part (I)(b): Semisimple elements in parabolics.

In this section we prove Part (I)(b) of Theorem 2. Continue to assume that  $G$  is an exceptional algebraic group over the algebraically closed field  $K$ , and that  $P_i = Q_iL_i$  is a maximal parabolic subgroup of  $G$  with unipotent radical  $Q_i$  and Levi subgroup  $L_i$ .

Let  $s$  be a nonidentity semisimple element of  $G$  lying in  $P_i$ , and write  $D = C_G(s)$ . By [36, II, 4.1],  $D^0$  is reductive, and  $D/D^0$  is isomorphic to a subgroup of the fundamental group of  $G$ , which has order 1, 2 or 3 (2 for  $E_7$ , 3 for  $E_6$ , 1 otherwise).

By 1.3(ii),  $s^G \cap P_i$  consists of finitely many  $P_i$ -classes. Hence, replacing  $s$  by a suitable conjugate, we may assume that  $\dim(s^G \cap P_i) = \dim s^{P_i}$ .

**Lemma 3.1.** *The intersection  $D \cap P_i$  is a parabolic subgroup of  $D$ . Moreover,  $R_u(D \cap P_i) \leq Q_i$ , and*

$$\dim s^G - \dim s^{P_i} = \dim Q_i - \dim R_u(D \cap P_i) = \dim s^{Q_i}.$$

*Proof.* Observe that  $s$  lies in a maximal torus  $T$  of  $P_i$ . Clearly  $D = C_G(s)$  contains  $T$ , and hence  $T \leq D \cap P_i$ .

We now argue that  $D \cap P_i$  is a parabolic subgroup of  $D$ . The  $T$ -root groups in  $G$  all lie in  $Q_i$ ,  $L_i$  or  $Q_i^-$  (the unipotent radical of the parabolic opposite to  $P_i$ ). Note that if  $U_\alpha \leq C_G(s)$  then also  $U_{-\alpha} \leq C_G(s)$ . If  $C_{Q_i}(s) = 1$  then  $C_G(s)^0 = C_{L_i}(s)^0 = C_{P_i}(s)^0$ , so  $(D \cap P_i)^0 = D^0$ . And if  $C_{Q_i}(s) \neq 1$ , by [4] we can embed  $C_{P_i}(s)$  in a parabolic subgroup  $P$  of  $D$  such that  $C_{Q_i}(s) \leq R_u(P)$ . Then  $D \cap P_i = C_{P_i}(s) = P$ : For otherwise, there is a  $T$ -root group  $U_\alpha$  such that  $U_\alpha \leq P$  but  $U_\alpha \not\leq C_{P_i}(s)$ ; then  $U_\alpha \leq Q_i^-$ , which forces  $U_{-\alpha} \leq C_{Q_i}(s)$ , whereas  $\langle U_\alpha, U_{-\alpha} \rangle \cong SL_2$ , a contradiction.

Thus  $D \cap P_i$  is a parabolic subgroup of  $D$ . Moreover,  $D \cap P_i = C_{P_i}(s) = C_{Q_i}(s)C_{L_i}(s)$  and  $C_{L_i}(s)$  is reductive, so  $R_u(D \cap P_i) = C_{Q_i}(s) \leq Q_i$ . Finally,

$$\dim s^G - \dim s^{P_i} = \dim(G/P_i) - \dim(D/D \cap P_i),$$

and the last part follows, as  $\dim(G/P_i) = \dim Q_i$  and  $\dim(D/D \cap P_i) = \dim R_u(D \cap P_i)$ . □

The preceding lemma shows that, for a given  $P_i$ , in order to bound  $f(s, G/P_i)$  below it suffices to bound  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_i)$  above. We shall see that it is possible to obtain the required bounds by using arguments involving root systems, in particular exploiting the fact that the root system of  $R_u(D \cap P_i)$  must embed in that of  $Q_i$ . Throughout the remainder of this section, let  $G$  have simple roots  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  and highest root  $\alpha_0$ . Let  $D$  have simple factors  $D_1, D_2, \dots$  in order of decreasing dimension, and assume that the positive roots of  $D$  are a subset of those of  $G$ . Let  $D_1$  have simple roots  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_m$  and highest root  $\beta_0$ , and  $D_2$  (if it exists) have simple roots  $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_\ell$  and highest root  $\gamma_0$ . If  $\alpha = \sum m_j \alpha_j$ , the height of  $\alpha$  with respect to  $P_i$  will mean  $m_i$ ; similarly the height of  $\sum n_j \beta_j$  with respect to the parabolic  $P_{i_1 i_2 \dots}(D_1)$  will mean  $n_{i_1} + n_{i_2} + \dots$ , and so on. If  $X$  is a product of root groups, we write  $\Phi(X)$  for the set of roots with root groups in  $X$ .

**Lemma 3.2.** *The conclusion of Theorem 2(I)(b) holds if  $G = E_8$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $G = E_8$ . Inspection of the lists given in [9] of subsystems occurring in centralizers of semisimple elements shows that either  $D$  has a factor  $E_7$  or  $D_8$ , or  $D$  is contained in a group  $E_6 A_2, D_5 A_3, A_8, A_7 A_1, A_5 A_2 A_1, A_4^2, D_7 T_1$  or  $D_6 A_1 T_1$ . For the purposes of this proof we shall say that  $D$  is ‘small’ if it has no  $E_7$  or  $D_8$  factor.

For convenience we record the dimension and nilpotence class of  $Q_i$  (the latter being given by 1.11):

	$i$							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
$\dim Q_i$	78	92	98	106	104	97	83	57
$\text{class}(Q_i)$	2	3	4	6	5	4	3	2

By 3.1, we may assume that  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_i) > \dim Q_i - d_{G,i,D}$ , and in particular that  $D$  has more than  $\dim Q_i - d_{G,i,D}$  positive roots; if  $D$  is small, this number is 30, 34, 36, 39, 38, 36, 31 or 21 according as  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7$  or 8. Writing  $X_j$  for a subgroup of  $A_j$  containing a maximal torus, we see that the possibilities for  $D$  small are as follows:

$i$	$D$
4	$D_7T_1$
3, 5, 6	$D_7T_1$ or $E_6X_2$
2, 7	$D_7T_1, E_6X_2$ or $A_8$
1	$D_7T_1, E_6X_2, A_8$ or $D_6A_1T_1$
8	$D_7T_1, E_6X_2, A_8, D_6X_1T_1, D_5X_3, A_7X_1$ or $A_6A_1T_1$

First suppose  $i = 1$ . By 3.1, we have  $R_u(D \cap P_1) \leq Q_1$ , whence

$$\text{class}(R_u(D \cap P_1)) \leq \text{class}(Q_1) = 2.$$

If  $D = E_7X_1$ , then by 1.11,  $E_7 \cap P_1 = P_j(E_7)$  for  $j \in \{1, 2, 6, 7\}$ , and so  $\dim R_u(E_7 \cap P_1) \leq 42$ , whence  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_1) \leq 43$ ; thus

$$f(s, G/P_1) \geq \dim Q_1 - 43 = 35 = d_{G,1,E_7}$$

as required. If  $D = D_8$  then  $D \cap P_1 \neq P_5(D_8)$  or  $P_6(D_8)$  because the Levi factor  $A_4A_3$  of  $P_5(D_8)$  or  $A_5A_1^2$  of  $P_6(D_8)$  does not embed in  $L'_1 = D_7$ ; thus  $D \cap P_1$  is  $P_j(D_8)$  for  $j \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8\}$  or  $P_{jk}(D_8)$  for  $j, k \in \{1, 7, 8\}$ , giving  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_1) \leq 38$ . Likewise, if  $D = D_7T_1$  then  $D_7 \cap P_1$  is  $P_j(D_7)$  for  $1 \leq j \leq 7$  or  $P_{jk}(D_7)$  for  $j, k \in \{1, 6, 7\}$ , giving  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_1) \leq 30$ ; if  $D = E_6X_2$  then  $E_6 \cap P_1$  is  $P_j(E_6)$  for  $j \neq 4$  or  $P_{16}(E_6)$ , giving  $\dim R_u(E_6 \cap P_1) \leq 25$ , whence  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_1) \leq 28$ ; if  $D = A_8$  then  $D \cap P_1$  is  $P_j(A_8)$  or  $P_{jk}(A_8)$  and  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_1) \leq 27$ ; and if  $D = D_6A_1T_1$  then  $D_6 \cap P_1$  is  $P_j(D_6)$  for  $1 \leq j \leq 6$  or  $P_{jk}(D_6)$  for  $j, k \in \{1, 5, 6\}$ , giving  $\dim(R_u(D_6 \cap P_1)) \leq 22$ , whence  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_1) \leq 23$ . In all cases, the bounds required for Theorem 2(I)(b) follow.

The arguments for  $i = 2, 3, 4$  and 5 are all similarly straightforward; the only point to note is that if  $D = D_8$  then  $D \cap P_3 \neq P_{36}(D_8)$ , because the Levi factor  $A_2^2A_1^2$  does not embed in  $L'_3 = A_6A_1$ . Thus the conclusion of Theorem 2(I)(b) holds in these cases.

Now let  $i = 6$ . The arguments for the cases where  $D$  is small are straightforward. Suppose  $D = E_7X_1$ ; we must show that  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_6)$  is at most  $\dim Q_6 - d_{G,6,E_7} = 97 - 44 = 53$ . Since  $\text{class}(R_u(D \cap P_6)) \leq 4$ , the only

possibility requiring consideration is that of  $D \cap P_6 = P_4(E_7)P_1(A_1)$ . As both  $R_u(P_4(E_7))$  and  $Q_6$  have precisely three roots of height 4 (with respect to  $P_4(E_7)$  and  $P_6$  respectively), these roots must be equal; thus

$$\beta_0 = \alpha_0, \quad \beta_0 - \beta_1 = \alpha_0 - \alpha_8, \quad \beta_0 - \beta_1 - \beta_2 = \alpha_0 - \alpha_7 - \alpha_8,$$

whence  $\beta_1 = \alpha_8$  and  $\beta_2 = \alpha_7$  by subtraction. Now as  $\gamma_1$  is orthogonal to  $\beta_0$  it must be of the form  $\sum m_j \alpha_j$  with  $m_8 = 0$ ; as it is also orthogonal to  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$  we must have  $m_7 = 0$  and  $m_6 = 0$ —but then  $\gamma_1 \notin \Phi(Q_6)$ . Thus the case  $D \cap P_6 = P_4(E_7)P_1(A_1)$  cannot occur. Similarly suppose  $D = D_8$ ; we require  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_6) \leq 97 - 50 = 47$ , and the only case to be considered is that where  $D \cap P_6 = P_{36}(D_8)$ . Again both  $R_u(P_{36}(D_8))$  and  $Q_6$  have precisely three roots of height 4, so we must have

$$\beta_0 = \alpha_0, \quad \beta_0 - \beta_2 = \alpha_0 - \alpha_8, \quad \beta_0 - \beta_1 - \beta_2 = \alpha_0 - \alpha_7 - \alpha_8,$$

whence  $\beta_1 = \alpha_7$  and  $\beta_2 = \alpha_8$ . As the coefficients of  $\beta_2$  in  $\beta_0$  and  $\alpha_8$  in  $\alpha_0$  are equal, each  $\beta_k$  for  $k > 2$  must be of the form  $\sum m_j \alpha_j$  with  $m_8 = 0$ , and must be orthogonal to  $\alpha_7$ . However,  $\beta_3$  cannot then have  $m_6 = 1$ ; thus the case  $D \cap P_6 = P_{36}(D_8)$  cannot occur. We have therefore shown that the conclusion of Theorem 2(I)(b) holds if  $i = 6$ .

Next let  $i = 7$ ; note that  $\Phi(Q_7)$  has just two roots of height 3 with respect to  $P_7$ , namely  $\alpha_0$  and  $\alpha_0 - \alpha_8$ . In the case where  $D$  is small we require  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_7) \leq 31$ . If  $D = A_8$  this bound is easily seen to be satisfied. If  $D = D_7T_1$ , the result is clear provided  $\text{class}(R_u(D \cap P_7)) < \text{class}(P_7) = 3$ , so assume  $\text{class}(R_u(D \cap P_7)) = 3$ ; since  $\Phi(R_u(D \cap P_7))$  can have at most two roots of height 3, we must have  $D \cap P_7 = P_{13}(D_7)$  or  $P_{2j}(D_7)$  for  $j \in \{1, 6, 7\}$ , and the bound follows. Similarly if  $D = E_6X_2$  the result is clear unless  $\text{class}(R_u(D \cap P_7)) = 3$ , when consideration of roots of height 3 rules out  $E_6 \cap P_7 = P_{15}(E_6)$  or  $P_{36}(E_6)$ , leaving just the case  $D \cap P_7 = P_4(E_6)P_{12}(A_2)$  to be treated; here we must have

$$\beta_0 = \alpha_0, \quad \beta_0 - \beta_2 = \alpha_0 - \alpha_8,$$

giving  $\beta_2 = \alpha_8$ . Since  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  are then orthogonal to  $\alpha_8$  and must have nonzero  $\alpha_7$ -coefficient, they must both be of the form  $\sum m_j \alpha_j$  with  $m_7 = 2$  and  $m_8 = 1$ ; but then  $\gamma_0 = \gamma_1 + \gamma_2$  is not a root, which contradiction shows that  $D \cap P_7 = P_4(E_6)P_{12}(A_2)$  cannot occur.

Now assume  $D$  is not small. If  $D = D_8$  we must show that  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_7) \leq 83 - 43 = 40$ . The parabolic  $D \cap P_7$  of  $D_8$  cannot have Levi factor of type  $A_3^2$ ,  $D_4A_2$  or  $A_4A_2$ , since these do not embed in  $L_7' = E_6A_1$ ; we cannot have  $D \cap P_7 = P_{16}(D_8)$  or  $P_{178}(D_8)$ , since their unipotent radicals have too many roots of height 3; all other possibilities for  $D \cap P_7$  satisfy the bound. If instead  $D = E_7X_1$ , we require  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_7) \leq 83 - 36 = 47$ : Both  $R_u(P_5(E_7))$  and  $R_u(P_{27}(E_7))$  have too many roots of height 3; if  $E_7 \cap P_7 = P_3(E_7)$ , equating roots of height 3 shows that  $\beta_0 = \alpha_0$  and  $\beta_1 = \alpha_8$ , and then any root orthogonal to both  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  must be of the form  $\sum m_j \alpha_j$



with both  $m_8 = 0$  and  $m_7 = 0$ , and so lies outside  $\Phi(Q_7)$ —so we cannot have  $D \cap P_7 = P_3(E_7)P_1(A_1)$ ; again, all other possibilities for  $D \cap P_7$  satisfy the bound. Thus the conclusion of Theorem 2(I)(b) holds if  $i = 7$ .

Finally let  $i = 8$ ; we have  $\text{class}(Q_8) = 2$ , and  $\alpha_0$  is the only root of height 2 with respect to  $P_8$ . Thus if  $\text{class}(R_u(D_j \cap P_8)) = 2$  for any simple factor  $D_j$  of  $D$ , then  $\alpha_0$  must be the unique root of  $\Phi(R_u(D_j \cap P_8))$  of height 2 with respect to  $D_j \cap P_8$ , and any root in  $\Phi(D_k \cap P_8)$  for  $k \neq j$  must be orthogonal to  $\alpha_0$  and hence outside  $\Phi(Q_8)$ . These considerations quickly show that all possibilities for  $D \cap P_8$  satisfy the relevant bound, namely  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_8) \leq 33, 28$  or  $21$  according as  $D = E_7X_1, D = D_8$  or  $D$  is small. This completes the proof that the conclusion of Theorem 2(I)(b) holds if  $G = E_8$ . □

**Lemma 3.3.** *The conclusion of Theorem 2(I)(b) holds if  $G = E_7$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $G = E_7$ . In this proof we say that  $D$  is small if it has no factor  $E_6, D_6$  or  $A_7$ ; inspection of the lists in [9] as in the previous lemma shows that if  $D$  is small then  $D^0$  is contained in a group  $A_5A_2, A_3^2A_1, D_5A_1T_1, D_4A_1^2T_1, A_6T_1$  or  $A_5A_1T_1$ .

Using 1.11, we record the dimension and class of  $Q_i$ :

	$i$						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
dim $Q_i$	33	42	47	53	50	42	27
class( $Q_i$ )	2	2	3	4	3	2	1

By 3.1, we may again assume that  $D$  has more than  $\dim Q_i - d_{G,i,D}$  positive roots; if  $D$  is small, this number is 13, 16, 17, 19, 18, 16 or 10 according as  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6$  or  $7$ . Writing  $X_j$  for a subgroup of  $A_j$  containing a maximal torus again, we see that the possibilities for  $D$  small are as follows:

$i$	$D^0$
4, 5	$A_6T_1$ or $D_5X_1T_1$
2, 3, 6	$A_6T_1, D_5X_1T_1$ or $A_5A_2$
1	$A_6T_1, D_5X_1T_1, A_5X_2$ or $D_4A_1^2T_1$
7	$A_6T_1, D_5X_1T_1, A_5X_2, A_4X_2T_1, D_4X_1^2T_1$ or $A_3^2X_1$

First suppose  $i = 1$ . As with the case  $i = 8$  for  $G = E_8$ , we see that if  $\text{class}(R_u(D_j \cap P_1)) = 2$  for any simple factor  $D_j$  of  $D$ , then  $\alpha_0$  must be the unique root of  $\Phi(R_u(D_j \cap P_1))$  of height 2 with respect to  $D_j \cap P_1$ , and any root in  $\Phi(D_k \cap P_1)$  for  $k \neq j$  must be outside  $\Phi(Q_1)$ . These considerations quickly show that all possibilities for  $D \cap P_1$  satisfy the relevant bound, namely  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_1) \leq 21, 17, 16$  or  $13$  according as  $D \triangleright E_6, D \triangleright D_6, D^0 = A_7$  or  $D$  is small.

