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**KLEIN FOUR-SUBGROUPS OF  
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**We classify the Klein four-subgroups  $\Gamma$  of  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  for each compact simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{u}_0$  up to conjugation, by calculating the symmetric subgroups  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta$  and their involution classes. This leads to a new approach to the classification of semisimple symmetric pairs and  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ -symmetric spaces. We also determine the fixed point subgroups  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\Gamma$ .**

## 1. Introduction

Riemannian symmetric pairs were classified by Élie Cartan (see [Carter 1993], for example) and the more general semisimple symmetric pairs were classified by Marcel Berger [1957]. The algebraic structure of semisimple symmetric spaces is even more interesting for geometric and analytic reasons. Some of the recent works are Ōshima and Sekiguchi's classification [1984] of reduced root systems and Helminck's classification [1988] for algebraic groups. Most recently some new approaches to the classification and the parametrization of semisimple symmetric pairs were given in [Huang 2002] by using admissible quadruplets and in [Chuah and Huang 2010] by using double Vogan diagrams.

In this paper we study semisimple symmetric spaces from a different point of view — by determining the Klein four-subgroups in Lie algebra automorphisms. Let  $\mathfrak{u}_0$  be a compact simple Lie algebra and  $\mathfrak{g}$  be its complexification. Denote by  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  the automorphism group of  $\mathfrak{u}_0$ . For any involution  $\theta$  in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ , we first determine the centralizer  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta$  of  $\theta$ , which is a symmetric subgroup. By understanding the conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta$ , we proceed to classify Klein four-subgroups  $\Gamma$  of  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  up to conjugation. This gives a new approach to the classification of commuting pairs of involutive automorphisms of  $\mathfrak{u}_0$  or  $\mathfrak{g}$ . We note that the ordered commuting pairs of involutions correspond to

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Berger's classification of semisimple symmetric pairs.

If  $\Gamma$  is a finite abelian subgroup of the automorphism group of a Lie group  $G$ , then the homogeneous space  $G/H$  is called a  $\Gamma$ -symmetric space provided that  $(G^\Gamma)_0 \subseteq H \subseteq G^\Gamma$ ; see [Lutz 1981]. In the case of  $\Gamma = \mathbb{Z}_2$  this is a symmetric space and in the case of  $\Gamma = \mathbb{Z}_k$  it is the  $k$ -symmetric space studied in [Wolf and Gray 1968]. In the case of  $\Gamma = \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$  it is the Klein four-group;  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ -symmetric spaces were studied in [Bahturin and Goze 2008; Kollross 2009]. This paper contains a complete list of all  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ -symmetric pairs and our method is very different from theirs. Finally, we determine the fixed point subgroups  $\text{Aut}(u_0)^\Gamma$ .

## 2. Preliminaries

**2A. Complex semisimple Lie algebras and Dynkin diagrams.** Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a complex semisimple Lie algebra and  $\mathfrak{h}$  a Cartan subalgebra. Then  $\mathfrak{g}$  has a root-space decomposition

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \left( \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Delta} \mathfrak{g}_\alpha \right),$$

where  $\Delta = \Delta(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h})$  is the root system of  $\mathfrak{g}$  and  $\mathfrak{g}_\alpha$  is the root space of the root  $\alpha \in \Delta$ . Let  $B$  be the Killing form on  $\mathfrak{g}$ . It is a nondegenerate symmetric form. The restriction of  $B$  to  $\mathfrak{h}$  is also nondegenerate. For any  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ , let  $H_\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}$  be determined by

$$B(H_\lambda, H) = \lambda(H) \quad \text{for all } H \in \mathfrak{h}.$$

For any  $\lambda, \mu \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ , define  $\langle \lambda, \mu \rangle := B(H_\lambda, H_\mu)$ .

For any root  $\alpha$ , we have

$$(1) \quad H_\alpha \in \mathfrak{h}.$$

Define

$$(2) \quad H'_\alpha = \frac{2}{\alpha(H_\alpha)} H_\alpha,$$

which is called a coroot; let

$$(3) \quad 0 \neq X_\alpha \in \mathfrak{g}_\alpha$$

be any nonzero vector (recall that  $\dim \mathfrak{g}_\alpha = 1$ ), which is called a root vector of the root  $\alpha$ . The notation  $H_\alpha, H'_\alpha, X_\alpha$  will be used frequently in this paper.

Note that, for any  $\alpha, \beta \in \Delta$ ,

$$\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle = B(H_\alpha, H_\beta) = \beta(H_\alpha) = \alpha(H_\beta) \in \mathbb{R},$$

$$\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle = B(H_\alpha, H_\alpha) = \alpha(H_\alpha) \neq 0,$$

and  $2\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle / \langle \beta, \beta \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We also note that  $\text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}\{\alpha \mid \alpha \in \Delta\} \subset \mathfrak{h}^*$  is a real vector space of dimension equal to  $r = \text{rank } \mathfrak{g} = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} \mathfrak{h}$ ; see [Knapp 2002, pp. 140–162].

We set  $A_{\alpha,\beta} = 2\langle\alpha, \beta\rangle/\langle\beta, \beta\rangle = \alpha(H'_\beta)$ . Then

$$[H'_\alpha, X_\beta] = \beta(H'_\alpha)X_\beta = \frac{2\langle\alpha, \beta\rangle}{\langle\alpha, \alpha\rangle}X_\beta = A_{\beta,\alpha}X_\beta.$$

Choose a lexicography order of  $\text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}\{\alpha \mid \alpha \in \Delta\}$  to get a positive system  $\Delta^+$  and a simple system  $\Pi$ . Let