Next suppose  $i = 2$ . The arguments here are all straightforward; we merely need note that if  $D \triangleright D_6$  then  $D_6 \cap P_2 \neq P_4(D_6)$ , because the Levi factor  $A_3A_1^2$  does not embed in  $L'_2 = A_6$ , and for the same reason if  $D^0 = A_7$

then  $A_7 \cap P_2$  does not have Levi factor  $A_3A_1^2$  or  $A_2^2A_1$ . Thus the conclusion of Theorem 2(I)(b) holds in this case.

Now let  $i = 3$ ; note that  $\Phi(Q_3)$  has just two roots of height 3 with respect to  $P_3$ , namely  $\alpha_0$  and  $\alpha_0 - \alpha_1$ . In the case where  $D$  is small, we require  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_3) \leq 17$ . If  $D^0 = A_5A_2$  this bound is easily seen to be satisfied. If  $D^0 = A_6T_1$ , the result is clear provided  $\text{class}(R_u(D \cap P_3)) < \text{class}(P_3) = 3$ , so assume  $\text{class}(R_u(D \cap P_3)) = 3$ ; since  $\Phi(R_u(D \cap P_3))$  can have at most two roots of height 3, the bound follows immediately unless  $A_6 \cap P_3 = P_{135}(A_6)$  or  $P_{246}(A_6)$ . As these cases are equivalent under a graph automorphism of  $A_6$ , it suffices to treat the former possibility; here we must have  $\beta_0 = \alpha_0$  and  $\beta_0 - \beta_6 = \alpha_0 - \alpha_1$ , so that  $\beta_6 = \alpha_1$ —but then as  $\beta_1$  is orthogonal to  $\beta_6$  it cannot be of the form  $\sum m_j \alpha_j$  with  $m_3 = 1$ , and thus cannot be of height 1 with respect to  $P_3$ , a contradiction. Thus the bound is satisfied if  $D^0 = A_6T_1$ . If instead  $D^0 = D_5X_1T_1$ , we cannot have  $D_5 \cap P_3 = P_{145}(D_5)$  as this would require more than two roots of height 3; the bound is then clear unless  $D' \cap P_3 = P_{13}(D_5)P_1(A_1)$ . In this case we must have  $\beta_0 = \alpha_0$  and  $\beta_0 - \beta_2 = \alpha_0 - \alpha_1$ , so that  $\beta_2 = \alpha_1$ ; but then  $\gamma_1$  must be orthogonal to both  $\alpha_0$  and  $\alpha_1$ , which forces it to be of the form  $\sum m_j \alpha_j$  with  $m_1 = m_3 = 0$ , contrary to  $\gamma_1 \in \Phi(Q_3)$ . Thus the bound is satisfied in all cases where  $D$  is small.

Now assume  $D$  is not small. If  $D \triangleright E_6$  the argument is straightforward; we require  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_3) \leq 29$ , and as  $\text{class}(R_u(D \cap P_3)) \leq 3$  the minimal possibilities for the Levi factor of  $E_6 \cap P_3$  are  $A_2^2A_1$ ,  $A_3A_1$  and  $A_4$ , each of which means that the bound is satisfied. If instead  $D \triangleright D_6$ , we require  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_3) \leq 24$ ; here the condition that  $\Phi(R_u(D_6 \cap P_3))$  should contain at most two roots of height 3 with respect to  $D_6 \cap P_3$  means that we cannot have  $D_6 \cap P_3 = P_{14}(D_6)$ ,  $P_{35}(D_6)$ ,  $P_{36}(D_6)$  or  $P_{156}(D_6)$ , and the required bound follows. If  $D^0 = A_7$ , the requirement is  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_3) \leq 22$ ; arguing as before with the nilpotence class and the number of roots of height 3, we see that we need only consider the possibility that  $A_7 \cap P_3 = P_{247}(A_7)$  or  $P_{257}(A_7)$  (up to equivalence under the graph automorphism of  $A_7$ ). We must then have  $\beta_0 = \alpha_0$  and  $\beta_0 - \beta_1 = \alpha_0 - \alpha_1$ , so that  $\beta_1 = \alpha_1$ —but then as  $\beta_7$  is orthogonal to  $\beta_1$  it cannot be of height 1 with respect to  $P_3$ , a contradiction. Thus the conclusion of Theorem 2(I)(b) holds if  $i = 3$ .

The arguments for  $i = 4$  or  $5$  are all straightforward; the only point to note is that if  $D^0 = A_7$  we cannot have  $D \cap P_5 = P_{246}(A_7)$ , because the Levi factor  $A_1^4$  does not embed in  $L'_5 = A_4A_2$ .

Now let  $i = 6$ ; we have  $\text{class}(Q_6) = 2$ . The arguments for  $D$  small are all straightforward, and we obtain  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_6) \leq 16$  as required. If  $D \triangleright E_6$  we require  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_6) \leq 25$ , and again this is immediate. If  $D^0 = A_7$  we require  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_6) \leq 20$ ; here  $A_7 \cap P_6$  cannot have Levi factor  $A_2^2A_1$  as this does not embed in  $L'_6 = D_5A_1$ , and the bound follows. Lastly if  $D \triangleright D_6$  we require  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_6) \leq 22$ , which is satisfied unless  $D = D_6A_1$

and  $D \cap P_6 = P_4(D_6)P_1(A_1)$ . We shall show that this is impossible; this is the most complicated of the cases to be treated.

Thus assume  $D \cap P_6 = P_4(D_6)P_1(A_1)$ . Since both  $Q_6$  and  $R_u(D_6 \cap P_6)$  have nilpotence class 2, the root  $\beta_4$  must have  $\alpha_6$ -coefficient 1, while each root  $\beta_k$  for  $k \neq 6$  must have  $\alpha_6$ -coefficient 0. As the coefficient of  $\alpha_7$  in  $\alpha_0$  is 1, the root  $\beta_4$  must have  $\alpha_7$ -coefficient 0. As  $D_6$  is not a subsystem of  $E_6$ , not all the  $\beta_k$  can have  $\alpha_7$ -coefficient 0, so we must have  $\beta_k = \alpha_7$  for some  $k$ ; since  $\alpha_7$  is not orthogonal to  $\beta_4$ , and  $\beta_3$  appears with coefficient 2 in  $\beta_0$ , we may assume (after interchanging  $\beta_5$  and  $\beta_6$  if necessary) that  $\beta_6 = \alpha_7$ . Now if we let  $\Xi$  be the set of roots of the form  $\sum m_j \alpha_j$  with  $m_6 = 2$ , then we must have  $\gamma_1 \in \Xi$  as it is orthogonal to  $\beta_6$  and has nonzero  $\alpha_6$ -coefficient. However,  $\gamma_1$  is orthogonal to both  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_0 - \beta_2$ , which also lie in  $\Xi$ ; but any root in  $\Xi$  is orthogonal to precisely one other root in  $\Xi$ . This contradiction shows that we cannot have  $D \cap P_6 = P_4(D_6)P_1(A_1)$ .

Finally let  $i = 7$ ; we have  $\text{class}(Q_7) = 1$ . Moreover  $\Phi(Q_7)$  consists of 27 roots; of these, given two which are orthogonal there is exactly one other orthogonal to both. (This is easily seen by using the Weyl group to move the first root of an orthogonal pair to  $\alpha_7$ ; the 10 roots in  $\Phi(Q_7)$  orthogonal to  $\alpha_7$  are those of the form  $\sum m_j \alpha_j$  with  $m_6 = 2$  and  $m_7 = 1$ , and these fall into five orthogonal pairs.) For  $D$  small, we require  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_7) \leq 10$ : If  $D^0 = A_5A_2$  and  $A_5 \cap P_7 = P_3(A_5)$ , then we already have the three mutually orthogonal roots  $\beta_3$ ,  $\beta_2 + \beta_3 + \beta_4$  and  $\beta_0$  in  $\Phi(Q_7)$ , so we cannot have  $\gamma_j \in \Phi(Q_7)$  for  $j = 1$  or  $2$ ; if  $D^0 = A_6T_1$  we cannot have  $A_6 \cap P_7 = P_3(A_6)$  or  $P_4(A_6)$ , as the Levi factor  $A_3A_2$  does not embed in  $L'_7 = E_6$ ; if  $D^0 = D_5A_1T_1$  we cannot have  $D_5A_1 \cap P_7 = P_j(D_5)P_1(A_1)$  for  $j \in \{4, 5\}$ , since then  $\beta_j$  and  $\gamma_1$  would be orthogonal to the three roots  $\beta_0$ ,  $\beta_0 - \beta_2$  and  $\beta_0 - \beta_1 - \beta_2$  in  $\Phi(Q_7)$ ; in all other cases the arguments are straightforward. If  $D \triangleright E_6$  we require  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_7) \leq 16$ , and this is immediate. If  $D \triangleright D_6$  we need  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_7) \leq 15$ ; here we may use the argument just given for the case  $D^0 = D_5A_1T_1$  to see that we cannot have  $D' \cap P_7 = P_j(D_6)P_1(A_1)$  for  $j \in \{5, 6\}$ , and the bound follows. Lastly if  $D^0 = A_7$  we must show that  $\dim R_u(D \cap P_7) \leq 12$ ; here we cannot have  $A_7 \cap P_7 = P_j(A_7)$  for  $j \in \{3, 4, 5\}$ , as the Levi factor  $A_3^2$  or  $A_4A_2$  does not embed in  $L'_7 = E_6$ , and again the bound follows. This completes the proof that the conclusion of Theorem 2(I)(b) holds if  $G = E_7$ . □

**Lemma 3.4.** *The conclusion of Theorem 2(I)(b) holds if  $G = E_6, F_4, G_2$ .*

*Proof.* The proof is carried out using the methods of the previous lemmas; the only points which need mentioning are as follows. Firstly, let  $G = E_6$ . If  $i = 1$  or  $6$ , then  $\Phi(Q_i)$  does not contain three pairwise orthogonal roots. Thus if  $D = A_5A_1$  we cannot have either  $A_5 \cap P_i = P_3(A_5)$  (as then  $\Phi(R_u(D \cap P_i))$  would contain  $\beta_3$ ,  $\beta_2 + \beta_3 + \beta_4$  and  $\beta_0$ ) or  $D \cap P_i = P_j(A_5)P_1(A_1)$  for  $j \in \{2, 4\}$  (as then  $\Phi(R_u(D \cap P_i))$  would contain  $\beta_2 + \beta_3 + \beta_4$ ,  $\beta_0$  and  $\gamma_1$ );

and similarly if  $D = A_4A_1T_1$  we cannot have  $D' \cap P_i = P_j(A_4)P_1(A_1)$  for  $j \in \{2, 3\}$  (as then  $\Phi(R_u(D \cap P_i))$  would contain  $\beta_2 + \beta_3, \beta_0$  and  $\gamma_1$ ). If instead  $i = 3$  or  $5$ , then  $Q_i$  has nilpotence class 2, and of the five roots of height 2 with respect to  $P_i$  no two are orthogonal; thus if  $D = A_5A_1$  we cannot have  $A_5 \cap P_i = P_{24}(A_5)$  (as then  $\Phi(R_u(D \cap P_i))$  would contain  $\beta_2 + \beta_3 + \beta_4$  and  $\beta_0$ ).

Secondly, let  $G = F_4$ ; here we exploit the distinction between long and short roots. If  $i = 1$  then  $\Phi(Q_1)$  contains just 6 short roots, of which no two sum to a short root and none is orthogonal to  $\alpha_0$ ; also  $\alpha_0$  is the unique root of height 2 with respect to  $P_1$ . Thus if  $D = A_2\tilde{A}_2$  we cannot have  $\tilde{A}_2 \cap P_i = P_{12}(\tilde{A}_2)$ ; and if  $D = A_3\tilde{A}_1$  we cannot have  $D \cap P_i = P_{jk}(A_3)P_1(\tilde{A}_1)$  for  $j, k \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ . If  $i = 3$  then  $\Phi(Q_i)$  contains only 9 long roots, of which no three may be added to form a root (since their  $\alpha_3$ -coefficients are all 2 or 4); thus if  $D = B_4$  or  $A_3\tilde{A}_1$  the number of long roots in  $\Phi(D) \setminus \Phi(R_u(D \cap P_3))$  must be at least 3 or 1 respectively. If  $i = 4$ , the following is true of  $\Phi(Q_i)$ : it contains only 6 long roots, of which no three are pairwise orthogonal, no two sum to a root and none is orthogonal to  $\tilde{\alpha}_0 = \alpha_1 + 2\alpha_2 + 3\alpha_3 + 2\alpha_4$ , the unique short root of height 2 with respect to  $P_4$ ; also, given any two of its long roots which are orthogonal, none of its short roots is orthogonal to both. Thus if  $D = B_4$  we cannot have  $D \cap P_i = P_j(B_4)$  for  $j = 2$  or  $3$ , as then  $\Phi(R_u(P_j(B_4)))$  would contain 9 long roots; if  $D = C_3A_1$  we cannot have  $D \cap P_i = P_2(C_3)P_1(A_1)$ , as then  $\Phi(R_u(D \cap P_i))$  would contain the pairwise orthogonal roots  $\beta_0, 2\beta_2 + \beta_3$  and  $\gamma_1$ ; if  $D = B_3T_1$  we cannot have  $B_3 \cap P_i = P_2(B_3)$ , as then  $\Phi(R_u(D \cap P_i))$  would contain  $\beta_1 + \beta_2$  and  $\beta_2 + 2\beta_3$ , whose sum is a root; if  $D = A_2\tilde{A}_2$  we cannot have  $A_2 \cap P_i = P_{12}(A_2)$ , while  $\tilde{A}_2 \cap P_i = P_{12}(\tilde{A}_2)$  would force  $\tilde{\alpha}_0 \in \Phi(R_u(D \cap P_i))$ , whence  $\Phi(A_2) \cap \Phi(R_u(D \cap P_i)) = \emptyset$ ; and if  $D = A_3\tilde{A}_1$  we cannot have either  $A_3 \cap P_i = P_{jk}(A_3)$  for  $j, k \in \{1, 2, 3\}$  or  $D \cap P_i = P_2(A_3)P_1(\tilde{A}_1)$ .

All other cases, including those in which  $G = G_2$ , are straightforward, and may be left to the reader. □

This completes the proof of Theorem 2(I)(b). In fact all the bounds listed in Table 7.3 are sharp; for each entry  $d_{G,i,D}$ , it is possible to find an appropriate  $D$  for which  $\dim Q_i - \dim R_u(D \cap P_i)$  takes the value given, as may be verified by using a computer to form all  $W$ -translates of  $\Phi(D)$  and taking intersections with  $\Phi(Q_i)$ .

#### 4. Proof of Theorem 2, Part (II)(a): Unipotent elements in maximal rank subgroups.

In this section we prove Theorem 2(II)(a). Thus let  $G$  be an exceptional algebraic group over the algebraically closed field  $K$  of characteristic  $p$ , and

let  $M$  be a maximal closed reductive subgroup of  $G$  of maximal rank (that is, containing a maximal torus of  $G$ ). The possibilities for  $M$  are given by 1.1.

We begin by handling elements in  $M - M^0$ . For convenience we deal with both semisimple and unipotent elements in this case:

**Lemma 4.1.** *Let  $x \in M - M^0$  be an element of prime order, and let  $D = C_G(x)$ . Then  $\dim x^G - \dim(x^G \cap (M - M^0))$  satisfies the bounds of Theorem 2(II): That is,*

$$\dim x^G - \dim(x^G \cap (M - M^0)) \geq \begin{cases} e_G, & x \text{ a long root element} \\ e'_G, & x \text{ unipotent, not a long root element} \\ f_{G,M,D}, & x \text{ semisimple.} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* First consider  $G = E_8$ . The non-connected possibilities for  $M$  are those with  $M^0 = A_8, A_2E_6, D_4D_4, A_4A_4, A_2^4, A_1^8$  or  $T_8$ . Using 1.4, we see that if  $M^0 = A_8$  then  $\dim(x^G \cap (M - M^0)) = \dim(A_8/B_4) = 44$ ; if  $M^0 = A_2E_6$  then  $\dim(x^G \cap (M - M^0)) \leq \dim(A_2E_6/A_1C_4) = 47$ ; if  $M^0 = D_4D_4$  then  $\dim(x^G \cap (M - M^0)) \leq \dim(D_4D_4/A_2A_2) = 40$ ; and in the other cases,  $\dim(x^G \cap (M - M^0)) \leq 28$ . The conclusion now follows if  $x$  is semisimple, because then  $\dim x^G \geq 112, 128$  or  $156$  according as  $D \triangleright E_7, D = D_8$  or  $D$  has no  $E_7$  or  $D_8$  factor. It also follows if  $x$  is not a root element (since then by 1.7,  $\dim x^G \geq 92$ ), or if  $M^0 \neq A_8, A_2E_6, D_4D_4$ . However, if  $M^0$  is one of the latter three subgroups, then  $x$  is not a root element by 1.13(iii).

Next let  $G = E_7$ . Here  $M^0 = T_1E_6, A_7, A_2A_5, A_1^3D_4, A_1^7$  or  $T_7$ .