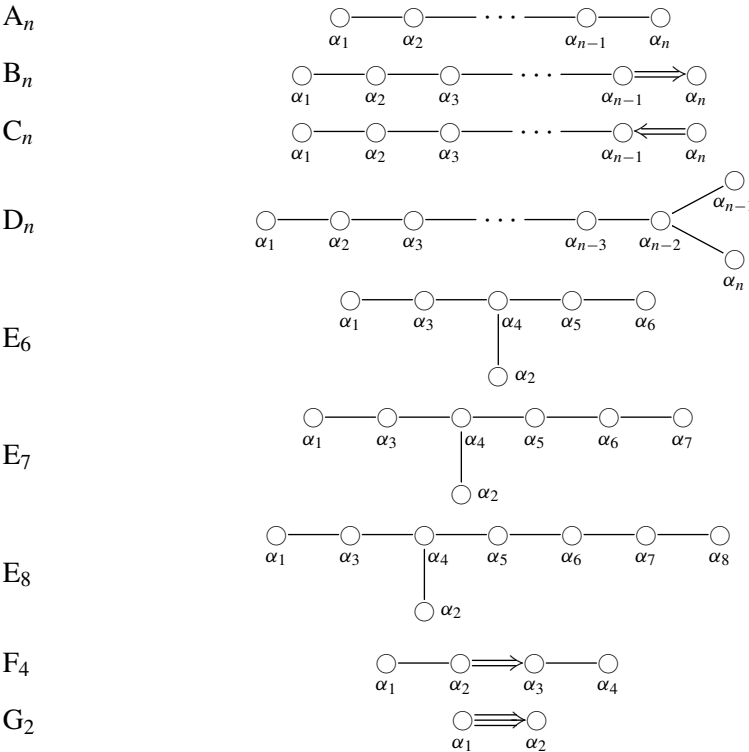
$$(4) \quad \Pi = \{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_r\}.$$

For brevity, we write

$$(5) \quad H_i, H'_i$$

instead of  $H_{\alpha_i}, H'_{\alpha_i}$  for a simple root  $\alpha_i$ .

Draw  $A_{\alpha,\beta}A_{\beta,\alpha}$  edges to connect any two distinct simple roots  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , and draw an arrow from  $\alpha$  to  $\beta$  if  $\langle\alpha, \alpha\rangle > \langle\beta, \beta\rangle$ ; this gives us a graph. This graph is connected if and only if  $\mathfrak{g}$  is a simple Lie algebra; in this case it is called the Dynkin diagram of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . In this paper, we always follow Bourbaki numbering to order the simple roots; see [Bourbaki 2002, pp. 265–300]. The following are all the possible (connected) Dynkin diagrams.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>These diagrams are drawn by using a Latex package of Professor Jiu-Kang Yu. We are grateful to him for the kind permission to use this package.

Let  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{g})$  be the group of all complex linear automorphisms of  $\mathfrak{g}$  and  $\text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})$  be the subgroup of inner automorphisms. We define

$$\text{Out}(\mathfrak{g}) := \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{g}) / \text{Int}(\mathfrak{g}).$$

The exponential map  $\exp : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{g})$  is given by

$$\exp(X) = \exp(\text{ad}(X)) \quad \text{for all } X \in \mathfrak{g} = \text{Lie}(\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{g})).$$

**2B. A compact real form.** One can normalize the root vectors  $\{X_\alpha, X_{-\alpha}\}$  so that  $B(X_\alpha, X_{-\alpha}) = 2/\alpha(H_\alpha)$ . Then  $[X_\alpha, X_{-\alpha}] = H'_\alpha$ . Moreover, one can normalize  $\{X_\alpha\}$  appropriately, such that

$$(6) \quad \mathfrak{u}_0 = \text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}\{X_\alpha - X_{-\alpha}, i(X_\alpha + X_{-\alpha}), iH_\alpha : \alpha \in \Delta^+\}$$

is a compact real form of  $\mathfrak{g}$  [Knapp 2002, pp. 348–354]. Define

$$\theta(X + iY) := X - iY \quad \text{for all } X, Y \in \mathfrak{u}_0.$$

Then  $\theta$  is a Cartan involution of  $\mathfrak{g}$  (as a real semisimple Lie algebra) and  $\mathfrak{u}_0 = \mathfrak{g}^\theta$  is a maximal compact subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Any other compact real form of  $\mathfrak{g}$  is conjugate to  $\mathfrak{u}_0$ . Below, whenever we discuss a compact real form of  $\mathfrak{g}$ , we always use this compact real form  $\mathfrak{u}_0$  in (6).

Let  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  be the group of automorphisms of  $\mathfrak{u}_0$  and  $\text{Int}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  be the subgroup of inner automorphisms. Any automorphism of  $\mathfrak{u}_0$  extends uniquely to a holomorphic automorphism of  $\mathfrak{g}$ , so  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0) \subset \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{g})$ . Similarly,  $\text{Int}(\mathfrak{u}_0) \subset \text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})$ . Define

$$\Theta(f) := \theta f \theta^{-1} \quad \text{for all } f \in \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{g}).$$

Then it is a Cartan involution of  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{g})$  with differential  $\theta$ . It follows that  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0) = \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{g})^\Theta$  and  $\text{Int}(\mathfrak{u}_0) = \text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})^\Theta$  are maximal compact subgroups of  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{g})$  and  $\text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})$ , respectively. We also have

$$\text{Out}(\mathfrak{u}_0) := \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0) / \text{Int}(\mathfrak{u}_0) \cong \text{Out}(\mathfrak{g}) \cong \text{Aut}(\Pi),$$

where  $\text{Aut}(\Pi)$  is the symmetry group of the graph  $\Pi$  consisting of permutations of vertices preserving the multiples of edges and directions of arrows.

**2C. Notation.** We denote by  $\mathfrak{e}_6$  the compact simple Lie algebra of type  $\mathbf{E}_6$ . Let  $E_6$  be the connected and simply connected Lie group with Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{e}_6$ . Let  $\mathfrak{e}_6(\mathbb{C})$  and  $E_6(\mathbb{C})$  denote their complexifications. Similar notation will be used for other types.

Let  $Z(G)$  and  $\mathfrak{z}(\mathfrak{g})$  denote the center of a group  $G$  and a Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$ , respectively, and  $G_0$  denote the connected component of  $G$  containing identity element. For Lie groups  $H \subset G$ , let  $Z_G(H)$  denote the centralizer of  $H$  in  $G$ , and for Lie algebras  $\mathfrak{h} \subset \mathfrak{g}$ , let  $Z_{\mathfrak{g}}(\mathfrak{h})$  denote the centralizer of  $\mathfrak{h}$  in  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Let  $N_G(H)$  denote the normalizer

of  $H$  in  $G$ . For any two elements  $x, y \in G$ , we write  $x \sim y$  to mean  $x, y$  are conjugate in  $G$ , that is,  $y = gxg^{-1}$  for some  $g \in G$  and  $x \sim_H y$  to mean  $y = gxg^{-1}$  for some  $g \in H$ .

In the case of  $G = E_6$  or  $E_7$ , let  $c$  denote a nontrivial element in  $Z(G)$ .

In the case of  $u_0 = \epsilon_7$ , let

$$H'_0 = \frac{H'_2 + H'_5 + H'_7}{2} \in i\epsilon_7 \subset \epsilon_7(\mathbb{C}).$$

Let  $\text{Pin}(n)$  ( $\text{Spin}(n)$ ) be the  $\text{Pin}$  ( $\text{Spin}$ ) group in degree  $n$ . Write

$$c = e_1 e_2 \cdots e_n \in \text{Pin}(n).$$

Then  $c$  is in  $\text{Spin}(n)$  if and only if  $n$  is even; in this case  $c \in Z(\text{Spin}(n))$ . If  $n$  is odd, then  $\text{Spin}(n)$  has a spinor module  $M$  of dimension  $2^{(n-1)/2}$ . If  $n$  is even, then  $\text{Spin}(n)$  has two spinor modules  $M_+, M_-$  of dimension  $2^{(n-2)/2}$ . We distinguish  $M_+$  and  $M_-$  by requiring that  $c$  acts on  $M_+$  as the identity when  $4 | n$  and as multiplication by  $-i$  when  $4 | n - 2$  (and thus  $c$  acts on  $M_-$  as multiplication by  $-1$  and  $i$ , respectively, in the same two cases).

We define the matrices

$$\begin{aligned} J_m &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I_m \\ -I_m & 0 \end{pmatrix}, & I_{p,q} &= \begin{pmatrix} -I_p & 0 \\ 0 & I_q \end{pmatrix}, \\ I'_{p,q} &= \begin{pmatrix} -I_p & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_q & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -I_p & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & I_q \end{pmatrix}, & J_{p,q} &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I_p & 0 & 0 \\ -I_p & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & I_q \\ 0 & 0 & -I_q & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\ K_p &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & I_p \\ 0 & 0 & -I_p & 0 \\ 0 & I_p & 0 & 0 \\ -I_p & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

and the groups

$$Z_m = \{\lambda I_m \mid \lambda^m = 1\},$$

$$Z' = \{(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \epsilon_3, \epsilon_4) \mid \epsilon_i = \pm 1, \epsilon_1 \epsilon_2 \epsilon_3 \epsilon_4 = 1\},$$

$$\Gamma_{p,q,r,s} = \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} -I_p & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -I_q & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I_r & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & I_s \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -I_p & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_q & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -I_r & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & I_s \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle.$$

### 3. Involutions

The classical compact simple Lie algebras are as follows. For  $F = \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}$ , let  $M_n(F)$  be the set of  $n \times n$  matrices with entries in  $F$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{so}(n) &= \{X \in M_n(\mathbb{R}) \mid X + X^t = 0\}, \\ \mathfrak{su}(n) &= \{X \in M_n(\mathbb{C}) \mid X + X^* = 0, \operatorname{tr} X = 0\}, \\ \mathfrak{sp}(n) &= \{X \in M_n(\mathbb{H}) \mid X + X^* = 0\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then  $\{\mathfrak{su}(n) : n \geq 3\}$ ,  $\{\mathfrak{so}(2n + 1) : n \geq 1\}$ ,  $\{\mathfrak{sp}(n) : n \geq 3\}$ ,  $\{\mathfrak{so}(2n) : n \geq 4\}$  represent all isomorphism classes of compact classical simple Lie algebras.

Let  $\mathfrak{u}_0$  be a compact simple Lie algebra and  $\mathfrak{g} = (\mathfrak{u}_0) \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C}$  be its complexification. Note that the conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  are in one-to-one correspondence with isomorphism classes of noncompact real forms of  $\mathfrak{g}$ , and are also in one-to-one correspondence with isomorphism classes of irreducible Riemannian symmetric pairs  $(\mathfrak{u}_0, \mathfrak{k}_0)$  of compact type or  $(\mathfrak{g}_0, \mathfrak{k}_0)$  of noncompact type; see [Huang 2002; Helminck 1988] and references therein. One direction of this correspondence is as follows: let  $\theta$  be an involutive automorphism of a compact real simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{u}_0$ , and extend it to a holomorphic automorphism of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Let  $\mathfrak{k}_0 \subset \mathfrak{u}_0$  and  $i\mathfrak{p}_0 \subset \mathfrak{u}_0$  (so  $\mathfrak{p}_0 \subset i\mathfrak{u}_0$ ) be the  $+1, -1$  eigenspaces of  $\theta$  on  $\mathfrak{u}_0$ , respectively. Let

$$\mathfrak{g}_0 = \mathfrak{k}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{p}_0$$

(this is also the Cartan decomposition of  $\mathfrak{g}_0$ ). Then  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  is a real simple Lie algebra (that is, a real form of  $\mathfrak{g}$ ),  $(\mathfrak{u}_0, \mathfrak{k}_0)$  is a Riemannian symmetric pair of compact type and  $(\mathfrak{g}_0, \mathfrak{k}_0)$  is a Riemannian symmetric pair of noncompact type. The other direction of this correspondence needs a sophisticated argument.