Suppose  $M^0 = T_1E_6$ . If  $p \neq 2$  then by 1.4,  $C_{M^0}(x) = F_4$  or  $C_4$ ; and from the proof of [8, 2.15],  $C_G(x)^0 = T_1E_6$  or  $A_7$ , respectively. Therefore  $\dim x^G - \dim(x^G \cap (M - M^0)) = 54 - 27$  or  $70 - 43$ , which is equal to 27 in both cases, giving the conclusion. If  $p = 2$  then again by 1.4,  $\dim(x^G \cap (M - M^0)) = 27$  or 43. By [24, §2],  $V_G(\lambda_7) \downarrow E_6 = V(\lambda_1) \oplus V(\lambda_6) \oplus 0^2$ ; since  $x$  interchanges the first two spaces, it has at least 27 Jordan blocks of size 2 on  $V_G(\lambda_7)$ , and hence by [17] lies in class  $3A_1'$  or  $4A_1$  in  $G$ . These classes have dimensions 54 and 70. We need to show that  $\dim x^G - \dim(x^G \cap (M - M^0)) \geq e'_G = 20$ . This will follow provided we show that when  $C_{M^0}(x) = C_{F_4}(t)$  (in the notation of 1.4),  $x$  lies in the class  $4A_1$  rather than  $3A_1'$ . To see this, let  $u \in M - M^0$  be an involution with  $C_{M^0}(u) = F_4$ . This  $F_4$  contains a subgroup  $D_4\langle s \rangle$ , where  $s$  is an element of order 3 inducing a triality automorphism of  $D_4$ . Moreover,  $C_G(D_4) = (A_1)^3$ , with  $s$  permuting the 3 factors. Since  $u$  is centralized by  $s$ , it must lie in a diagonal subgroup of this  $(A_1)^3$ . Now taking the element  $t$  to be a root element in the  $D_4$ , we see that  $tu$  lies diagonally in a subgroup  $4A_1$ . This  $4A_1$  is a Levi subgroup of  $G$ : For the  $3A_1$  is a Levi of type  $SO_4 \times A_1$  in a Levi  $D_6$  of  $G$ , and inspection of the Dynkin diagram of  $G$  shows that the fourth  $A_1$  can be chosen to make a

Levi  $4A_1$  subgroup with this. Therefore  $tu$  is in the class  $4A_1$  of  $G$ . Since  $tu$  is a conjugate of  $x$ , this finishes the proof in this case.

Now suppose  $M^0 = A_7$ . If  $p \neq 2$  then by 1.4,  $C_{M^0}(x) = C_4$  or  $D_4$ , and in the latter case  $C_G(x)^0 = A_7$  (see the proof of [8, 2.15]). Hence  $\dim x^G - \dim(x^G \cap (M - M^0)) \geq 27, 37$  or  $35$ , according as  $D^0 = E_6T_1, D_6A_1$  or  $A_7$ . If  $p = 2$  then 1.4 gives  $\dim(x^G \cap (M - M^0)) = 27$  or  $35$ . Also, if  $V_{56} = V_G(\lambda_7)$ , then  $V_{56} \downarrow A_7 = V(\lambda_2) \oplus V(\lambda_6)$  (see [24, §2]). As  $x$  interchanges  $V(\lambda_2)$  and  $V(\lambda_6)$ , it acts on  $V_{56}$  as  $J_2^{28}$  (where  $J_2$  is a Jordan block of size 2). Therefore by [17],  $x$  is in class  $3A_1''$  or  $4A_1$  and the required bound follows provided we show that when  $C_{M^0}(x) = C_{C_4}(t)$  (in the notation of 1.4),  $x$  lies in the class  $4A_1$  rather than  $3A_1''$ . To see this, let  $v$  be an involution in  $M - M^0$  such that  $C_{M^0}(v) = C_4$ . By 1.7,  $v$  must lie in the class  $3A_1''$ . Let  $J$  be a fundamental subgroup  $A_1$  lying in this  $C_4$ , and take  $t$  to be an involution in  $J$ . Then  $J < C_G(v)$ , and by [23, 2.3],  $J$  lies in a Levi subgroup of a parabolic of  $G$  containing  $C_G(v)$ . Therefore  $vt$  is in the same class as the element  $ut$  of the previous paragraph, namely  $4A_1$ , as desired.

Now let  $M^0 = A_2A_5$ . By [31, 1.8],

$$L(E_7) \downarrow A_2A_5 = (V(\lambda_1) \otimes V(\lambda_2)) \oplus (V(\lambda_2) \otimes V(\lambda_4)) \oplus L(A_2A_5).$$

By 1.4,  $\dim(x^G \cap (M - M^0)) = 19$  or  $25$ . We know by 1.13(iii) that  $x$  is not a root element. If  $p = 2$  then by 1.7,  $\dim x^G \geq 52$ , and the conclusion follows. And if  $p \neq 2$  then  $x$  interchanges the first two spaces in the above restriction, whence we see that  $\dim C_{L(G)}(x) = 69$  or  $63$ . Hence  $\dim x^G \geq 64$  and the conclusion follows.

Of the remaining cases,  $M^0 = A_1^3D_4$  is dealt with by the same methods, and  $A_7^7, T_7$  are trivial to handle. This completes the case where  $G = E_7$ .

Next consider  $G = E_6$ . Here  $M^0 = T_2D_4, A_2^3$  or  $T_6$ .

Suppose  $M^0 = T_2D_4$ . By [24, §2],

$$L(E_6) \downarrow D_4 = V(\lambda_1)^2 \oplus V(\lambda_3)^2 \oplus V(\lambda_4)^2 \oplus L(D_4T_2).$$

If  $|x| = 3$  then by 1.4,  $\dim(x^G \cap (M - M^0)) = 16$  or  $22$ . When  $p \neq 3$  the above restriction implies  $\dim C_G(x) = 30$  or  $24$ , and the required bounds follow. And when  $p = 3$ ,  $x$  has at least 16 Jordan blocks of size 3 on  $L(E_6)$ , so by [17],  $x \notin A_1, 2A_1, 3A_1$ , whence  $\dim x^G \geq 42$  by 1.7, giving the result. A similar argument gives the result when  $|x| = 2$ ; note that if  $p \neq 2$  and  $D^0 = D_5T_1$  then  $\dim(D \cap M)^0 \geq \dim B_3T_1 = 22$ , whence  $\dim x^G - \dim(x^G \cap (M - M^0)) \geq 24$ .

When  $M^0 = A_2^3$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} V_G(\lambda_1) \downarrow A_2^3 &= (V(\lambda_1) \otimes V(\lambda_2) \otimes 0) \oplus \\ &\quad (V(\lambda_2) \otimes 0 \otimes V(\lambda_1)) \oplus (0 \otimes V(\lambda_1) \otimes V(\lambda_2)), \end{aligned}$$

(see [24, Section 2]), from which we check that elements of order 2 or 3 in  $M \setminus M^0$  do not have centralizer of type  $D_5$ ; now the argument of the previous paragraph gives the conclusion. Finally the case where  $M^0 = T_6$  is trivial.

The cases  $G = F_4, G_2$  are entirely similar and left to the reader. □

Let  $u$  be a nonidentity unipotent element of  $M$ , of order  $p$  if  $p > 0$ . By the previous lemma we may ignore  $u^G \cap (M - M^0)$ : In other words, to prove Theorem 2(II)(a) it suffices to prove the lower bounds in the statement for  $\dim u^G - \dim(u^G \cap M^0)$ . In particular we can assume  $u \in M^0$ .

Since  $M^0$  has finitely many unipotent classes (see 1.8), replacing  $u$  by a suitable conjugate we may take  $\dim(u^G \cap M^0) = \dim u^{M^0}$  (i.e.,  $u^{M^0}$  is an  $M^0$ -class of maximal dimension in  $u^G \cap M^0$ ). Write

$$D = C_G(u).$$

**Lemma 4.2.** *The conclusion of Theorem 2(II)(a) holds if  $u$  is a long root element of  $G$  (or a short root element if  $(G, p) = (F_4, 2)$  or  $(G_2, 3)$ ).*

*Proof.* Suppose  $u$  is a long root element. By 1.13(ii),  $u$  lies in a simple factor  $M_0$  of  $M^0$ , and is a root element therein. Therefore  $\dim u^G - \dim u^M = \dim u^G - \dim u^{M_0}$ . The possibilities for  $M_0$  are given by 1.1, and the dimensions of  $u^G, u^{M_0}$  are given by 1.12. It follows from these results that

$$\dim u^G - \dim u^{M^0} \geq e_G,$$

(where  $e_G$  is as in Table 1 in the Introduction), as required. Finally, if  $u$  is a short root element and  $(G, p) = (F_4, 2)$  or  $(G_2, 3)$ , application of a graph automorphism of  $G$  now gives the conclusion. □

**Lemma 4.3.** *The conclusion of Theorem 2(II)(a) holds if*

$$\dim M + \dim D \leq \dim G + \text{rank}(G) - e'_G,$$

where  $e'_G$  is as in Table 1 (in the Introduction).

*Proof.* We have  $\dim u^G - \dim u^{M^0} = \dim G - \dim D - \dim M + \dim C_M(u)$ , and the last term is at least  $\text{rank}(G)$ . The result follows. □

In view of 4.2, 4.3, we assume from now on that  $u$  is not a long root element (or a short root element if  $(G, p) = (F_4, 2)$  or  $(G_2, 3)$ ), and that

$$\dim M + \dim D > \dim G + \text{rank}(G) - e'_G.$$

**Lemma 4.4.** *The possibilities for  $M$  are as follows:*

$G$	$M^0$
$E_8$	$A_1E_7, D_8, A_8, A_2E_6$
$E_7$	$T_1E_6, A_1D_6, A_7, A_2A_5$
$E_6$	$T_1D_5, A_1A_5, T_2D_4$
$F_4$	$A_1C_3, B_4, D_4$
$G_2$	$A_2$

*Proof.* Since  $u$  is not a long root element (or a short root element when  $(G, p) = (F_4, 2)$  or  $(G_2, 3)$ ), we see from 1.7 that  $\dim D$  is at most 156, 81, 46, 30, 6, according as  $G$  is  $E_8, E_7, E_6, F_4, G_2$ , respectively. Since  $\dim M > \dim G - \dim D + \text{rank}(G) - e'_G$ , the result now follows from 1.1.  $\square$

Observe that by 1.2, with one exception each of the possibilities for  $M$  listed in 4.4 is the centralizer in  $G$  of an element of order 2 or 3 (except when  $p = 2$  or 3 respectively); the exception is  $M^0 = D_4 < F_4$ . We shall deal with the various cases using this observation.

The involution centralizers are of the following types:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (*) \quad G = E_8 : \quad & M = A_1E_7, D_8 \\
 G = E_7 : \quad & M^0 = T_1E_6, A_1D_6, A_7 \\
 G = E_6 : \quad & M = T_1D_5, A_1A_5 \\
 G = F_4 : \quad & M = B_4, A_1C_3.
 \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 4.5.** *Assume  $M = C_G(t)$  for some involution  $t$ . Then the conclusion of Theorem 2(II)(a) holds.*

*Proof.* Here  $M$  is as in  $(*)$  above, with  $p \neq 2$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \dim u^G - \dim u^M &= \dim G - \dim D - \dim M + \dim M \cap D \\
 &= \dim t^G - \dim t^D.
 \end{aligned}$$

Write  $R = R_u(D^0)$  and  $\bar{D} = D^0/R$ . Choose a maximal unipotent subgroup  $E$  of  $\bar{D}$  normalized by  $t$ , and let  $V$  be the preimage of  $E$  in  $D$ . Then  $V$  is also normalized by  $t$ ; choose a maximal unipotent subgroup  $U$  of  $G$  containing  $V$  and normalized by  $t$ . Now  $C_U(t)$  is a maximal unipotent subgroup of the reductive group  $C_G(t)$ . It follows that

$$\dim t^G = 2 \dim t^U, \quad \dim t^{\bar{D}} = 2 \dim t^E.$$

We have  $\dim t^R \leq \dim t^V - \dim t^E \leq \dim t^U - \dim t^E = \frac{1}{2}(\dim t^G - \dim t^{\bar{D}})$ . It follows that

$$\dim t^G - \dim t^D = \dim t^G - \dim t^{\bar{D}} - \dim t^R \geq \frac{1}{2}(\dim t^G - \dim t^{\bar{D}}).$$

Consequently it is sufficient to prove that

$$(\dagger) \quad \dim t^G - \dim t^{\bar{D}} \geq 2e'_G.$$

For  $G = E_8$ ,  $e'_G = 40$  and  $\dim t^G \geq 112$ , so we are done unless  $\dim t^{\bar{D}} > 32$ . A glance at 1.7 shows that the inequalities  $\dim t^{\bar{D}} > 32$  and  $(\dagger)$  are simultaneously possible only if  $u$  is in one of the classes  $2A_1, A_2$ , with  $C_G(t) = A_1E_7$ . Write  $u = u_0u_1$  with  $u_0 \in A_1, u_1 \in E_7$ . Now

$$L(G) \downarrow A_1E_7 = L(A_1E_7) \oplus (V(\lambda_1) \otimes V(\lambda_7))$$



(see [24, Section 2]). If  $u$  lies in class  $2A_1$  then by [17, Table 9],  $u$  acts on  $L(G)$  as  $J_3^{14} \oplus J_2^{64} \oplus J_1^{78}$  (where  $J_i$  denotes a Jordan block of size  $i$ ). Hence from [17, Table 8] we see that  $u_1$  must be in class  $A_1$  or  $2A_1$  of  $E_7$ . Hence by 1.7 we have

$$\dim u^G - \dim u^M \geq \dim u^G - 52 = 92 - 52 = e'_G,$$

as required. Now consider  $u$  in class  $A_2$ . The Jordan form of  $u$  on  $L(G)$  is given in [17, Table 9]; and the possible Jordan forms of  $u_1$  on  $L(E_7)$  and  $V_{E_7}(\lambda_7)$  are given in [17, Tables 7, 8]. From this we deduce that  $u_1$  must lie in class  $3A_1''$  or  $A_2$  of  $E_7$ , whence by 1.7,

$$\dim u^G - \dim u^M \geq 114 - 66 > e'_G.$$

Next consider  $G = E_7$ . By 1.7 together with (†), we are done unless  $u$  lies in class  $2A_1, 3A_1''$  or  $A_2$  (with  $C_G(t) = T_1E_6$  in the first and last cases). If  $C_G(t) = T_1E_6$ , then since this is a Levi subgroup of  $G$ ,  $u$  lies in class  $2A_1, 3A_1$  or  $A_2$  of the  $E_6$  factor, respectively (see 1.6). In fact we see from [17] that the  $3A_1$  class in  $E_6$  lies in the  $3A_1'$  class of  $G$ , not the  $3A_1''$  class. Hence by 1.7 we have

$$\dim u^G - \dim u^M \geq 20 = e'_G$$

(with equality for the  $2A_1$  class).

This leaves  $M^0 = C_G(t)^0 = A_1D_6$  or  $A_7$  to consider. Here  $u \in 3A_1''$ . Now  $u$  lies in a subgroup  $A_1^3T_4$  of  $G$ , so  $T_4 \leq C_G(u)$ . Also  $t \in C_G(u)$ , which is connected (see 1.7), so  $u \in C_M(T_4)$ . It follows that  $u$  lies in a Levi subgroup of  $M^0$  of rank at most 3. Since  $u \in 3A_1''$ , this Levi subgroup is of type  $A_1^3$ . If  $M^0 = A_7$ , this implies that  $L(A_7) \downarrow u$  has Jordan blocks of size 2, whereas by [17], elements  $3A_1''$  have no such blocks on  $L(E_7)$ , a contradiction. And if  $M^0 = A_1D_6$ , observe that the two unipotent classes of type  $3A_1$  in  $D_6$  have actions  $J_3 \oplus J_2^2 \oplus J_1^5$  and  $J_2^6$  on the usual module, and hence by 1.10,

$$\dim u^G - \dim u^M \geq 54 - 32 > e'_G.$$

Next, if  $G = E_6$  then (†) and 1.7 give the conclusion, except if  $u \in 2A_1$  and  $C_G(t) = T_1D_5$ . As in a previous case, this is a Levi subgroup of  $G$ , so  $u$  has type  $2A_1$  in  $D_5$ , with action  $J_3 \oplus J_1^7$  or  $J_2^4 \oplus J_1^2$  on the usual module. Then 1.10 gives  $\dim u^G - \dim u^M \geq 32 - 20 > e'_G$ .