These objects were classified by Élie Cartan in 1926. We list this classification here. Our presentation below is mainly from [Knapp 2002, pp. 408–426; Helgason 2001, pp. 515–518]. In each case, we also define a specific involution in each conjugacy class of involutions in  $\operatorname{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ , which corresponds to a real simple Lie algebra or symmetric space. In the exceptional simple Lie algebras case, these involutions are labeled as  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3, \sigma_4, \sigma$  and  $\tau = \sigma_3$  (this is used only in the  $E_6$  case). We will use this notation for involutions frequently in the rest of this paper.

The notation **AI–G** is Cartan notation and the notation  $\epsilon_{6,-2}$ , etc., is Helgason notation (with a little difference). For a real simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  with a Cartan decomposition  $\mathfrak{g}_0 = \mathfrak{k}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{p}_0$  and whose complexified Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  is an exceptional simple Lie algebra, Helgason [2001, pp. 517–518] made an interesting observation: the isomorphism type of  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  is distinguished by the type of  $\mathfrak{g}$  (or its compact real form  $\mathfrak{u}_0$ ) and the integer  $\dim \mathfrak{k}_0 - \dim \mathfrak{p}_0$ . For example, the notation  $\epsilon_{6,-2}$  (written by Helgason as  $\epsilon_{6(2)}$ , as he used the integer  $\dim \mathfrak{p}_0 - \dim \mathfrak{k}_0$  instead) means the compact real form of the complexified Lie algebra has type  $\epsilon_6$  and  $\dim \mathfrak{k}_0 - \dim \mathfrak{p}_0 = -2$ .

The elements (coroots)  $H'_i$  are defined in (2) and (5).

i) Type **A**. For  $\mathfrak{u}_0 = \mathfrak{su}(n)$ ,  $n \geq 3$ ,  $\{\text{Ad}(I_{p,n-p}) \mid 1 \leq p \leq n/2\}$  (type **AIII**),  $\{\tau = \text{complex conjugation}\}$  (type **AI**),  $\{\tau \circ \text{Ad}(J_{n/2})\}$  (type **AII**) represent all conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ . The corresponding real forms are  $\mathfrak{su}(p, n-p)$ ,  $\mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $\mathfrak{sl}(\frac{n}{2}, \mathbb{H})$ .

ii) Type **B**. For  $\mathfrak{u}_0 = \mathfrak{so}(2n+1)$ ,  $n \geq 1$ ,  $\{\text{Ad}(I_{p,2n+1-p}) \mid 1 \leq p \leq n\}$  (type **BI**) represent all conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ . The corresponding real forms are  $\mathfrak{so}(p, 2n+1-p)$ .

iii) Type **C**. For  $\mathfrak{u}_0 = \mathfrak{sp}(n)$ ,  $n \geq 3$ ,  $\{\text{Ad}(I_{p,n-p}) \mid 1 \leq p \leq n/2\}$  (type **CII**) and  $\{\text{Ad}(iI)\}$  (type **CI**) represent all conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ . The corresponding real forms are  $\mathfrak{sp}(p, n-p)$ ,  $\mathfrak{sp}(n, \mathbb{R})$ .

iv) Type **D**. For  $\mathfrak{u}_0 = \mathfrak{so}(2n)$ ,  $n \geq 4$ ,  $\{\text{Ad}(I_{p,2n-p}) \mid 1 \leq p \leq n\}$  (type **DI**) and  $\{\text{Ad}(J_n)\}$  (type **DIII**) represent all conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ . The corresponding real forms are  $\mathfrak{so}(p, 2n-p)$ ,  $\mathfrak{so}^*(2n, \mathbb{R})$ .<sup>2</sup>

v) Type **E**<sub>6</sub>. For  $\mathfrak{u}_0 = \mathfrak{e}_6$ , let  $\tau$  be a specific diagram involution defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \tau(H_{\alpha_1}) &= H_{\alpha_6}, & \tau(H_{\alpha_6}) &= H_{\alpha_1}, & \tau(H_{\alpha_3}) &= H_{\alpha_5}, \\ \tau(H_{\alpha_5}) &= H_{\alpha_3}, & \tau(H_{\alpha_2}) &= H_{\alpha_2}, & \tau(H_{\alpha_4}) &= H_{\alpha_4}, \\ \tau(X_{\pm\alpha_1}) &= X_{\pm\alpha_6}, & \tau(X_{\pm\alpha_6}) &= X_{\pm\alpha_1}, & \tau(X_{\pm\alpha_3}) &= X_{\pm\alpha_5}, \\ \tau(X_{\pm\alpha_5}) &= X_{\pm\alpha_3}, & \tau(X_{\pm\alpha_2}) &= X_{\pm\alpha_2}, & \tau(X_{\pm\alpha_4}) &= X_{\pm\alpha_4}. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\sigma_1 = \exp(\pi i H'_2)$ ,  $\sigma_2 = \exp(\pi i (H'_1 + H'_6))$ ,  $\sigma_3 = \tau$ ,  $\sigma_4 = \tau \exp(\pi i H'_2)$ . Then  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3, \sigma_4$  represent all conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ , which correspond to Riemannian symmetric pairs of type **EII**, **EIII**, **EIV**, **EI** and the corresponding real forms are  $\mathfrak{e}_{6,-2}$ ,  $\mathfrak{e}_{6,14}$ ,  $\mathfrak{e}_{6,26}$ ,  $\mathfrak{e}_{6,-6}$ . Also,  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2$  are inner automorphisms and  $\sigma_3, \sigma_4$  are outer automorphisms.

vi) Type **E**<sub>7</sub>. For  $\mathfrak{u}_0 = \mathfrak{e}_7$ , let

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_1 &= \exp(\pi i H'_2), \\ \sigma_2 &= \exp\left(\pi i \frac{H'_2 + H'_5 + H'_7}{2}\right), \\ \sigma_3 &= \exp\left(\pi i \frac{H'_2 + H'_5 + H'_7 + 2H'_1}{2}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Then  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3$  represent all conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ , which correspond to Riemannian symmetric pairs of type **EVI**, **EVII**, **EV** and the corresponding real forms are  $\mathfrak{e}_{7,5}$ ,  $\mathfrak{e}_{7,25}$ ,  $\mathfrak{e}_{7,-7}$ .

vii) Type **E**<sub>8</sub>. For  $\mathfrak{u}_0 = \mathfrak{e}_8$ , let

$$\sigma_1 = \exp(\pi i H'_2), \quad \sigma_2 = \exp(\pi i (H'_2 + H'_1)).$$

<sup>2</sup>When  $n = 4$ , we have  $\text{Ad}(I_{2,6}) \sim \text{Ad}(J_4)$ , and  $\mathfrak{so}(2, 6) \cong \mathfrak{so}^*(8)$ .



Then  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2$  represent all conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ , which correspond to Riemannian symmetric pairs of type **EIX**, **EVIII** and the corresponding real forms are  $\mathfrak{e}_{8,24}, \mathfrak{e}_{8,-8}$ .

viii) Type **F4**. For  $\mathfrak{u}_0 = \mathfrak{f}_4$ , let

$$\sigma_1 = \exp(\pi i H'_1), \quad \sigma_2 = \exp(\pi i H'_4).$$

Then  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2$  represent all conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ , which correspond to Riemannian symmetric pairs of type **FI**, **FII** and the corresponding real forms are  $\mathfrak{f}_{4,-4}, \mathfrak{f}_{4,20}$ .

ix) Type **G2**. For  $\mathfrak{u}_0 = \mathfrak{g}_2$ , let  $\sigma = \exp(\pi H'_1)$ , which represents the unique conjugacy class of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  and corresponds to a Riemannian symmetric pair of type **G** and the corresponding real form is  $\mathfrak{g}_{2,-2}$ .

### 4. Centralizer of an automorphism

In this section we prove a property of the centralizer  $G^x$  of an element  $x$  in a complex or compact Lie group  $G$ . First, we recall a theorem of Steinberg [Carter 1993, pp. 93–95].

**Proposition 4.1** (Steinberg). *Let  $G$  be a connected and simply connected semisimple complex (or compact) Lie group. Then the centralizer  $G^x$  for any  $x \in G$  is connected.*

For an element  $x$  in a group, we write  $o(x)$  for the order of  $x$ . The notation

$$(7) \quad \text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})_0^\theta$$

in this paper always means  $(\text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})^\theta)_0$ , not  $(\text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})_0)^\theta$ . Similarly for

$$(8) \quad \text{Int}(\mathfrak{u}_0)_0^\theta, \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)_0^\theta, \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{g})_0^\theta.$$

**Proposition 4.2.** *Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a complex simple Lie algebra. Suppose that the order of an element  $\theta \in \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{g})$  is equal to the order of the coset element  $\theta \text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})$  in  $\text{Out}(\mathfrak{g}) = \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{g}) / \text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})$ , that is,  $o(\theta) = o(\theta \text{Int}(\mathfrak{g}))$ . Then  $Z_{\text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})}(\text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})_0^\theta) = 1$ .*

*Proof.* By the assumption,  $\theta$  is a diagram automorphism; this means there exists a Cartan subalgebra  $\mathfrak{t}$  which is stable under  $\theta$  and  $\theta$  maps  $\Delta^+$  to itself, where  $\Delta = \Delta(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{t})$  and  $\Delta^+$  is a positive system. For any  $\alpha \in \Delta$ , let  $\theta(X_\alpha) = a_\alpha X_{\theta\alpha}$  with  $a_\alpha \neq 0$ .

Let  $k = o(\theta) = o(\theta \text{Int}(\mathfrak{g}))$ . Then, for any  $\alpha \in \Delta$ ,

$$X_\alpha = \theta^k(X_\alpha) = \left( \prod_{0 \leq j \leq k-1} a_{\theta^j \alpha} \right) X_{\theta^k \alpha}.$$

It follows that

$$\prod_{0 \leq j \leq k-1} a_{\theta^j \alpha} = 1.$$

Let  $L = \text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})_0^\theta$ ,  $\mathfrak{s} = \mathfrak{t}^\theta$ ,  $T = \exp(\text{ad } \mathfrak{t})$  and  $S = \exp(\text{ad } \mathfrak{s})$ . It is clear that  $S \subset L$ .

We first show that  $Z_{\text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})}(S) = T$ . It is clear that  $\mathfrak{t} \subset Z_{\mathfrak{g}}(\mathfrak{s})$ . Suppose that  $X_\alpha \in Z_{\mathfrak{g}}(\mathfrak{s})$  for some  $\alpha \in \Delta^+$ . Since  $\theta^k = 1$ , we have  $\sum_{0 \leq j \leq k-1} \theta^j(H) \in \mathfrak{t}^\theta = \mathfrak{s}$  for any  $H \in \mathfrak{t}$ . Then  $[\sum_{0 \leq j \leq k-1} \theta^j(H), X_\alpha] = 0$ .

For any  $j$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} [\theta^j H, X_\alpha] &= \theta^j([H, \theta^{k-j} X_\alpha]) = \theta^j \left( \left( \prod_{0 \leq i \leq k-j-1} a_{\theta^i \alpha} \right) \cdot ((\theta^{k-j} \alpha)H) \cdot X_{\theta^{k-j} \alpha} \right) \\ &= \left( \prod_{0 \leq i \leq k-j-1} a_{\theta^i \alpha} \right) \cdot ((\theta^{k-j} \alpha)H) \cdot \left( \prod_{0 \leq i \leq j-1} a_{\theta^{k-j+i} \alpha} \right) X_\alpha \\ &= \left( \prod_{0 \leq i \leq k-1} a_{\theta^i \alpha} \right) \cdot ((\theta^{k-j} \alpha)H) \cdot X_\alpha = ((\theta^{k-j} \alpha)H) \cdot X_\alpha. \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $0 = [\sum_{0 \leq j \leq k-1} \theta^j(H), X_\alpha] = ((\sum_{0 \leq j \leq k-1} \theta^{k-j} \alpha)H) \cdot X_\alpha$ . This implies

$$\sum_{0 \leq j \leq k-1} \theta^j \alpha = 0,$$

which contradicts that all  $\theta^j \alpha$  are positive roots. So  $Z_{\mathfrak{g}}(\mathfrak{s}) = \mathfrak{t}$ . Since  $Z_{\text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})}(S)$  is connected (by Corollary 4.51 of [Knapp 2002, p. 260], which also applies to complex semisimple groups),  $Z_{\text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})}(S) = T$ .