Now suppose  $G = F_4$ . When  $M = A_1C_3$  it is easy to see that the result holds, using (†). So suppose  $M = B_4$ . Since  $p \neq 2$ , the unipotent classes of  $M$  are labelled by Levi subgroups of  $B_4$  (see 1.7). For such Levi subgroups which are also Levi subgroups of  $G$ , the corresponding unipotent element  $u$  has the same label as an element of  $F_4$ ; the dimension of  $u^G$  is given by [6, p. 401], and that of  $u^M$  by 1.10, and we check that in all cases  $\dim u^G - \dim u^M \geq 8 > e'_G$ , as required. This leaves the Levi subgroups of  $B_4$  which are not Levi subgroups of  $F_4$ ; these are  $A_1A_1, A_3, A_1B_2$  and  $B_4$ . By (†) we may assume that  $\dim t^{\overline{D}} \geq 5$ . From the list of possible  $\overline{D}$  (see 1.7,

with [6] to complete the list), we see that this implies that  $u \in T_k E < G$ , where  $T_k$  is a torus of rank  $k$  and  $E$  a semisimple group of rank  $4 - k \leq 2$ . Hence  $u$  lies in such a subgroup of  $B_4$ , and it follows that  $u$  lies in the class  $A_1 A_1$  of  $B_4$ . Then  $u$  centralizes  $C_G(A_1 A_1) = C_2$ , and it follows that  $u$  lies in the class  $\tilde{A}_1$  of  $G$ . Thus  $\dim u^G - \dim u^M = 22 - 16 = e'_G$ , as required.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.6.** *Assume  $M$  is as in (\*) above, with  $p = 2$ . Then the conclusion of Theorem 2(II)(a) holds.*

*Proof.* Consider first  $G = E_8$ . Recall that we may take  $u$  to have prime order, hence have order 2. Therefore by 1.7,  $u$  belongs to one of the classes  $2A_1, 3A_1, 4A_1$ . Moreover,  $\dim u^M \leq 72$  by 1.5, so we may assume that  $\dim u^G < 72 + e'_G = 112$ , and hence that  $u \in 2A_1$  (again by 1.7).

Let  $M = A_1 E_7$ . Then  $u = u_1$  or  $u_0 u_1$ , where  $1 \neq u_0 \in A_1$  and  $u_1 \in E_7$  is in one of the involution classes  $A_1, 2A_1, 3A''_1, 3A'_1, 4A_1$  of  $E_7$ . By [31, 1.8],

$$L(G) \downarrow A_1 E_7 = (\lambda_1 \otimes \lambda_7) \oplus (L(A_1 E_7)).$$

The Jordan forms of the various possibilities for  $u_1$  acting on  $L(E_7)$  and on  $V(\lambda_7) = V_{56}$  are given by [17], and hence we can calculate the Jordan forms of  $u_1$  and  $u_0 u_1$  on  $L(G)$ , hence determining the classes of these elements in  $G$  (again using [17]). The outcome is as follows:

class of $u_1$ in $E_7$	class of $u_1$ in $E_8$	class of $u_0 u_1$ in $E_8$
$A_1$	$A_1$	$2A_1$
$2A_1$	$2A_1$	$3A_1$
$3A''_1$	$3A_1$	$3A_1$
$3A'_1$	$3A_1$	$4A_1$
$4A_1$	$4A_1$	$4A_1$

It follows from this and the class dimensions in 1.7 that  $\dim u^G - \dim u^M \geq e'_G$ , as required.

Now let  $M = D_8$ . The involution classes in  $M$  are given by 1.10: Representatives are  $a_{2l}, c_{2l}$  ( $l = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ). The representatives  $a_{2l}$  lie in Levi subgroups  $lA_1$  of an  $A_7$  in  $M$ ; and  $c_{2l}$  lies in a Levi subgroup  $SO_4 \times (l - 1)A_1$  (see [2, Section 8]). Inspecting the extended Dynkin diagram of  $G$ , we see that all but one of these Levi subgroups of  $D_8$  are also Levi subgroups of  $G$ ; the exception is  $SO_4 \times 3A_1$ . Excluding this exception for the time being, it follows that  $u$  has the same label in  $E_8$  as in  $D_8$ . The dimensions of  $u^G$  and  $u^M$  are therefore given by 1.7 and 1.10 respectively, from which we check that  $\dim u^G - \dim u^M \geq 40 = e'_G$  in all cases. Finally, consider  $u$  in the class  $5A_1 = SO_4 \times 3A_1$  of  $D_8$ . Now  $L(G) \downarrow D_8 = L(D_8) \oplus V(\lambda_8)$  by [31, 1.8]. We count Jordan blocks  $J_2$  for  $u$  on  $L(G)$ . The action on the spin module  $V(\lambda_8)$  gives 64 such blocks. Also  $u$  lies in a subgroup of type  $SO_4 \times D_6$  of  $D_8$ , and the tensor product of natural modules  $V_4 \otimes V_{12}$  is a summand of  $L(D_8)$  restricted to this subgroup, which gives a further 24 blocks  $J_2$  for  $u$ .

Finally, the projection of  $u$  to  $D_6$  lies in a subgroup  $A_5$ , and the action on  $L(A_5)$  gives another 18  $J_2$  blocks for  $u$ . Hence  $u$  has at least 106 blocks  $J_2$  on  $L(E_8)$ . But this means that  $u$  is not in class  $2A_1$  by [17], a contradiction. This completes the proof for  $G = E_8$ .

Next let  $G = E_7$ . Here  $M^0 = T_1E_6, A_1D_6$  or  $A_7$ , and by 1.5,  $\dim u^M \leq 43$ . Hence we can assume that  $\dim u^G < 43 + e'_G = 63$ , so by 1.7,  $u$  lies in one of the involution classes  $2A_1, 3A'_1$  of  $G$ .

Let  $M^0 = T_1E_6$ . As  $u \in M^0$ ,  $u$  lies in class  $2A_1$  or  $3A_1$  of  $E_6$ . Also  $M^0$  is a Levi subgroup of  $G$ , so  $u$  correspondingly lies in class  $2A_1$  or  $3A'_1, 3A''_1$  of  $G$ ; and in fact when  $u$  lies in class  $3A_1$  of  $E_6$ , it lies in  $3A'_1$  of  $E_7$ , as can be seen by considering the action of  $u$  on  $V_{56} = V_{E_7}(\lambda_7)$  and using [17]. Now we check using 1.7 that  $\dim u^G - \dim u^M \geq 20 = e'_G$ .

Now consider  $M^0 = A_7$ . Involutions in  $M^0$  have labels  $lA_1$  ( $l = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ), and for  $l \neq 4$  these are also Levi subgroups of  $G$ , whence  $\dim u^G - \dim u^M \geq \dim(lA_1)^G - \dim(lA_1)^M$  (where for  $l = 3$ ,  $lA_1$  stands for either  $3A'_1$  or  $3A''_1$  in  $G$ ), and this is at least  $e'_G$  by 1.7 and 1.10. For  $u$  in class  $4A_1$  of  $M^0$ , we calculate the Jordan form of  $u$  on  $V_{56} = V_G(\lambda_7)$  using  $V_{56} \downarrow A_7 = V(\lambda_2) \oplus V(\lambda_6)$  (see [24, Section 2]); this Jordan form is  $J_2^{24} \oplus J_1^8$ , whence by [17],  $u$  is in class  $3A'_1$  of  $G$ , and the conclusion again follows using 1.7 and 1.10.

Finally, suppose  $M = A_1D_6$ . By 1.6,  $\dim u^G \geq 52$ , so we may assume that  $\dim u^M > 52 - e'_G = 32$ . Write  $u = u_1$  or  $u_0u_1$ , where  $1 \neq u_0 \in A_1$  and  $u_1 \in D_6$ . By 1.10, the dimension bound implies that  $u_1$  is conjugate to  $c_6$  or  $c_4$  in  $D_6$ . Observe

$$L(G) \downarrow A_1D_6 = L(A_1D_6) \oplus (1 \otimes V(\lambda_5)),$$

and as we have seen before, the Jordan forms of  $c_4, c_6$  on  $V(\lambda_5)$  are both  $J_2^{32}$ . Hence we calculate the possible Jordan forms of  $u$  on  $L(G)$ , from which we deduce using [17] that  $u$  is in class  $3A'_1$  or  $4A_1$  of  $G$ . This means that  $\dim u^G \geq 64$ . Since  $\dim u^M \leq \dim(u_0c_6)^M = 38$ , the conclusion follows. This completes the proof for  $G = E_7$ .

When  $G = E_6$  we have  $M = T_1D_5$  or  $A_1A_5$ , so  $\dim u^M \leq 25$  or  $22$  respectively, by 1.5. Therefore, assuming as we may that  $\dim u^G < \dim u^M + e'_G$ , we see using 1.7 that  $M = T_1D_5$  and  $u \in 2A_1$ . As  $D_5$  is a Levi subgroup this means that  $u$  lies in a class  $2A_1$  of  $D_5$ , which, as shown in the proof of 2.5, has dimension at most 20. Thus  $\dim u^G - \dim u^M \geq 32 - 20 > e'_G$ .

Now let  $G = F_4$ . If  $M = B_4$ , involution classes of  $M$  and their centralizers are given by [33, 2.2], and contain the elements  $y_1, y_2, y_3, y_6, y_7, y_8$  given there; the involution classes in  $G$  are given in [33, Theorem 2.1], containing the elements  $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4$  (where  $x_1, x_2$  are short and long root elements, respectively). Moreover,  $y_1, y_2, y_3, y_6$  are equal to  $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4$ , respectively. And  $y_7$  lies in a product  $A_1A_1$  of two long root  $A_1$ 's in  $G$ , whence from the

restriction of  $V_{26} = V_G(\lambda_4)$  to  $A_1A_1$  we see that  $V_{26} \downarrow y_7$  has Jordan block structure  $J_2^{10} \oplus J_1^6$ ; therefore by [17],  $y_7$  is  $G$ -conjugate to  $x_3$ . Similarly  $y_8$  is  $G$ -conjugate to  $x_4$ . Thus we can now record the unipotent class dimensions in  $G$  and  $M = B_4$ :

$u$	$\dim u^{B_4}$	$u$ conjugate to	$\dim u^G$
$y_1$	8	$x_1$	16
$y_2$	12	$x_2$	16
$y_3$	14	$x_3$	22
$y_6$	18	$x_4$	28
$y_7$	16	$x_3$	22
$y_8$	20	$x_4$	28

Thus for non-root elements,  $\dim u^G - \dim u^M \geq 6 = e'_G$ , giving the result in this case.

For  $M = A_1C_3$  we have  $\dim u^M \leq 14$  by 1.5, whence we can assume  $\dim u^G < 14 + e'_G = 20$ . By 1.7 this forces  $u$  to be a root element, which is not the case. □

The cases remaining to be considered are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (**) \quad & G = E_8 : M^0 = A_8, A_2E_6 \\
 & G = E_7 : M^0 = A_2A_5 \\
 & G = E_6 : M^0 = T_2D_4 \\
 & G = F_4 : M^0 = D_4 \\
 & G = G_2 : M^0 = A_2
 \end{aligned}$$

Observe that by 1.2, when  $p \neq 3$  and  $G \neq F_4$ , we have  $M^0 = C_G(v)^0$  for some element  $v \in G$  of order 3.

**Lemma 4.7.** *The conclusion of Theorem 2(II)(a) holds in the cases (\*\*) above.*

*Proof.* By the assumption just before 4.4,

$$\dim D > \dim G - \dim M + \text{rank}(G) - e'_G$$

(where  $D = C_G(u)$ ), and hence using 1.7 we see that  $u$  lies in one of the following classes in  $G$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 G = E_8, M = A_2E_6 : & 2A_1, 3A_1, A_2 \\
 G = E_8, M = A_8 : & 2A_1 \\
 G = E_7 : & 2A_1, 3A_1'' \\
 G = E_6 : & 2A_1 \\
 G = F_4 : & \tilde{A}_1(p \neq 2), \tilde{A}_1^{(2)}(p = 2), A_1\tilde{A}_1, A_2, \tilde{A}_2 \\
 G = G_2 : & \tilde{A}_1(p \neq 3), \tilde{A}_1^{(3)}(p = 3).
 \end{aligned}$$

Consider  $G = E_8$ . Suppose first that  $M^0 = A_2E_6$  with  $p \neq 3$ . Write  $M^0 = C_G(v)$  with  $v$  of order 3, as above, and set  $u = u_0u_1$  with  $u_0 \in A_2, u_1 \in E_6$ .

If  $u \in 2A_1$  then by 1.7,  $D = D^0$  and  $D/R_u(D) = B_6$ . Since  $u \in M^0$ ,  $v$  lies in  $D$ , and hence  $v$  centralizes a maximal torus  $T_6$  of  $D$ . It follows that  $u$  lies in  $C_{M^0}(T_6)$ , a Levi subgroup of  $M^0$  of semisimple rank at most 2. Consequently  $u_1$  lies in class  $A_1, 2A_1$  or  $A_2$  of  $E_6$ . If  $u_0 \neq 1$  then  $u_0u_1$  lies in a Levi subgroup  $2A_1, 3A_1$  or  $A_1A_2$  of  $G$ , respectively, so has this as its label as these subsystems are unique up to conjugacy. Thus  $u_1$  lies in class  $A_1$  or  $2A_1$  of  $E_6$ , and the result follows using 1.7. The same argument deals with the case where  $u$  lies in the class  $A_2$ . And if  $u \in 3A_1$ , then as above we see that  $v$  centralizes a rank 5 torus  $T_5$ . If this projects to a rank 3 torus in the factor  $E_6$ , then it projects to  $T_2 < A_2$ , so  $u_0 = 1$  and hence  $u = u_1$  must lie in class  $3A_1$  of the Levi subgroup  $E_6$ , giving the result by 1.7. And if  $T_5$  projects to a rank 4 torus in  $E_6$ , we use the previous argument again.

Continue to assume  $M^0 = A_2E_6$ , now with  $p = 3$ . Since  $\dim u^G \geq 92$ , we can assume that  $\dim u^M > 92 - e'_G = 52$ , hence that  $\dim C_M(u) < 34$ . Since  $u_1 \in E_6$  has order 3, this implies that  $u_1$  is in one of the classes  $A_2 + A_1, 2A_2, A_2 + 2A_1, 2A_2 + A_1$  of  $E_6$  (see 1.7 and [6, p. 402]). We can also assume that  $\dim u^G < \dim u^M + e'_G \leq 6 + \dim(2A_2 + A_1)^{E_6} + 40 = 100$ , whence  $u$  lies in class  $2A_1$  of  $G$  by 1.7. However, by [17], on  $L(E_6)$  each of the above classes  $u_1$  has at least 22 Jordan blocks of size 3, whereas on  $L(G)$ , the class  $2A_1$  has only 14 such blocks, a contradiction. This completes the proof for  $M^0 = A_2E_6$ .

Now suppose  $M^0 = A_8$ . Here  $u$  lies in class  $2A_1$  of  $G$ . If  $p \neq 3$ ,  $M^0 = C_G(v)$ , the above argument forces  $u$  to lie in class  $A_1, 2A_1$  or  $A_2$  of  $M^0$ . As each of these is a Levi in  $E_8$ , the class must in fact be  $2A_1$  in  $M^0$ , which by 1.10 has dimension 28. Therefore  $\dim u^G - \dim u^M \geq 92 - 28$ . And when  $p = 3$ , we can assume  $\dim u^M > \dim u^G - e'_G = 52$ . By 1.10 this means that  $u$  has 3 Jordan blocks of size 3 on the usual 9-dimensional module for  $M^0$ . But then  $u$  has more than 14 Jordan blocks of size 3 on  $L(A_8)$ , whereas class  $2A_1$  has only 14 such blocks on  $L(G)$ , a contradiction. The lemma is now proved for  $G = E_8$ .

The proof for  $G = E_7$  or  $E_6$  is very similar to the above, and is left to the reader.

Now let  $G = F_4$ . Here  $M = D_4.S_3$ ,  $u \in M^0$ . Then  $M^0 < B_4$ , and we have already shown that  $\dim u^G - \dim u^{B_4} \geq e'_G$ , so there is nothing more to be done.

Finally, in  $G = G_2$ , the classes  $\tilde{A}_1(p \neq 3), \tilde{A}_1^{(3)}$  do not intersect  $M^0 = A_2$ , since the two unipotent classes in  $A_2$  are those with labels  $A_1$  and  $G_2(a_1)$ . □

**5. Proof of Theorem 2, Part (II)(b): Semisimple elements in maximal rank subgroups.**

In this section we prove Theorem 2(II)(b). Continue to assume that  $G$  is an exceptional algebraic group over the algebraically closed field  $K$  of characteristic  $p$ , and let  $M$  be a maximal closed reductive subgroup of  $G$  of maximal rank. Let  $s$  be a nonidentity semisimple element of  $M$ . By 4.1, we need only prove the bounds in Theorem 2 for  $\dim s^G - \dim(s^G \cap M^0)$ . By 1.3(i), replacing  $s$  by a suitable conjugate we may take  $s \in M^0$  and  $\dim(s^G \cap M^0) = \dim s^{M^0}$ . Write

$$D = C_G(s).$$

Now  $s$  lies in a maximal torus  $T$  of  $M^0$ , and clearly  $T \leq D \cap M$ . Thus taking roots with respect to  $T$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \dim s^G - \dim s^M &= \dim G - \dim M - \dim D + \dim(D \cap M) \\ &= 2(|\Phi^+(G)| - |\Phi^+(M)| - |\Phi^+(D)| + |\Phi^+(D \cap M)|). \end{aligned}$$

As with the proof of Theorem 2(I)(b), we shall see that we may obtain the required bounds by using root system arguments. We note that conjugacy classes of subsystems of simple root systems were determined in [10]. We shall use the notation employed there; in particular we shall write  $D_2$  for a subsystem of  $D_n$  which is orthogonal to a  $D_{n-2}$  subsystem, and distinguish the two classes of  $A_5A_1$  subsystems in  $E_7$  as  $(A_5A_1)'$  and  $(A_5A_1)''$ .

Let  $\Phi$  be a root system and  $\Psi$  be a subsystem of  $\Phi$ . We shall use the following concept. If  $X$  is a type of root system, we say that  $\Psi$  is  $X$ -dense in  $\Phi$  if every subsystem of  $\Phi$  of type  $X$  meets  $\Psi$ . Observe that if  $\Psi$  is  $X$ -dense in  $\Phi$ , then for any subsystem  $\Phi_1$  of  $\Phi$  we have that  $\Psi \cap \Phi_1$  is  $X$ -dense in  $\Phi_1$ , while any subsystem of  $\Phi$  containing  $\Psi$  is also  $X$ -dense in  $\Phi$ . Note also that in the case where  $\Phi$  has only one root length, a subsystem  $\Psi$  is  $A_2$ -dense precisely if  $\Phi \setminus \Psi$  does not contain distinct roots  $\alpha, \beta$  and  $\alpha + \beta$ ; such subsystems are called anti-open in [18]. For convenience we repeat from [18] the list of all proper anti-open subsystems; note that a factor  $D_1$  here is to be interpreted as  $\emptyset$ .

**Lemma 5.1.** *If  $\Psi$  is a proper subsystem of  $\Phi$ , then  $\Psi$  is anti-open in  $\Phi$  if and only if  $(\Phi, \Psi) = (A_n, A_\ell A_{n-\ell-1}), (B_n, B_\ell D_{n-\ell}), (C_n, C_\ell C_{n-\ell}), (C_n, \tilde{A}_{n-1}), (D_n, D_\ell D_{n-\ell}), (D_n, A_{n-1}), (E_6, D_5), (E_6, A_5A_1), (E_7, E_6), (E_7, \tilde{A}_7), (E_7, D_6A_1), (E_8, D_8), (E_8, E_7A_1), (F_4, C_3A_1), (F_4, B_4)$  or  $(G_2, A_1\tilde{A}_1)$ .*

The first part of the following lemma generalizes the trivial direction of Proposition 4.2 of [18]. Let  $X$  be a type of root system, and take a root system of type  $X$  with simple roots  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_s$  and highest root  $\sum m_j \beta_j$ ; we define the height of  $X$  to be  $\sum m_j$ . In the results which follow, we shall

write  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$  for simple roots of the root system  $\Phi$  and  $\alpha_0 = \sum n_j \alpha_j$  for its highest root.

**Lemma 5.2.**

- (a) Let  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ , and let  $\Psi$  be a subsystem of the root system  $\Phi$  whose Dynkin diagram is obtained from that of  $\Phi$  by
  - (i) removing nodes  $\alpha_{i_1}, \alpha_{i_2}, \dots$  with  $n_{i_1} + n_{i_2} + \dots = r - 1$ , or
  - (ii) first extending and then removing nodes  $\alpha_{i_1}, \alpha_{i_2}, \dots$  with  $n_{i_1} + n_{i_2} + \dots = r$ .

Then  $\Psi$  is  $X$ -dense in  $\Phi$  for any type of root system  $X$  of height at least  $r$ .

- (b) If  $(\Phi, \Psi) = (E_8, D_4^2)$  or  $(E_7, D_4A_1^3)$ , then  $\Psi$  is  $A_4$ -dense in  $\Phi$ .

*Proof.* (a) If either (i) or (ii) holds, the positive roots outside  $\Psi$  are those of the form  $\sum m_j \alpha_j$  with  $m_{i_1} + m_{i_2} + \dots \in \{1, \dots, r - 1\}$ ; thus no sum of  $r$  or more positive roots outside  $\Psi$  (allowing repetitions) can be another positive root outside  $\Psi$ .

(b) In each case there is a single  $W(\Phi)$ -orbit of subsystems having the same type as  $\Psi$ , and the Dynkin diagram of  $\Psi$  is obtained from that of  $\Phi$  by extending and deleting the  $\alpha_1$ -node, then extending and deleting the  $\alpha_6$ -node; since each node removed has label 2 in the relevant diagram, the roots in  $\Psi$  are those with  $m_1$  and  $m_6$  even. Let  $\Phi'$  be any subsystem of  $\Phi$  of type  $A_4$ , with simple system  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4$ . For  $\beta \in \Phi'$ , set  $d_\beta = (k_1, k_6) \in \mathbb{Z}_2^2$ , where for  $i \in \{1, 6\}$  we set  $k_i = 0$  or 1 according as the coefficient of  $\alpha_i$  in  $\beta$  is even or odd; thus  $d_{\beta+\beta'} = d_\beta + d_{\beta'}$ , and we have an additive map  $d : \Phi' \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2^2$ . Assume if possible that  $(0, 0)$  is not in the image of  $d$ . By composing  $d$  with a suitable automorphism of  $\mathbb{Z}_2^2$  we may assume firstly that  $d_{\beta_1} = (0, 1)$ , and then that  $d_{\beta_2} = (1, 0)$  (since if  $d_{\beta_2} = (0, 1)$  then  $d_{\beta_1+\beta_2} = (0, 0)$ , contrary to assumption). We cannot then have  $d_{\beta_3} = (1, 0)$  or  $(1, 1)$  (else either  $d_{\beta_2+\beta_3}$  or  $d_{\beta_1+\beta_2+\beta_3}$  would be  $(0, 0)$ ), so this forces  $d_{\beta_3} = (0, 1)$ ; but then any choice for  $d_{\beta_4}$  gives some root  $\beta$  with  $d_\beta = (0, 0)$ . Hence at least one of the roots of  $\Phi'$  lies in  $\Psi$  as required.  $\square$

It will also be useful to observe that certain subsystems are not  $X$ -dense. As already mentioned, if  $\Psi$  fails to be  $X$ -dense in  $\Phi$ , then so does any subsystem of  $\Psi$ .

**Lemma 5.3.** *If  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi$  are as follows, then  $\Psi$  is not  $A_3$ -dense in  $\Phi$ :*

- (i)  $\Phi = A_n, \Psi$  of rank  $n - 3$ ;
- (ii)  $\Phi = D_n, \Psi = A_{n-3}A_1$ ;
- (iii)  $\Phi = D_4, \Psi = D_2$ ;
- (iv)  $\Phi = D_5, \Psi = D_2^2$ ;
- (v)  $\Phi = D_6, \Psi = D_3A_1$  or  $A_2^2$ ;
- (vi)  $\Phi = D_7, \Psi = A_3A_2, D_3A_2, D_3D_2A_1$  or  $A_2D_2^2$ ;
- (vii)  $\Phi = E_6, \Psi = A_4, A_3A_1^2$  or  $A_2^2A_1$ ;

(viii)  $\Phi = E_7$ ,  $\Psi = (A_5A_1)'$  or  $(A_5A_1)''$ .

*Proof.* In each case we exhibit a subsystem of  $\Phi$  of type  $A_3$  lying outside  $\Psi$ , by giving simple roots  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3$ .

(i) Let  $\alpha_{i_1}, \alpha_{i_2}, \alpha_{i_3}$  (with  $i_1 < i_2 < i_3$ ) be the simple roots of  $\Phi$  outside  $\Psi$ , and take  $\beta_1 = \alpha_{i_1}$ ,  $\beta_2 = \alpha_{i_1+1} + \cdots + \alpha_{i_2}$ ,  $\beta_3 = \alpha_{i_2+1} + \cdots + \alpha_{i_3}$ .

(ii) Let  $\alpha_{n-2}$  and  $\alpha_{n-1}$  be the simple roots of  $\Phi$  outside  $\Psi$ , and take  $\beta_1 = \alpha_{n-2}$ ,  $\beta_2 = \alpha_{n-1}$ ,  $\beta_3 = \alpha_{n-3} + \alpha_{n-2} + \alpha_n$ .

(iii) Let  $\Psi$  have simple roots  $\alpha_3, \alpha_4$  and take  $\beta_1 = \alpha_2$ ,  $\beta_2 = \alpha_1$ ,  $\beta_3 = \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4$ .

(iv) Let  $\Psi$  have simple roots  $\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_4, \alpha_5$  and take  $\beta_1 = \alpha_3$ ,  $\beta_2 = \alpha_2$ ,  $\beta_3 = \alpha_3 + \alpha_4 + \alpha_5$ .

(v) If  $\Psi = D_3A_1$  with simple roots  $\alpha_0, \alpha_4, \alpha_5, \alpha_6$ , take  $\beta_i = \alpha_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ . If  $\Psi = A_2^2$  with simple roots  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_4, \alpha_6$ , take  $\beta_1 = \alpha_3 + \alpha_4$ ,  $\beta_2 = \alpha_5$ ,  $\beta_3 = \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4 + \alpha_6$ .

(vi) If  $\Psi = A_3A_2$  with simple roots  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_5, \alpha_7$ , take  $\beta_1 = \alpha_4 + \alpha_5$ ,  $\beta_2 = \alpha_6$ ,  $\beta_3 = \alpha_3 + \alpha_4 + \alpha_5 + \alpha_7$ . If  $\Psi = D_3A_2$  with simple roots  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_5, \alpha_6, \alpha_7$ , or  $\Psi = D_3D_2A_1$  with simple roots  $\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_3, \alpha_5, \alpha_6, \alpha_7$ , or  $\Psi = A_2D_2^2$  with simple roots  $\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_3, \alpha_4, \alpha_6, \alpha_7$ , take  $\beta_1 = \alpha_2 + \alpha_3$ ,  $\beta_2 = \alpha_4 + \alpha_5$ ,  $\beta_3 = \alpha_3 + \alpha_4 + \alpha_5 + \alpha_6 + \alpha_7$ .

(vii) If  $\Psi = A_4$  with simple roots  $\alpha_3, \alpha_4, \alpha_5, \alpha_6$ , take  $\beta_1 = \alpha_2$ ,  $\beta_2 = \alpha_1 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4 + \alpha_5 + \alpha_6$ ,  $\beta_3 = \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + 2\alpha_4 + \alpha_5$ . If  $\Psi = A_3A_1^2$  with simple roots  $\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_4, \alpha_5, \alpha_6$ , take  $\beta_1 = \alpha_3 + \alpha_4$ ,  $\beta_2 = \alpha_2$ ,  $\beta_3 = \alpha_1 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4 + \alpha_5$ . If  $\Psi = A_2^2A_1$  with simple roots  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_5, \alpha_6$ , take  $\beta_1 = \alpha_4$ ,  $\beta_2 = \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4 + \alpha_5$ ,  $\beta_3 = \alpha_1 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4 + \alpha_5 + \alpha_6$ .

(viii) If  $\Psi = (A_5A_1)'$  with simple roots  $\alpha_0, \alpha_3, \alpha_4, \alpha_5, \alpha_6, \alpha_7$ , take  $\beta_1 = \alpha_2$ ,  $\beta_2 = \alpha_1 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4 + \alpha_5 + \alpha_6$ ,  $\beta_3 = \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + 2\alpha_4 + \alpha_5$ . If  $\Psi = (A_5A_1)''$  with simple roots  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_4, \alpha_5, \alpha_6, \alpha_7$ , take  $\beta_1 = \alpha_3$ ,  $\beta_2 = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + 2\alpha_4 + \alpha_5 + \alpha_6 + \alpha_7$ ,  $\beta_3 = \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + 2\alpha_4 + 2\alpha_5 + \alpha_6$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5.4.** *If  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi$  are as follows, then  $\Psi$  is not  $A_4$ -dense in  $\Phi$ :*

- (i)  $\Phi = A_n$ ,  $\Psi$  of rank  $n - 4$ ;
- (ii)  $\Phi = D_5$ ,  $\Psi = A_1^2$ ;
- (iii)  $\Phi = D_6$ ,  $\Psi = D_2A_1^2$ ;
- (iv)  $\Phi = E_6$ ,  $\Psi = A_3A_1$  or  $A_1^4$ ;
- (v)  $\Phi = E_7$ ,  $\Psi = A_3A_1^3$  or  $A_1^7$ .

*Proof.* As with the previous result we exhibit a subsystem of  $\Phi$  of type  $A_4$  lying outside  $\Psi$ , by giving simple roots  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4$ .

(i) Let  $\alpha_{i_1}, \alpha_{i_2}, \alpha_{i_3}, \alpha_{i_4}$  (with  $i_1 < i_2 < i_3 < i_4$ ) be the simple roots of  $\Phi$  outside  $\Psi$ , and take  $\beta_1 = \alpha_{i_1}$ ,  $\beta_2 = \alpha_{i_1+1} + \cdots + \alpha_{i_2}$ ,  $\beta_3 = \alpha_{i_2+1} + \cdots + \alpha_{i_3}$ ,  $\beta_4 = \alpha_{i_3+1} + \cdots + \alpha_{i_4}$ .

(ii) Let  $\Psi$  have simple roots  $\alpha_0, \alpha_5$ , and take  $\beta_i = \alpha_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ .

(iii) Let  $\Psi$  have simple roots  $\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_3, \alpha_6$  and take  $\beta_1 = \alpha_2$ ,  $\beta_2 = \alpha_3 + \alpha_4$ ,  $\beta_3 = \alpha_5$ ,  $\beta_4 = \alpha_4 + \alpha_6$ .



(iv) If  $\Psi = A_3A_1$  with simple roots  $\alpha_0, \alpha_4, \alpha_5, \alpha_6$ , take  $\beta_1 = \alpha_2, \beta_2 = \alpha_3 + \alpha_4, \beta_3 = \alpha_1, \beta_4 = \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + 2\alpha_4 + 2\alpha_5 + \alpha_6$ . If  $\Psi = A_1^4$  with simple roots  $\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_4, \alpha_6$ , take  $\beta_1 = \alpha_3, \beta_2 = \alpha_2 + \alpha_4, \beta_3 = \alpha_5, \beta_4 = \alpha_1 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4$ .

(v) Write  $\alpha_0' = \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + 2\alpha_4 + 2\alpha_5 + 2\alpha_6 + \alpha_7$ , and  $\alpha_0'' = \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + 2\alpha_4 + \alpha_5$ . If  $\Psi = A_3A_1^3$  with simple roots  $\alpha_0, \alpha_0', \alpha_3, \alpha_4, \alpha_5, \alpha_7$ , take  $\beta_1 = \alpha_2, \beta_2 = \alpha_1 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4 + \alpha_5 + \alpha_6, \beta_3 = \alpha_0'', \beta_4 = \alpha_6 + \alpha_7$ . If  $\Psi = A_1^7$  with simple roots  $\alpha_0, \alpha_0', \alpha_0'', \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_5, \alpha_7$ , take  $\beta_1 = \alpha_2 + \alpha_4 + \alpha_5 + \alpha_6, \beta_2 = \alpha_1 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4 + \alpha_5, \beta_3 = \alpha_6 + \alpha_7, \beta_4 = \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 + \alpha_4 + \alpha_5$ . □

**Lemma 5.5.** *If  $\Phi = D_7$ , then  $\Psi$  is not  $X$ -dense in  $\Phi$  in the following cases:*

- (i)  $\Psi = A_2A_1^2$  or  $D_2A_1^2, X = A_5$ ;
- (ii)  $\Psi = D_3D_2, X = D_4$ .

*Proof.* Once more we exhibit a subsystem of  $\Phi$  of type  $X$  lying outside  $\Psi$ , by giving simple roots  $\beta_i$ .

(i) If  $\Psi = A_2A_1^2$  with simple roots  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_4, \alpha_7$ , take  $\beta_1 = \alpha_2 + \alpha_3, \beta_2 = \alpha_4 + \alpha_5, \beta_3 = \alpha_6, \beta_4 = \alpha_5 + \alpha_7, \beta_5 = \alpha_3 + \alpha_4$ . If  $\Psi = D_2A_1^2$  with simple roots  $\alpha_1, \alpha_3, \alpha_6, \alpha_7$ , take  $\beta_1 = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2, \beta_2 = \alpha_3 + \alpha_4, \beta_3 = \alpha_5 + \alpha_6 + \alpha_7, \beta_4 = \alpha_4 + \alpha_5, \beta_5 = \alpha_2 + \alpha_3$ .

(ii) Let  $\Psi$  have simple roots  $\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_6, \alpha_7$  and take  $\beta_1 = \alpha_3, \beta_2 = \alpha_4, \beta_3 = \alpha_5, \beta_4 = \alpha_5 + \alpha_6 + \alpha_7$ . □

**Lemma 5.6.** *The conclusion of Theorem 2(II)(b) holds if  $G = E_8$ .*

*Proof.* Write  $\Phi = \Phi(G)$ . As in the proof of 3.2, we take the list of possibilities for  $D$  from [9]. Observe that if  $s_1$  and  $s_2$  are semisimple elements with centralizers  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ , then if  $D_1 > D_2$  we have  $|\Phi^+(D_1)| - |\Phi^+(D_1 \cap M)| \geq |\Phi^+(D_2)| - |\Phi^+(D_2 \cap M)|$ , and so  $f(s_1, G/M) \leq f(s_2, G/M)$ ; thus it suffices to consider the cases  $D = E_7A_1, D_8, D_7T_1, E_6A_2, A_8, D_6A_1T_1, D_5A_3, A_7A_1, A_4^2$  and  $A_5A_2A_1$ . Again as in 3.2, we say that  $D$  is small if it contains no  $E_7$  or  $D_8$  factor; thus  $|\Phi^+(D)|$  is 64, 56 or at most 42 according as  $D$  is  $E_7A_1, D_8$  or small.