Now we show that  $Z_{\text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})}(L) = 1$ . Suppose that  $1 \neq \tau \in Z_{\text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})}(L)$ . By the above, we have  $Z_{\text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})}(L) \subset Z_{\text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})}(S) = T$ , then  $\tau = \exp(\text{ad } H)$  for some  $H \in \mathfrak{t}$ . For any  $\alpha \in \Delta$ ,  $\sum_{0 \leq j \leq k-1} \theta^j(X_\alpha) \in \mathfrak{g}^\theta$  (since  $\theta^k = 1$ ), so

$$\sum_{0 \leq j \leq k-1} \theta^j(X_\alpha) = \tau \left( \sum_{0 \leq j \leq k-1} \theta^j(X_\alpha) \right) = \sum_{0 \leq j \leq k-1} \tau(\theta^j(X_\alpha)) = \sum_{0 \leq j \leq k-1} e^{(\theta^j \alpha)H} \theta^j(X_\alpha).$$

Since each  $\theta^j(X_\alpha)$  is of the form  $\theta^j(X_\alpha) = b_j X_{\theta^j \alpha}$  for some  $b_j \neq 1$ , the last equality implies  $\tau(X_\alpha) = X_\alpha$  if  $\{\theta^j \alpha, 0 \leq j \leq k-1\}$  are distinct.

**Claim 4.3.** *Those  $\alpha \in \Delta$  with roots in  $\{\theta^j \alpha, 0 \leq j \leq k-1\}$  pairwise different generate  $\Delta$  (as a root system).*

Since  $\tau(X_\alpha) = X_\alpha$  when the elements  $\theta^j \alpha$  are distinct for  $0 \leq j \leq k-1$ , by Claim 4.3, we have  $\tau(X_\alpha) = X_\alpha$  for any  $\alpha \in \Delta$ . Hence  $\tau = 1$ , which is to say,  $Z_{\text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})}(\text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})_0^\theta) = 1$ .  $\square$

*Proof of Claim 4.3.* Note that  $\theta$  maps  $\Delta^+$  to itself, so it maps the simple system  $\Pi = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r\}$  to itself. We have four cases to consider, that is,  $\Delta = A_n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ),  $D_n$  ( $n \geq 4$ ),  $E_6$  and  $\theta$  is an automorphism of order 2, or  $\Delta = D_4$  and  $\theta$  is an automorphism of order 3. We give the proof when  $\Delta = A_{2n}$  ( $n \geq 1$ ) and  $o(\theta) = 2$ . The proof for other cases is similar.

When  $\Delta = A_{2n}$  ( $n \geq 1$ ) and  $o(\theta) = 2$ , we have  $\theta(\alpha_i) = \alpha_{2n+1-i}$  and  $\theta(\alpha_{2n+1-i}) = \alpha_i$  for any  $i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . For  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , let

$$\beta_i = \sum_{1 \leq j \leq i} \alpha_j \quad \text{and} \quad \beta'_i = \sum_{1 \leq j \leq i} \alpha_{2n+1-j}.$$

Then  $\theta(\pm\beta_i) \neq \pm\beta_i$ ,  $\theta(\pm\beta'_i) \neq \pm\beta'_i$  and  $\{\pm\beta_i, \pm\beta'_i : 1 \leq i \leq n\}$  generate  $\Delta$ . □

**Corollary 4.4.** *Let  $\mathfrak{u}_0$  be a compact simple Lie algebra. If  $\theta \in \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  satisfies the condition  $o(\theta) = o(\theta \text{Int}(\mathfrak{u}_0))$ , then  $Z_{\text{Int}(\mathfrak{u}_0)}(\text{Int}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta) = 1$ .*

Corollary 4.4 indicates that if  $G$  is a compact (simple) Lie group of adjoint type and  $x$  is of minimal possible order among all elements in the connected component containing it, then  $(G^x)_0$  is also of adjoint type and the conjugation action of any element  $y \in G^x - (G^x)_0$  on  $(G^x)_0$  is an outer automorphism.

### 5. Symmetric subgroups of $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$

Let  $\mathfrak{u}_0$  be a compact simple Lie algebra. For each conjugacy class of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ , we choose a representative  $\theta$  as in Section 3 and determine the symmetric subgroup  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta$ .

When  $\mathfrak{u}_0$  is a classical simple Lie algebra nonisomorphic to  $\mathfrak{so}(8)$  or  $\mathfrak{u}_0 = \mathfrak{so}(8)$  but  $\theta \not\sim \text{Ad}(I_{4,4})$ , we can use matrices to represent involutions  $\theta$  and calculate the corresponding  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta$ . In the case of  $\theta = \text{Ad}(I_{4,4}) \in \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{so}(8))$ , we have  $\theta \sim \exp(\pi i H'_2)$ . Then

$$\text{Int}(\mathfrak{so}(8))^\theta = (\text{Sp}(1)^4/Z') \rtimes D,$$

where  $Z' = \{(\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \epsilon_3, \epsilon_4) \mid \epsilon_i = \pm 1, \epsilon_1 \epsilon_2 \epsilon_3 \epsilon_4 = 1\}$ , and  $D \subset S_4$  is the (unique) normal order four subgroup of  $S_4$  with conjugation action on  $(\text{Sp}(1)^4)/Z'$  by permutations. Then we observe that there exists a subgroup of  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{so}(8))$  that projects isomorphically to  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{so}(8))/\text{Int}(\mathfrak{so}(8)) \cong S_3$  and is contained in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{so}(8))^\theta$ . A little more argument shows

$$\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{so}(8))^\theta = (\text{Sp}(1)^4/Z') \rtimes S_4.$$

When  $\mathfrak{u}_0$  is an exceptional simple Lie algebra, we first determine the symmetric subalgebra  $\mathfrak{k}_0 = \mathfrak{u}_0^\theta$  and the highest weights of the isotropic space  $\mathfrak{p}_0 = \mathfrak{u}_0^{-\theta}$  as a  $\mathfrak{k}_0$ -module. The results are summarized in Table 1. The coroots  $H'_i$  are defined in (2) and (5) and the involutions are defined in Section 3.

	$\theta$	$\mathfrak{k}_0$	$\mathfrak{p}$
<b>EI</b>	$\sigma_4 = \tau \exp(\pi i H'_2)$	$\mathfrak{sp}(4)$	$V_{\omega_4}$
<b>EII</b>	$\sigma_1 = \exp(\pi i H'_2)$	$\mathfrak{su}(6) \oplus \mathfrak{sp}(1)$	$\wedge^3 \mathbb{C}^6 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$
<b>EIII</b>	$\sigma_2 = \exp(\pi i (H'_1 + H'_6))$	$\mathfrak{so}(10) \oplus i\mathbb{R}$	$(M_+ \otimes 1) \oplus (M_- \otimes \bar{1})$
<b>EIV</b>	$\sigma_3 = \tau$	$\mathfrak{f}_4$	$V_{\omega_4}$
<b>EV</b>	$\sigma_3 = \exp(\pi i (H'_1 + H'_6))$	$\mathfrak{su}(8)$	$\wedge^4 \mathbb{C}^8$
<b>EVI</b>	$\sigma_1 = \exp(\pi i H'_2)$	$\mathfrak{so}(12) \oplus \mathfrak{sp}(1)$	$M_+ \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$
<b>EVII</b>	$\sigma_2 = \exp(\pi i H'_6)$	$\mathfrak{e}_6 \oplus i\mathbb{R}$	$(V_{\omega_1} \otimes 1) \oplus (V_{\omega_6} \otimes \bar{1})$
<b>EVIII</b>	$\sigma_2 = \exp(\pi i (H'_1 + H'_2))$	$\mathfrak{so}(16)$	$M_+$
<b>EIX</b>	$\sigma_1 = \exp(\pi i H'_1)$	$\mathfrak{e}_7 \oplus \mathfrak{sp}(1)$	$V_{\omega_7} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$
<b>FI</b>	$\sigma_1 = \exp(\pi i H'_1)$	$\mathfrak{sp}(3) \oplus \mathfrak{sp}(1)$	$V_{\omega_3} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$
<b>FII</b>	$\sigma_2 = \exp(\pi i H'_4)$	$\mathfrak{so}(9)$	$M$
<b>G</b>	$\sigma = \exp(\pi i H'_1)$	$\mathfrak{sp}(1) \oplus \mathfrak{sp}(1)$	$\text{Sym}^3 \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$

**Table 1.** Symmetric pairs and isotropic modules (exceptional Lie algebras case).

Since any element of  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta$  which acts trivially on both  $\mathfrak{k}_0$  and  $\mathfrak{p}_0$  must be trivial, the isomorphism type of  $\mathfrak{k}_0$  and its isotropic module  $\mathfrak{p}$  determine  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta_0$  completely. We may get  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta_0$  in the following way. Start with a compact connected Lie group  $H$  of the form  $H = A \times H_s$  with  $A = Z(\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta_0)$  a connected torus ( $A \cong \text{U}(1)^s$  with  $s = \dim \mathfrak{z}(\mathfrak{k}_0)$ ) and  $H_s$  a connected and simply connected compact Lie group with  $\text{Lie } H_s = [\mathfrak{k}_0, \mathfrak{k}_0]$  (then  $\text{Lie } H = \mathfrak{k}_0 = \mathfrak{u}_0^\theta$ ). Then we have a surjective homomorphism

$$\pi : H \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$$

determined by  $\mathfrak{g}$  as a  $\mathfrak{k}_0$ -module. With this construction, it is clear that  $\text{Im}(\pi) = \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta_0$  and  $\ker \pi$  is determined by  $\mathfrak{k}_0$  and its module  $\mathfrak{p}$  (as described in Table 1). By Proposition 4.1 and Corollary 4.4, we can also determine the number of connected components of  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta$ . Then we could find elements outside  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta_0$  to generate  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta$  together with  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta_0$ . We show the detailed argument in most cases below. The results about the symmetric subgroups  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta$  are given in the last column of Table 2. The information about the first three columns of Table 2 is contained in [Knapp 2002, pp. 408–426]. The fourth column is from Section 3.

**5A. Type  $E_6$ .** Now  $\mathfrak{u}_0 = \mathfrak{e}_6$ . Consider an outer automorphism  $\theta = \sigma_3$  or  $\sigma_4$ . By Corollary 4.4, any element in  $\text{Int}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta - \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta_0$  acts on  $\mathfrak{u}_0^\theta$  as an outer automorphism. Note that  $\mathfrak{u}_0^\theta \cong \mathfrak{sp}(4)$  or  $\mathfrak{f}_4$ , so it has no outer automorphisms. By Corollary 4.4, it follows that  $\text{Int}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta = \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta_0$  and  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta = \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta_0 \times \langle \theta \rangle$ . Moreover,  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta_0$  is of adjoint type by Corollary 4.4.