The possibilities for  $M$  are listed in 1.1; note that if  $M^0 = A_2^4, A_1^8$  or  $T_8$  then  $|\Phi^+(M)| \leq 12$ , and hence  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(120 - 12 - |\Phi^+(D)|)$ , which is 88, 104 or at least 132 according as  $D$  is  $E_7A_1, D_8$  or is small. It therefore suffices to consider the cases  $M^0 = E_7A_1, D_8, A_8, E_6A_2, D_4^2$  and  $A_4^2$ . We may assume that  $D$  has more than  $120 - |\Phi^+(M)| - \frac{1}{2}f_{G,M,D}$  positive roots; if  $D$  is small, this number is 21, 24, 30, 30, 38 or 36 according as  $M^0 = E_7A_1, D_8, E_6A_2, A_8, D_4^2$  or  $A_4^2$ . Thus the possibilities for  $D$  small are as follows:

$M^0$	$D$
$D_4^2, A_4^2$	$D_7T_1$ or $E_6A_2$
$A_8, E_6A_2$	$D_7T_1, E_6A_2, A_8$ or $D_6A_1T_1$
$E_7A_1, D_8$	$D_7T_1, E_6A_2, A_8, D_6A_1T_1, D_5A_3$ or $A_7A_1$

First let  $M^0 = A_4^2$ , so that by 5.2  $\Phi(M)$  is both  $A_5$ -dense and  $D_4$ -dense in  $\Phi$ . If  $D = E_7A_1$  or  $D_8$  then by 5.1  $\Phi(D)$  is  $A_2$ -dense in  $\Phi$ , and so  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  is  $A_2$ -dense in  $\Phi(M)$ ; thus by 5.1 we see that the intersection of  $D$  with each  $A_4$  factor must be  $A_4, A_3T_1$  or  $A_2A_1T_1$ , so that  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq 8$ . For  $D = D_8$  it follows that  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(120 - 20 - 56 + 8) = 104$ , while for  $D = E_7A_1$  we have  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(120 - 20 - 64 + 8) = 88$ . If  $D = D_7T_1$  or  $E_6A_2$  then by 5.2  $\Phi(D)$  is  $A_3$ -dense in  $\Phi$ , so  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  is  $A_3$ -dense in  $\Phi(M)$ . For  $D = E_6A_2$  we see by 5.3 that  $\Phi^+(D \cap M)$  must contain at least two roots from each  $A_4$  factor, so  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq 4$ ; this gives  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(120 - 20 - 39 + 4) = 130$ . For  $D = D_7T_1$  we cannot have  $\Phi(D \cap M) = D_2^2, D_2A_1^2, A_2D_2$  or  $A_2A_1^2$ , because by 5.5 the first and third are not  $D_4$ -dense in  $\Phi(M)$  and the second and fourth are not  $A_5$ -dense there; thus we must have  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq 6$ , whence  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(120 - 20 - 42 + 6) = 128$ .

Next let  $M^0 = D_4^2$ . If  $D = D_7T_1$  or  $E_6A_2$ , by 5.2  $\Phi(D)$  is  $A_3$ -dense in  $\Phi$ ; by 5.3  $\Phi^+(D \cap M)$  must contain at least three roots from each  $D_4$  factor, so  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq 6$ , giving  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(120 - 20 - 42 + 6) = 120$ . If  $D = E_7A_1$  or  $D_8$  then  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  is  $A_2$ -dense in  $\Phi(M)$ , and so by 5.1 the intersection of  $D$  with each  $D_4$  factor is  $D_4, A_3T_1, D_3T_1$  or  $D_2^2$ , whence  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq 2.4 = 8$ ; for  $D = D_8$  this gives  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(120 - 24 - 56 + 8) = 96$ , while for  $D = E_7A_1$  we have  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(120 - 24 - 64 + 8) = 80$ .

Now let  $M^0 = A_8$ , so that  $\Phi(M)$  is  $A_3$ -dense in  $\Phi$  by 5.2. If  $D = E_7A_1$  or  $D_8$  then  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  is  $A_2$ -dense in  $\Phi(M)$ , and so must be  $A_8, A_7, A_6A_1, A_5A_2$  or  $A_4A_3$ ; for  $D = D_8$  this gives  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(120 - 36 - 56 + 16) = 88$ , while for  $D = E_7A_1$  we have  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(120 - 36 - 64 + 16) = 72$ . If  $D = D_7T_1, E_6A_2$  or  $A_8$  then  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  is  $A_3$ -dense in both  $\Phi(D)$  and  $\Phi(M)$ ; the latter condition implies that it must have rank at least 6 by 5.3. Listing the subsystems of  $\Phi(M)$  of rank at least 6 we find that only  $A_3A_2A_1$  and  $A_2^3$  have fewer than 12 positive roots. For  $D = E_6A_2$  or  $A_8$  we thus have  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(120 - 36 - 39 + 9) = 108$ ; for  $D = D_7T_1$  neither  $A_3A_2A_1$  nor  $A_2^3$  is a subsystem of  $\Phi(D)$ , so  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(120 - 36 - 42 + 12) = 108$ . If  $D = D_6A_1T_1$  then by 5.3  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq 3$ , so  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(120 - 36 - 31 + 3) = 112$ .

The cases where  $M^0 = E_6A_2$  may all be treated in like fashion; we use the fact that  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  is  $A_3$ -dense in  $\Phi(D)$ , and usually either  $A_2$ -dense or  $A_3$ -dense in  $\Phi(M)$ , to produce lower bounds for  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)|$ , from which the required bounds on  $f(s, G/M)$  follow. For example, if  $D = E_7A_1$  then  $A_2$ -density in  $\Phi(M)$  implies that  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  must be  $YZ$  where  $Y = E_6, D_5$  or  $A_5A_1$  and  $Z = A_2$  or  $A_1$ ; by  $A_3$ -density in  $\Phi(D)$  we cannot have  $\Phi(D \cap M) = A_5A_1^2$ , so  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq 19$ , giving  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(120 - 39 - 64 + 19) = 72$ . Similarly, in all cases where  $M^0 = D_8$ , the  $A_2$ -density of  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  in  $\Phi(D)$  immediately leads to the required bounds.

Finally, let  $M = E_7A_1$ , so that  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  is  $A_2$ -dense in  $\Phi(D)$ ; by taking those cases already treated in which  $D = E_7A_1$ , and interchanging the roles

of  $D$  and  $M$ , we are left with the cases  $D = E_7A_1, D_7T_1, D_6A_1T_1, D_5A_3$  and  $A_7A_1$  to consider.  $A_2$ -density immediately disposes of the last three of these; for  $D = D_7T_1$  we note that  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  cannot be  $D_4D_3$  since  $\Phi(M)$  has no such subsystem, and all other  $A_2$ -dense possibilities satisfy the required bound. Thus we are left with  $D = E_7A_1$ ; we seek to show that  $f(s, G/M) \geq 48$ , and so  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq 32$ . The  $A_2$ -dense subsystems which do not satisfy this bound are  $A_7, A_7A_1$  and  $D_6A_1$ ; we may see that these do not occur as follows. If  $\Phi'$  is any subsystem of  $\Phi$  of type  $A_7$  or  $D_6A_1$ , and  $\Phi'$  lies in an  $E_7$  subsystem  $\Psi$ , then  $\mathbb{Z}\Phi' \cap \Phi = \Psi$ ; thus no such subsystem  $\Phi'$  can lie in two distinct  $E_7$  subsystems. It follows that  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  cannot be  $A_7$  or  $A_7A_1$ ; and if the intersection of  $\Phi(D)$  with the  $E_7$  factor of  $\Phi(M)$  is  $D_6A_1$ , then the  $A_1$  cannot lie in the  $E_7$  factor of  $\Phi(D)$ , so that the  $A_1$  factor of  $\Phi(D)$  lies in the  $E_7$  factor of  $\Phi(M)$ —but now interchanging the roles of  $D$  and  $M$  shows that the  $A_1$  factor of  $\Phi(M)$  lies in  $\Phi(D)$ , and so  $\Phi(D \cap M) = D_6A_1^2$ . This concludes the proof that the conclusion of Theorem 2(II)(b) holds if  $G = E_8$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5.7.** *The conclusion of Theorem 2(II)(b) holds if  $G = E_7$ .*

*Proof.* We proceed as in the previous proof, and write  $\Phi = \Phi(G)$ . The list of possibilities for  $D$  from [9] shows that it suffices to consider the cases  $D^0 = E_6T_1, D_6A_1, A_7, D_5A_1T_1, A_6T_1, A_5A_2, A_5A_1T_1, D_4A_1^2T_1$  and  $A_3^2A_1$ . Again as in 3.3, we say that  $D$  is small if it contains no  $E_6, D_6$  or  $A_7$  factor; thus  $|\Phi^+(D)|$  is 36, 31, 28 or at most 21 according as  $D^0$  is  $E_6T_1, D_6A_1, A_7$  or small.

The possibilities for  $M$  are listed in 1.1; note that if  $M^0 = A_1^7$  or  $T_7$  then  $|\Phi^+(M)| \leq 7$ , and hence  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(63 - 7 - |\Phi^+(D)|)$ , which is 40, 50, 56 or at least 70 according as  $D^0$  is  $E_6T_1, D_6A_1, A_7$  or small. It therefore suffices to consider the cases  $M^0 = E_6T_1, D_6A_1, A_7, A_5A_2$  and  $D_4A_1^3$ . We may assume that  $D$  has more than  $63 - |\Phi^+(M)| - \frac{1}{2}f_{G,M,D}$  positive roots; if  $D$  is small, this number is 10, 12, 13, 16 or 19 according as  $M^0 = E_6T_1, D_6A_1, A_7, A_5A_2$  or  $D_4A_1^3$ . Thus the possibilities for  $D$  small are as follows:

$M^0$	$D^0$
$D_4A_1^3$	$D_5A_1T_1$ or $A_6T_1$
$A_5A_2$	$D_5A_1T_1, A_6T_1$ or $A_5A_2$
$A_7$	$D_5A_1T_1, A_6T_1, A_5A_2, A_5A_1T_1$ or $D_4A_1^2T_1$
$E_6T_1, D_6A_1$	$D_5A_1T_1, A_6T_1, A_5A_2, A_5A_1T_1, D_4A_1^2T_1$ or $A_3^2A_1$

First let  $M^0 = D_4A_1^3$ ; then by 5.2  $\Phi(M)$  is  $A_4$ -dense in  $\Phi$ , and so  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  is  $A_4$ -dense in  $\Phi(D)$ . By 5.4 we see that if  $D^0 = A_6T_1$  or  $D_5A_1T_1$  then  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq 3$ , so  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(63 - 15 - 21 + 3) = 60$ ; similarly if  $D^0 = A_7$  then  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq 4$ , so  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(63 - 15 - 28 + 4) = 48$ . If  $D^0 = D_6A_1$  or  $E_6T_1$  then  $\Phi(D)$  is  $A_2$ -dense in  $\Phi$ , so  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  is  $A_2$ -dense in  $\Phi(M)$ , which forces the intersection of  $\Phi(D)$  with the  $D_4$  factor of  $\Phi(M)$

to be  $D_4, D_3, A_3$  or  $D_2^2$ . For  $D^0 = D_6A_1$  it follows that  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq 4$ , and so  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(63 - 15 - 31 + 4) = 42$ . For  $D^0 = E_6T_1$  we must have  $\Phi(D \cap M) = D_4, A_3A_1^j$  for  $0 \leq j \leq 2$  or  $A_1^4$ ; since  $A_3A_1$  and  $A_1^4$  are not  $A_4$ -dense in  $\Phi(D)$  by 5.4, it follows that  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq 8$ , giving  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(63 - 15 - 36 + 8) = 40$ .

Next let  $M^0 = A_5A_2$ , so that by 5.2 we have  $A_3$ -density of  $\Phi(M)$  in  $\Phi$  and hence of  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  in  $\Phi(D)$ . By 5.3 it follows that if  $D^0 = A_5A_2$  then  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq 3$ ; if  $D^0 = A_6T_1$  then  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  is not  $A_1^3$  or  $A_2A_1$ , so  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq 5$ ; and if  $D^0 = D_5A_1T_1$  then  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  is not  $A_1^4$  or  $A_2A_1$ , so  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq 5$ . If  $D^0 = E_6T_1, D_6A_1$  or  $A_7$  then  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  must also be  $A_2$ -dense in  $\Phi(M)$ , and thus must be either  $A_5A_k$  or  $A_{4-j}A_jA_k$  for  $0 \leq j \leq 2$  and  $1 \leq k \leq 2$ . Thus  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq 7$ ; and for  $D^0 = E_6T_1$  we cannot have  $\Phi(D \cap M) = A_2^2A_1$  or  $A_3A_1^2$  by  $A_3$ -density in  $E_6$ , so  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq 9$ . In all cases the required bound on  $f(s, G/M)$  follows.

If  $M^0 = A_7$ , we have  $A_2$ -density of  $\Phi(M)$  in  $\Phi$  and hence of  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  in  $\Phi(D)$ ; in all cases the required lower bound on  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)|$  follows immediately from 5.1. Likewise  $A_2$ -density disposes of all cases with  $M^0 = D_6A_1$  except those in which  $D^0 = D_6A_1$  or  $D_5A_1T_1$ ; these cases require further treatment. First assume  $D^0 = D_6A_1$ . By  $A_2$ -density we see that if  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \leq 14$  then we must have  $\Phi(D \cap M) = D_4D_2, D_3^2A_1$  or  $D_3^2$ . Moreover, if the first of these holds then the  $A_1$  factor of  $\Phi(D)$  cannot be involved in the  $D_2$  (otherwise the intersection of  $\Phi(M)$  with the  $D_6$  factor of  $\Phi(D)$  would not be  $A_2$ -dense); the same is true of the  $A_1$  factor of  $\Phi(M)$ . Thus the intersection of the two  $D_6$  factors would have to be a  $D_4D_2$  or  $D_3^2$  subsystem. However, if  $\Phi'$  is a  $D_4D_2$  or  $D_3^2$  subsystem of a  $D_6$  subsystem  $\Psi$  of  $\Phi$ , then  $\mathbb{Z}\Phi' \cap \Phi = \Psi$ ; thus  $\Psi$  is the unique  $D_6$  subsystem containing  $\Phi'$ , and so the intersection of two distinct  $D_6$  subsystems cannot be either  $D_4D_2$  or  $D_3^2$ . We therefore have  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq |\Phi^+(A_5)| = 15$  and so  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(63 - 31 - 31 + 15) = 32$ . Now assume  $D^0 = D_5A_1T_1$ . Here  $A_2$ -density shows that the intersection of  $\Phi(M)$  with the  $D_5$  factor of  $\Phi(D)$  must be  $D_5, D_4, A_4$  or  $D_3D_2$ ; we shall show that we cannot have  $\Phi(D \cap M) = D_3D_2$ , from which it will follow that  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq 9$  and so  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(63 - 31 - 21 + 9) = 40$ . We know by 5.2 that  $\Phi(D)$  is  $A_3$ -dense in  $\Phi$ ; by 5.3 neither  $A_3A_1$  nor  $D_3A_1$  is  $A_3$ -dense in  $D_6$ , so if we had  $\Phi' = \Phi(D \cap M) = D_3D_2$  then  $\Phi'$  would have to lie in both the  $D_6$  factor of  $\Phi(M)$  and the  $D_5$  factor of  $\Phi(D)$ . This would imply that  $\mathbb{Z}\Phi' \cap \Phi$  equals the  $D_5$  factor of  $\Phi(D)$ ; since each  $D_5$  subsystem in  $\Phi$  is orthogonal to a unique positive root, there is a unique positive root  $\beta$  of  $\Phi$  orthogonal to  $\Phi'$ , namely that of the  $A_1$  factor of  $\Phi(D)$ . However, the positive root of the  $A_1$  factor of  $\Phi(M)$  is orthogonal to the  $D_6$  factor, and thus to  $\Phi'$ ; so it must be  $\beta$ , and  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  is  $D_3D_2A_1$  rather than  $D_3D_2$ .

Finally let  $M^0 = E_6T_1$ , so that  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  is  $A_2$ -dense in  $\Phi(D)$ ; by taking those cases already treated in which  $D = E_6T_1$ , and interchanging

the roles of  $D$  and  $M$ , we are left with the cases  $D^0 = E_6T_1, D_5A_1T_1, A_6T_1, A_5A_1T_1, D_4A_1^2T_1$  and  $A_3^2A_1$  to consider.  $A_2$ -density immediately disposes of the last three of these. For  $D^0 = A_6T_1$  we note that  $A_3A_2$  is not a subsystem of  $\Phi(M)$ ; for  $D^0 = D_5A_1T_1$ , similarly  $A_3A_1^3$  is not a subsystem of  $\Phi(M)$ , and the  $A_3$ -density of  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  in  $\Phi(M)$  rules out the possibilities  $\Phi(D \cap M) = A_4$  or  $A_3A_1^2$ ; in either case we see that  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq |\Phi^+(A_4A_1)| = 11$  and  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(63 - 36 - 21 + 11) = 34$ . If  $D^0 = E_6T_1$  we cannot have  $\Phi(D \cap M) = A_5A_1$ , because if  $\Phi'$  is an  $A_5A_1$  subsystem of  $\Phi$  which lies in an  $E_6$  subsystem  $\Psi$ , then  $\mathbb{Z}\Phi' \cap \Phi = \Psi$ , and so  $\Phi'$  cannot lie in two distinct  $E_6$  subsystems of  $\Phi$ ; thus by  $A_2$ -density we must have  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq |\Phi^+(D_5)| = 20$  and  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(63 - 36 - 36 + 20) = 22$ . This concludes the proof that the conclusion of Theorem 2(II)(b) holds if  $G = E_7$ . □

**Lemma 5.8.** *The conclusion of Theorem 2(II)(b) holds if  $G = E_6, F_4, G_2$ .*

*Proof.* The proof is carried out using the methods of the previous lemmas, so we only provide a sketch. For  $G = E_6$  arguments based on  $A_2$ - and  $A_3$ -density alone suffice in all cases except that where  $M^0$  and  $D^0$  are both  $D_5T_1$ ; here we note that the intersection of two  $D_5$  subsystems cannot be  $D_3D_2$ , by the spanning argument used several times above, and so  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq |\Phi^+(A_4)| = 10$ , giving  $f(s, G/M) \geq 2(36 - 20 - 20 + 10) = 12$ .

Now let  $G = F_4$ ; here  $M^0 = B_4, D_4, C_3A_1$  or  $A_2\tilde{A}_2$ , and if  $p = 2$  we may also have  $M^0 = C_4$  or  $\tilde{D}_4$ . If  $M^0 = D_4$  then  $\Phi(M)$  consists of all the long roots of  $\Phi$ ; so  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  consists of the long roots of  $\Phi(D)$ , and the values  $f(s, G/M)$  are clear. Applying the graph automorphism gives the values for  $M^0 = \tilde{D}_4$  when  $p = 2$  (note that  $D$  cannot then be  $B_4$ ). In all cases where  $M^0 = C_3A_1$ , the fact that  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  is anti-open in  $\Phi(D)$  immediately leads to the required bounds. If  $M^0 = B_4$  then  $\Phi(D \cap M)$  contains all long roots of  $\Phi(D)$  and is anti-open in  $\Phi(D)$ ; these considerations suffice in all cases (note that if  $D = A_2\tilde{A}_2$  then  $\Phi^+(D \cap M)$  contains at least one short root in addition to all positive long roots of  $\Phi^+(D)$ ). Again, applying the graph automorphism deals with the possibility  $M^0 = C_4$  when  $p = 2$ . Allowing interchange of the roles of  $D$  and  $M$ , the only cases remaining to be treated are those where  $M^0 = A_2\tilde{A}_2$  and  $D = B_3T_1$  or  $A_3\tilde{A}_1$ . As far as long roots are concerned, those of  $\Phi(G)$  form a  $D_4$  system, while those of  $\Phi(D)$  form an  $A_3$  subsystem, which thus is anti-open and must meet the  $A_2$  factor of  $\Phi(M)$ ; this suffices to give the bound for  $D = A_3\tilde{A}_1$ , so assume  $D = B_3T_1$  and suppose if possible that  $\Phi(D \cap M) = A_1$ . There is a unique positive short root  $\beta$  such that the roots orthogonal to it are those of  $\Phi(D)$ ; since by assumption the  $A_2$  factor of  $\Phi(M)$  does not lie in  $\Phi(D)$ , not all of its roots are orthogonal to  $\beta$ , and so  $\beta$  cannot lie in the  $\tilde{A}_2$  factor of  $\Phi(M)$ . Thus if  $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3$  are the positive short roots of  $\Phi(D)$ , then  $\beta, \gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3$  are

four orthogonal short roots lying outside the  $\tilde{A}_2$  factor of  $\Phi(M)$ ; but this is impossible because the short roots of  $\Phi(G)$  form a  $\tilde{D}_4$  subsystem, in which any  $\tilde{D}_2^2$  subsystem is anti-open. Thus we cannot have  $\Phi(D \cap M) = A_1$ , and so  $|\Phi^+(D \cap M)| \geq 2$ , from which the required bound follows.

Finally if  $G = G_2$  the bounds are immediate from consideration of long and short roots. □

This completes the proof of Theorem 2(II)(b).

### 6. Completion of proof of Theorem 2: Part (III).

In this section we complete the proof of Theorem 2 by handling Part (III). Thus let  $M$  be a maximal closed subgroup of the exceptional algebraic group  $G$ , and suppose  $M$  does not contain a maximal torus of  $G$ . If  $M$  is finite then  $\dim x^G \cap M = 0$  for all  $x \in G$ , and Theorem 2(III) obviously holds. Hence we may assume  $M$  has positive dimension. We shall make use of the information given about the possibilities for  $M$  in [22, Theorem 1]; this result gives the list of possibilities for  $M$ , excluding some unknown cases in small characteristics. Note that all the unknown cases in small characteristics have  $M$  of small dimension, and are quickly ruled out in the next lemma by dimension arguments.

**Lemma 6.1.** *Either the conclusion of Theorem 2(III) holds, or  $G, M$  are as follows:*

$G$	$M$
$E_8$	$G_2F_4$
$E_7$	$A_1F_4$
$E_6$	$F_4, C_4(p \neq 2)$
$F_4$	$A_1G_2(p \neq 2), G_2(p = 7)$

*Proof.* If  $M \neq M^0$  then  $M^0$  possesses a graph automorphism, and we see from [22, Theorem 1] that  $G, M^0$  are as in the following table:

$G$	$M^0$
$E_8$	$A_2, A_3, A_1G_2G_2$
$E_7$	$A_2, D_4, A_1A_1$
$E_6$	$A_2$

It follows easily using 1.4 that if  $x \in M - M^0$  is of prime order then  $\dim x^G - \dim(x^G \cap (M - M^0)) \geq e_G, e'_G$  or  $h_G$ , according as  $x$  is a root element, a unipotent non-root element, or a semisimple element, respectively. Thus in order to prove Theorem 2(III), we need only show that  $\dim x^G - \dim(x^G \cap M^0) \geq e_G, e'_G$  or  $h_G$  in the respective cases just described.

First consider a semisimple element  $s \in M^0$ . As usual we can assume that  $\dim(s^G \cap M^0) = \dim s^{M^0}$ . By 1.1, we have  $\dim s^G \geq k_G = 112, 54, 32, 16, 6,$

according as  $G$  has type  $E_8, E_7, E_6, F_4, G_2$  respectively. Hence Theorem 2(III) holds unless  $\dim s^{M^0} > k_G - h_G$ . Thus we may assume that  $\dim s^M > k_G - h_G$ , whence  $\dim M - \text{rank}(M) > k_G - h_G$ . Now [22, Theorem 1] shows that  $M$  is in the list in the conclusion.

Now consider a unipotent element  $u \in M^0$ . If  $u$  is a long root element then by 1.13(ii),  $u$  lies in a simple factor of  $M$  and is a long root element therein (note that by the maximality of  $M$ , the case in 1.13(iii) where  $u$  is a short root element in a subgroup  $B_n$  does not arise). Now we see that the conclusion of Theorem 2(III) holds, using [22, Theorem 1] and 1.12.

Thus we may assume  $u$  is not a long root element (or a short root element if  $(G, p) = (F_4, 2)$  or  $(G_2, 3)$ ). Then by 1.7,  $\dim u^G \geq k'_G = 92, 52, 32, 22, 8$ , according as  $G = E_8, \dots, G_2$ . As above, we may suppose  $\dim M - \text{rank}(M) > k'_G - e'_G$ , which again leads to the list in the conclusion. □

**Lemma 6.2.** *The conclusion of Theorem 2(III) holds if  $G = E_6, M = F_4$  or  $C_4$  ( $p \neq 2$ ).*

*Proof.* In this case,  $M = C_G(\tau)$ , where  $\tau$  is an involutory graph automorphism of  $G$  (see 1.4).

Consider first a semisimple element  $s \in M$ . Letting  $D = C_G(s)$ , from 1.5 we have

$$\dim D \cap M = \dim C_D(\tau) \geq |\Sigma^+(D)| + \text{rank}(D) - \text{rank}(D'),$$

and therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \dim s^G - \dim s^M &= \dim G - \dim D - \dim M + \dim D \cap M \\ &\geq \dim G - \dim M - (|\Sigma^+(D)| + \text{rank}(D')). \end{aligned}$$

Hence either the conclusion of Theorem 2(III) holds, or  $M = F_4$  and  $(|\Sigma^+(D)| + \text{rank}(D')) > 14$ , in which case  $D^0 = D_5T_1, D_4T_2, A_5T_1, A_5A_1, A_4A_1T_1$  or  $A_2^3$ .

Assume then that  $M = F_4$  and  $D$  is in this list. Observe that  $M \cap D = C_D(\tau) = C_{F_4}(s)$ , a reductive group, and  $\tau$  induces an automorphism on  $D$ .

Suppose  $D = T_1D_5$ . When  $p \neq 2$ ,  $D$  centralizes an involution  $t$ , so  $M \cap D = C_{F_4}(t) = B_4$ ; and when  $p = 2$  the fact that  $C_D(\tau) = C_{F_4}(s)$  is reductive forces it to be  $B_4$  again. Thus  $\dim s^G - \dim s^M = 32 - 16 > h_G$ , as required.

Likewise, if  $D^0 = D_4T_2$  then  $C_D(\tau)^0 = B_3T_1$  (note that  $B_2B_1T_1$  is not possible, as this does not lie in a Levi subgroup of  $F_4$ ); if  $D^0 = A_5T_1$  or  $A_5A_1$  then  $D$  centralizes an involution  $t$  when  $p \neq 2$ , so  $C_D(\tau) \leq C_{F_4}(t)$ , whence  $C_D(\tau)^0 = C_3T_1$  or  $C_3A_1$  respectively (and when  $p = 2$  the fact that  $C_D(\tau)$  is reductive forces the same conclusion); if  $D = A_4A_1T_1$  then  $C_D(\tau) = B_2A_1T_1$ ; and if  $D^0 = A_2^3$  then  $|s| = 3$ , so  $\dim C_M(s) \geq 16$  by 1.5. The required bounds follow.

Now consider a unipotent element  $u \in M$  of order  $p$ . For  $M = F_4$ , unipotent class representatives for  $F_4$ , and the corresponding classes in  $E_6$ , are given in [17, Table A], and the required bound for  $\dim u^G - \dim u^M$  is immediate from [6, pp. 401-2].

Now let  $M = C_4$  ( $p \neq 2$ ). If  $u$  is not in class  $A_1$  or  $2A_1$  of  $G$ , then  $\dim u^G \geq 40$  by 1.7, hence we may assume that  $\dim u^M > 40 - e'_G = 30$ . By 1.10, the only such class in  $C_4$  is that of a regular unipotent element, with a single Jordan block on the usual 8-dimensional  $C_4$ -module  $V_8$ . As  $u$  has order  $p$ , this implies that  $p \geq 11$ . If  $V_{27}$  denotes the 27-dimensional  $G$ -module  $V_G(\lambda_1)$ , then  $V_{27} \downarrow C_4 = V_{C_4}(\lambda_2)$  by [24, 2.5]. One checks that on this module  $u$  has one Jordan block of size 13 if  $p \geq 13$ , and has 2 blocks of size 11 if  $p = 11$ . Hence by [17, Table 5],  $u$  lies in class  $E_6(a_1)$  of  $G$ , giving  $\dim u^G - \dim u^M = 70 - 32 > e'_G$ .

If  $u$  is in class  $A_1$  then  $u$  is a long root element in both  $G$  and  $C_4$ , so  $\dim u^G - \dim u^M = 22 - 8$ . Finally, suppose  $u$  is in class  $2A_1$ . By [17],  $V_{27} \downarrow u = J_3 \oplus J_2^8 \oplus J_1^8$ . Since  $V_{27} \downarrow C_4 = V_{C_4}(\lambda_2)$ , the only compatible possibility for  $V_8 \downarrow u$  is  $J_2^2 \oplus J_1^4$ . Then by 1.10,  $\dim u^M = 14$ , while  $\dim u^G = 32$ , so the result holds in this case also.  $\square$

**Lemma 6.3.** *The conclusion of Theorem 2(III) holds if  $G = E_7, M = A_1F_4$ .*

*Proof.* We first handle unipotent elements  $u$ . If  $u$  is a root element of  $G$ , then by 1.13 and 1.12,  $\dim u^G - \dim u^M \geq 33 - 16 = 17$ .

Now suppose  $u$  is not a root element. Then by 1.7,  $\dim u^G \geq 52$ . If  $p = 2$  then  $u$  is an involution, and from 1.7 we have  $\dim u^M \leq 30$ , giving  $\dim u^G - \dim u^M \geq 52 - 30 > 20 = e'_G$ , as required. So assume  $p \neq 2$ . We may assume that

$$\dim u^G < e'_G + \dim u^M \leq 20 + \dim M - \text{rank}(M) = 70.$$

Hence by 1.7,  $u$  lies in class  $2A_1, 3A''_1, 3A'_1$  or  $A_2$  of  $G$ .

Write  $u = u_0u_1$  with  $u_0 \in A_1, u_1 \in F_4$ . We may assume that  $\dim u^M > \dim u^G - e'_G$ , whence  $\dim u^M > 32$  and  $\dim u^{F_4} > 30$ . Therefore  $u_1$  is in one of the classes  $A_2 + \tilde{A}_1, B_2, \dots, F_4$  of  $F_4$  listed in order as in [17, Table 4]. By [24, 2.4],

$$L(G) \downarrow A_1F_4 = L(A_1F_4) \oplus (V(2) \otimes V(\lambda_4)).$$

Hence, using [17, Tables 3, 4], we can compute the possible Jordan forms of  $u = u_0u_1$  on  $L(G)$  with  $u_1$  in one of the above classes. We find that none of these agrees with the Jordan form of any of the classes  $2A_1, 3A''_1, 3A'_1, A_2$ , as given in [17, Table 8]. This completes the proof for unipotent elements.

Now consider a semisimple element  $s \in G$ . If  $s$  is an involution, then by 1.2,  $\dim s^G \geq 54$  while  $\dim s^M \leq 30$ , giving  $\dim s^G - \dim s^M \geq 24 > h_G = 22$ , as required. So we may suppose  $s$  has odd (prime) order. We may



also assume that  $\dim s^G < 22 + \dim s^M$ , whence  $\dim s^G < 72$ . By 1.1, this forces  $C_G(s) = T_1D_6$  or  $T_1E_6$ . Now by [24, Section 2],

$$\begin{aligned} L(G) \downarrow A_1D_6 &= L(A_1D_6) \oplus (V(1) \otimes V(\lambda_5)), \\ L(G) \downarrow T_1E_6 &= L(T_1E_6) \oplus V(\lambda_1) \oplus V(\lambda_6). \end{aligned}$$

It follows that if  $C_G(s) = T_1D_6$  then for some root of unity  $\delta$ , the eigenvalues of  $s$  on  $L(G)$  are 1 (multiplicity 67),  $\delta, \delta^{-1}$  (multiplicity 32 each) and  $\delta^2, \delta^{-2}$  (multiplicity 1 each); and if  $C_G(s)^0 = T_1E_6$  then the eigenvalues of  $s$  on  $L(G)$  are 1 (multiplicity 79),  $\delta, \delta^{-1}$  (multiplicity 27 each).

Write  $s = s_1s_2$  with  $s_1 \in A_1, s_2 \in F_4$ . The conclusion is clear if  $s_2 = 1$ , so assume  $s_2 \neq 1$ .

Suppose now that  $s_1 \neq 1$  also, and consider the composition factor  $V(2) \otimes V(\lambda_4)$  of  $M = A_1F_4$  on  $L(E_7)$ . Since a maximal torus of  $M$  has nontrivial 0-weight spaces on each factor  $V(2)$  and  $V(\lambda_4)$  (of dimension 2 on  $V(\lambda_4)$ ), we see that the eigenvalues  $\delta, \delta^{-1}$  both appear with positive multiplicity for  $s_1$  on the 3-dimensional factor  $V_{A_1}(2)$ , and for  $s_2$  on the 26-dimensional factor  $V_{F_4}(\lambda_4)$ . In particular, the eigenvalue  $\delta^2$  appears for  $s$  on the tensor product. It follows that if  $\delta^3 \neq 1$ , then  $C_G(s) = T_1D_6$  and  $s_1, s_2$  act on the two tensor factors as  $\text{diag}(\delta, \delta^{-1}, 1)$ ,  $\text{diag}(\delta, \delta^{-1}, 1^{24})$  respectively. But then  $\dim C_{V(2) \otimes V(\lambda_4)}(s) = 26$ , and so, as  $\dim C_G(s) = 67$ , we have  $\dim C_{L(A_1F_4)}(s) = 41$ . This forces  $\dim C_{F_4}(s_2) \geq 38$ , whereas there is no such semisimple element in  $F_4$  (by 1.1 for example).

Therefore  $\delta^3 = 1$  and  $s$  has order 3. On  $V(2) \otimes V(\lambda_4)$  we have  $s = s_1s_2 = \text{diag}(\delta, \delta^{-1}, 1) \otimes \text{diag}(\delta, \dots, \delta, \delta^{-1}, \dots, \delta^{-1}, 1^{26-2k})$  (where in the second factor  $\delta, \delta^{-1}$  appear with multiplicity  $k$ ). Then  $\dim C_{V(2) \otimes V(\lambda_4)}(s) = 26$  again, giving a contradiction as before.

We have now established that  $s_1 = 1$ , that is,  $s \in F_4$ . Also  $C_G(s) = T_1D_6$  or  $T_1E_6$ , and  $A_1 = C_G(F_4) \leq C_G(s) = C_G(T_1)$ , whence  $T_1 \leq C_G(A_1) = F_4$ .

Suppose now that  $p \neq 2$ . If  $C_G(s) = T_1D_6$ , then the torus  $T_1$  lies in a fundamental subgroup  $J \cong SL_2$  centralizing  $D_6$ , and [25, Theorem 1] forces  $J < F_4$ . Thus  $J$  is a fundamental  $SL_2$  in  $F_4$ , whence  $C_{F_4}(s) = C_{F_4}(T_1) = T_1C_3$ , and  $\dim s^G - \dim s^M = 66 - 30$ , giving the conclusion. And if  $C_G(s) = T_1E_6$  then an involution in  $T_1$  lifts to an element of order 4 in the simply connected cover of  $G$ , which is impossible as  $T_1 < F_4$ .

Finally, consider the case where  $p = 2$ . Here there is an element  $t \in T_1$  of order 3, and  $C_G(t) = C_G(s) = C_G(T_1)$ . Moreover by 1.2,  $C_{F_4}(t) = A_2A_2, T_1B_3$  or  $T_1C_3$ , and

$$\dim s^G - \dim s^M = \dim s^G - (\dim M - \dim C_{F_4}(t)).$$

The right hand side is greater than  $h_G = 22$ , except when  $C_G(s) = T_1E_6$  and  $C_{F_4}(t) = A_2A_2$ . However, in the latter case, we deduce from

$$V_{F_4}(\lambda_4) \downarrow A_2A_2 = (V(\lambda_1) \otimes V(\lambda_1)) \oplus (V(\lambda_2) \otimes V(\lambda_2)) \oplus (0 \otimes V(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2))$$

(see [24, Section 2]), that  $\dim C_{V(\lambda_4)}(t) = 8$ , whence  $\dim C_{V(2) \otimes V(\lambda_4)}(t) = 24$ . This yields  $\dim C_{L(G)}(t) < 79$ , a contradiction (as  $C_G(t) = C_G(s) = T_1E_6$  in this case).  $\square$

**Lemma 6.4.** *The conclusion of Theorem 2(III) holds if  $G = E_8, M = G_2F_4$ .*

*Proof.* For  $s$  semisimple, we have  $\dim s^G - \dim s^M \geq 112 - \dim M + \text{rank}(M) > h_G$ , as required.

Now consider unipotent elements  $u$ . If  $u$  is a root element of  $G$  then  $\dim u^G - \dim u^M \geq 58 - 16 > e_G$ . Otherwise, we may assume that

$$\dim u^G < \dim M - \text{rank}(M) + e'_G = 100.$$

Hence by 1.7,  $u$  lies in class  $2A_1$  of  $G$ . Then  $\dim u^G = 92$ , so we can suppose that  $\dim u^M > 92 - e'_G = 52$ , whence  $\dim u^{F_4} > 40$ . As  $u$  has order  $p$ , we see from 1.7 that  $p \neq 2$  or  $3$ . By [17], the largest Jordan block of  $u$  on  $L(G)$  has size 3. Hence if  $u = u_0u_1$  with  $u_0 \in G_2, u_1 \in F_4$ , then by [17] again,  $u_1$  lies in class  $A_1$  or  $\tilde{A}_1$  of  $F_4$ . But then  $\dim u_1^M < 40$ , a contradiction.  $\square$

**Lemma 6.5.** *The conclusion of Theorem 2(III) holds if  $G = F_4$ .*

*Proof.* Here  $M = A_1G_2$  ( $p \neq 2$ ) or  $G_2$  ( $p = 7$ ). If  $u$  is a long root element of  $G$ , then use of 1.13 gives  $\dim u^G - \dim u^M \geq 16 - 6 > e_G = 4$ . And if  $u$  is not a long root element then by 1.7,  $\dim u^G \geq 22$  and  $\dim u^M \leq 14$ , giving  $\dim u^G - \dim u^M \geq 8 \geq e'_G$ , as required.

Now consider a semisimple element  $s \in M$ . We can suppose  $C_G(s) = B_4$ , as otherwise by 1.1 we have  $\dim s^G \geq 28$ , giving the conclusion. Then  $\dim s^G = 16$ , while since  $s$  is an involution,  $\dim s^M \leq 10$ , giving the result.  $\square$

The proof of Theorem 2 is now complete.

### 7. The tables of bounds for Theorem 2.

This section consists of four tables which define the constants referred to in the statement of Theorem 2. The numbers  $c_{G,i,\alpha}, c_{G,i,\beta}$  and  $c'_{G,i}$  are defined in Tables 7.1 and 7.2; and the numbers  $d_{G,i,D}$  and  $f_{G,M,D}$  in Tables 7.3 and 7.4. In the latter tables, separate bounds are given for certain cases in which the subgroup  $D$  has a large normal factor, as indicated by the heading “ $D \triangleright$ ” in the second column. For example, from Table 7.3 for  $G = E_8$ , we have  $d_{G,2,E_7A_1} = 41, d_{G,4,A_7T_1} = 67$  (since here  $D \triangleright E_7, A_7$  respectively); and from Table 7.4 for  $G = E_6$ , we have  $f_{G,A_5A_1,D_5T_1} = 16, f_{G,N_G(D_4T_2),A_4A_1T_1} = 26$ .

In Table 7.4, if  $G = F_4$  then  $M^0 = C_4$  or  $\tilde{D}_4$  only occurs for  $p = 2$ ; likewise if  $G = G_2$  then  $M^0 = \tilde{A}_2$  only occurs for  $p = 3$ .

$i$	$c_{E_8,i,\alpha}$	$c'_{E_8,i}$	$c_{E_7,i,\alpha}$	$c'_{E_7,i}$	$c_{E_6,i,\alpha}$	$c'_{E_6,i}$
1	18	28	8	12	4	6
2	22	34	11	16	6	8
3	23	36	12	18	7	10
4	25	40	14	21	9	12
5	25	39	13	20	7	10
6	22	36	10	16	4	6
7	18	30	6	10		
8	12	20				

**Table 7.1.**  $G = E_8, E_7, E_6$ .

$i$	$c_{F_4,i,\alpha}$	$c_{F_4,i,\beta}$	$c'_{F_4,i}$	$c_{G_2,i,\alpha}$	$c_{G_2,i,\beta}$	$c'_{G_2,i}$
1	5	$6 - 2\delta_{p,2}$	$8 - 2\delta_{p,2}$	3	$3 - \delta_{p,3}$	$4 - \delta_{p,3}$
2	7	$9 - 3\delta_{p,2}$	$11 - 2\delta_{p,2}$	2	3	$4 - \delta_{p,3}$
3	6	$9 - 2\delta_{p,2}$	$11 - 2\delta_{p,2}$			
4	4	$6 - \delta_{p,2}$	$8 - 2\delta_{p,2}$			

**Table 7.2.**  $G = F_4, G_2$ .

$G$	$D \triangleright$	$i$							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
$E_8$	$E_7$	35	41	44	48	47	44	36	24
	$D_8$	40	48	51	55	54	50	43	29
	other	48	58	62	67	66	61	52	36
$E_7$	$E_6$	12	17	18	22	21	17	11	
	$D_6$	16	20	23	26	24	20	12	
	$A_7$	17	23	25	28	27	22	15	
	other	20	26	30	34	32	26	17	
$E_6$	$D_5$	6	8	10	12	10	6		
	$A_5$	8	11	13	15	13	8		
	other	10	12	16	18	16	10		
$F_4$	$B_4$	4	6	7	5				
	$C_3$	8	11	11	8				
	$B_3$	8	12	12	9				
	other	10	13	14	11				
$G_2$	$A_2$	2	3						
	other	3	3						

**Table 7.3.** Values of  $d_{G,i,D}$ .

$G$	$D \triangleright$	$M^0$					
$E_8$		$E_7A_1$	$D_8$	$E_6A_2$	$A_8$	$D_4^2$	other
	$E_7$	48	56	65	68	72	84
	$D_8$	56	64	81	84	88	100
	other	70	80	102	108	116	128
$E_7$		$E_6T_1$	$D_6A_1$	$A_7$	other		
	$E_6$	22	24	27	36		
	$D_6$	24	32	32	39		
	$A_7$	27	32	35	45		
	other	34	40	44	58		
$E_6$		$D_5T_1$	$A_5A_1$	$D_4T_2$	$A_2^3$	$T_6$	
	$D_5$	12	16	20	24	26	
	$A_5$	16	20	24	27	34	
	other	20	24	26	32	42	
$F_4$		$B_4$	$C_4$	$D_4$	$\widetilde{D}_4$	$C_3A_1$	$A_2\widetilde{A}_2$
	$B_4$	8	—	9	—	8	12
	$C_3$	8	10	12	16	14	18
	$B_3$	10	8	16	12	16	22
	other	12	12	16	16	18	24
$G_2$		$A_2$	$\widetilde{A}_2$	$A_1\widetilde{A}_1$			
	$A_2$	6	—	4			
	other	3	3	4			

**Table 7.4.** Values of  $f_{G,M,D}$ .

**References**

[1] M. Aschbacher, *The 27-dimensional module for  $E_6$ , IV*, J. Algebra, **131** (1990), 23-39, [MR 91f:20049](#), [Zbl 0698.20031](#).

[2] M. Aschbacher and G.M. Seitz, *Involutions in Chevalley groups over fields of even order*, Nagoya Math. J., **63** (1976), 1-91, [MR 80b:20058](#), [Zbl 0359.20014](#).

[3] H. Azad, M. Barry and G.M. Seitz, *On the structure of parabolic subgroups*, Comm. in Alg., **18** (1990), 551-562, [MR 91d:20048](#), [Zbl 0717.20029](#).

[4] A. Borel and J. Tits, *Éléments unipotents et sous-groupes paraboliques de groupes réductifs*, Invent. Math., **12** (1971), 95-104, [MR 45 #3419](#), [Zbl 0238.20055](#).

[5] N. Bourbaki, *Groupes et Algèbres de Lie* (Chapters 4,5,6), Hermann, Paris, 1968, [MR 39 #1590](#), [Zbl 0186.33001](#).

[6] R.W. Carter, *Finite Groups of Lie Type: Conjugacy Classes and Characters*, Wiley-Interscience, 1985, [MR 87d:20060](#), [Zbl 0567.20023](#).

[7] B. Chang, *The conjugate classes of Chevalley groups of type  $(G_2)$* , J. Algebra, **9** (1968), 190-211, [MR 37 #2843](#), [Zbl 0285.20043](#).

- [8] A.M. Cohen, M.W. Liebeck, J. Saxl and G.M. Seitz, *The local maximal subgroups of the exceptional groups of Lie type*, Proc. London Math. Soc., **64** (1992), 21-48, [MR 92m:20012](#), [Zbl 0742.20047](#).
- [9] D.I. Deriziotis, *The centralizers of semisimple elements of the Chevalley groups  $E_7$  and  $E_8$* , Tokyo J. Math., **6** (1983), 191-216, [MR 85g:20060](#), [Zbl 0534.20031](#).
- [10] E.B. Dynkin, *Semisimple subalgebras of semisimple Lie algebras*, Amer. Math. Soc. Transl., **6** (1957), 111-244, [MR 13,904c](#), [Zbl 0077.03404](#).
- [11] H. Enomoto, *The conjugacy classes of Chevalley groups of type  $(G_2)$  over finite fields of characteristic 2 or 3*, J. Fac. Sci. Univ. Tokyo, **16** (1970), 497-512, [MR 41 #6960](#), [Zbl 0242.20049](#).
- [12] D. Frohardt and K. Magaard, *Composition factors of monodromy groups*, Ann. of Math. (2), **154**(2) (2001), 327-345, [CMP 1 865 973](#).
- [13] D. Gorenstein and R. Lyons, *The local structure of finite groups of characteristic 2 type*, Mem. Amer. Math. Soc., **276** (1983), [MR 84g:20025](#), [Zbl 0519.20014](#).
- [14] D. Gorenstein, R. Lyons and R. Solomon, *The Classification of Finite Simple Groups*, Vol. 3, Amer. Math. Soc., 1999, [MR 98j:20011](#), [Zbl 0922.20021](#).
- [15] R. Guralnick and W.M. Kantor, *Probabilistic generation of finite simple groups*, J. Algebra, **234** (2000), 743-792, [MR 2002f:20038](#), [Zbl 0973.20012](#).
- [16] J.E. Humphreys, *Linear Algebraic Groups*, Springer-Verlag, 1981, [MR 53 #633](#), [Zbl 0471.20029](#).
- [17] R. Lawther, *Jordan block sizes of unipotent elements in exceptional algebraic groups*, Comm. in Alg., **23** (1995), 4125-4156, [MR 99f:20073](#), [Zbl 0880.20034](#).
- [18] R. Lawther, *Finiteness of double coset spaces*, Proc. London Math. Soc., **79** (1999), 605-625, [MR 2000f:20075](#).
- [19] R. Lawther, M.W. Liebeck and G.M. Seitz, *Fixed point ratios in actions of finite exceptional groups of Lie type*, Pacific J. Math., **205**(2) (2002), 393-464.
- [20] M.W. Liebeck and J. Saxl, *Minimal degrees of primitive permutation groups, with an application to monodromy groups of Riemann surfaces*, Proc. London Math. Soc., **63** (1991), 266-314, [MR 92f:20003](#), [Zbl 0696.20004](#).
- [21] M.W. Liebeck, J. Saxl and G.M. Seitz, *Subgroups of maximal rank in finite exceptional groups of Lie type*, Proc. London Math. Soc., **65** (1992), 297-325, [MR 93e:20026](#), [Zbl 0776.20012](#).
- [22] M.W. Liebeck and G.M. Seitz, *Maximal subgroups of exceptional groups of Lie type, finite and algebraic*, Geom. Ded., **36** (1990), 353-387, [MR 91f:20032](#), [Zbl 0721.20030](#).
- [23] ———, *Subgroups generated by root elements in groups of Lie type*, Ann. of Math. (2), **139** (1994), 293-361, [MR 95d:20078](#), [Zbl 0824.20041](#).
- [24] ———, *Reductive subgroups of exceptional algebraic groups*, Mem. Amer. Math. Soc., **580** (1996), [MR 96i:20059](#), [Zbl 0851.20045](#).
- [25] ———, *Subgroups of simple algebraic groups containing elements of fundamental subgroups*, Math. Proc. Camb. Phil. Soc., **126** (1999), 461-479, [MR 2000d:20064](#), [Zbl 0939.20049](#).
- [26] M.W. Liebeck and A. Shalev, *Classical groups, probabilistic methods, and the  $(2,3)$ -generation problem*, Ann. of Math. (2), **144** (1996), 77-125, [MR 97e:20106a](#), [Zbl 0865.20020](#).

- [27] K. Mizuno, *The conjugate classes of Chevalley groups of type  $E_6$* , J. Fac. Sci. Univ. Tokyo, **24** (1977), 525-563, [MR 58 #5951](#), [Zbl 0399.20044](#).
- [28] K. Mizuno, *The conjugate classes of unipotent elements of the Chevalley groups  $E_7$  and  $E_8$* , Tokyo J. Math., **3** (1980), 391-461, [MR 82m:20046](#), [Zbl 0454.20046](#).
- [29] K. Pommerening, *Über die unipotenten Klassen reductiver Gruppen*, J. Algebra, **49** (1977), 525-536, [MR 58 #918](#), [Zbl 0367.20046](#).
- [30] ———, *Über die unipotenten Klassen reductiver Gruppen II*, J. Algebra, **65** (1980), 373-398, [MR 83d:20031](#), [Zbl 0437.20034](#).
- [31] G.M. Seitz, *Maximal subgroups of exceptional algebraic groups*, Mem. Amer. Math. Soc., **441** (1991), [MR 91g:20038](#), [Zbl 0743.20029](#).
- [32] ———, *Double cosets in algebraic groups*, in 'Algebraic Groups and their Representations' (eds. R. Carter and J. Saxl), NATO ASI Series C, **517**, Kluwer (1998), 241-257, [MR 99k:20096](#), [Zbl 0933.20039](#).
- [33] K. Shinoda, *The conjugacy classes of Chevalley groups of type  $(F_4)$  over finite fields of characteristic 2*, J. Fac. Sci. Univ. Tokyo, **21** (1974), 133-159, [MR 50 #2356](#), [Zbl 0306.20013](#).
- [34] T. Shoji, *The conjugacy classes of Chevalley groups of type  $(F_4)$  over finite fields of characteristic  $p \neq 2$* , J. Fac. Sci. Univ. Tokyo, **21** (1974), 1-17, [MR 50 #10109](#), [Zbl 0279.20038](#).
- [35] N. Spaltenstein, *Classes Unipotentes et Sous-groupes de Borel*, Lecture Notes in Math., **946**, Springer (1982), [MR 84a:14024](#), [Zbl 0486.20025](#).
- [36] T.A. Springer and R. Steinberg, *Conjugacy classes*, in 'Seminar on Algebraic Groups and Related Finite Groups' (eds. A. Borel et al.), Lecture Notes in Math., **131**, Springer (1970), 168-266, [MR 42 #3091](#), [Zbl 0249.20024](#).
- [37] G.E. Wall, *On the conjugacy classes in the unitary, symplectic and orthogonal groups*, J. Austral. Math. Soc., **3** (1963), 1-62, [MR 27 #212](#), [Zbl 0122.28102](#).

Received October 10, 2000 and revised September 26, 2001. The first author acknowledges support from the Nuffield Foundation. The second and third authors acknowledge the support of NATO grant CRG 931394. The third author also acknowledges the support of an NSF grant and an EPSRC Visiting Fellowship.

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY  
LANCASTER LA1 4YF  
ENGLAND  
*E-mail address:* [r.lawther@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:r.lawther@lancaster.ac.uk)

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS  
IMPERIAL COLLEGE  
LONDON SW7 2BZ  
ENGLAND  
*E-mail address:* [m.liebeck@ic.ac.uk](mailto:m.liebeck@ic.ac.uk)

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS  
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
EUGENE, OR 97403  
*E-mail address:* [seitz@math.uoregon.edu](mailto:seitz@math.uoregon.edu)