Type	$(\mathfrak{u}_0, \mathfrak{k}_0)$	rank	$\theta$	symmetric subgroup $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta$
<b>AI</b>	$(\mathfrak{su}(n), \mathfrak{so}(n))$	$n-1$	$\bar{X}$	$(O(n)/\langle -I \rangle) \times \langle \theta \rangle$
<b>AII</b>	$(\mathfrak{su}(2n), \mathfrak{sp}(n))$	$n-1$	$J_n \bar{X} J_n^{-1}$	$(\text{Sp}(n)/\langle -I \rangle) \times \langle \theta \rangle$
<b>AIII</b> $p < q$	$(\mathfrak{su}(p+q), \mathfrak{s}(\mathfrak{u}(p)+\mathfrak{u}(q)))$	$p$	$I_{p,q} X I_{p,q}$	$(S(U(p) \times U(q))/Z_{p+q}) \rtimes \langle \tau \rangle$ $\text{Ad}(\tau) = \text{complex conjugation}$
<b>AIII</b> $p = q$	$(\mathfrak{su}(2p), \mathfrak{s}(\mathfrak{u}(p)+\mathfrak{u}(p)))$	$p$	$I_{p,p} X I_{p,p}$	$(S(U(p) \times U(p))/Z_{2p}) \rtimes \langle \tau, J_p \rangle$ $\text{Ad}(J_p)(X, Y) = (Y, X)$
<b>BDI</b> $p < q$	$(\mathfrak{so}(p+q), \mathfrak{so}(p)+\mathfrak{so}(q))$	$p$	$I_{p,q} X I_{p,q}$	$(O(p) \times O(q)) / \langle (-I_p, -I_q) \rangle$
<b>DI</b> $p > 4$	$(\mathfrak{so}(2p), \mathfrak{so}(p)+\mathfrak{so}(p))$	$p$	$I_{p,p} X I_{p,p}$	$((O(p) \times O(p)) / \langle (-I_p, -I_p) \rangle) \rtimes \langle J_p \rangle$ $\text{Ad}(J_p)(X, Y) = (Y, X)$
<b>DI</b> $p = 4$	$(\mathfrak{so}(8), \mathfrak{so}(4)+\mathfrak{so}(4))$	4	$I_{4,4} X I_{4,4}$	$((\text{Sp}(1)^4)/Z') \rtimes S_4$ $S_4$ acts by permutations
<b>DIII</b>	$(\mathfrak{so}(2n), \mathfrak{u}(n))$	$n$	$J_n X J_n^{-1}$	$(U(n)/\{\pm I\}) \rtimes \langle I_{n,n} \rangle$ $\text{Ad}(I_{n,n}) = \text{complex conjugation}$
<b>CI</b>	$(\mathfrak{sp}(n), \mathfrak{u}(n))$	$n$	$(iI)X(iI)^{-1}$	$(U(n)/\{\pm I\}) \rtimes \langle jI \rangle$ $\text{Ad}(jI) = \text{complex conjugation}$
<b>CII</b> $p < q$	$(\mathfrak{sp}(p+q), \mathfrak{sp}(p)+\mathfrak{sp}(q))$	$p$	$I_{p,q} X I_{p,q}$	$(\text{Sp}(p) \times \text{Sp}(q)) / \langle (-I_p, -I_q) \rangle$
<b>CII</b> $p = q$	$(\mathfrak{sp}(2p), \mathfrak{sp}(p)+\mathfrak{sp}(p))$	$p$	$I_{p,p} X I_{p,p}$	$(\text{Sp}(p) \times \text{Sp}(p)) / \langle (-I_p, -I_p) \rangle \rtimes \langle J_p \rangle$ $\text{Ad}(J_p)(X, Y) = (Y, X)$
<b>EI</b>	$(\mathfrak{e}_6, \mathfrak{sp}(4))$	6	$\sigma_4$	$(\text{Sp}(4)/\langle -1 \rangle) \times \langle \theta \rangle$
<b>EII</b>	$(\mathfrak{e}_6, \mathfrak{su}(6)+\mathfrak{sp}(1))$	4	$\sigma_1$	$(SU(6) \times \text{Sp}(1)) / \langle (e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}} I, 1), (-I, -1) \rangle \rtimes \langle \tau \rangle$ $\mathfrak{k}_0^\tau = \mathfrak{sp}(3) \oplus \mathfrak{sp}(1)$
<b>EIII</b>	$(\mathfrak{e}_6, \mathfrak{so}(10)+i\mathbb{R})$	2	$\sigma_2$	$(\text{Spin}(10) \times U(1)) / \langle (c, i) \rangle \rtimes \langle \tau \rangle$ $\mathfrak{k}_0^\tau = \mathfrak{so}(9)$
<b>EIV</b>	$(\mathfrak{e}_6, \mathfrak{f}_4)$	2	$\sigma_3$	$F_4 \times \langle \theta \rangle$
<b>EV</b>	$(\mathfrak{e}_7, \mathfrak{su}(8))$	7	$\sigma_3$	$(SU(8)/\langle iI \rangle) \rtimes \langle \omega \rangle$ $\mathfrak{k}_0^\omega = \mathfrak{sp}(4)$
<b>EVI</b>	$(\mathfrak{e}_7, \mathfrak{so}(12)+\mathfrak{sp}(1))$	4	$\sigma_1$	$(\text{Spin}(12) \times \text{Sp}(1)) / \langle (c, 1), (-1, -1) \rangle$
<b>EVII</b>	$(\mathfrak{e}_7, \mathfrak{e}_6+i\mathbb{R})$	3	$\sigma_2$	$((E_6 \times U(1)) / \langle (c, e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}}) \rangle) \rtimes \langle \omega \rangle$ $\mathfrak{k}_0^\omega = \mathfrak{f}_4$
<b>EVIII</b>	$(\mathfrak{e}_8, \mathfrak{so}(16))$	8	$\sigma_2$	$\text{Spin}(16)/\langle c \rangle$
<b>EIX</b>	$(\mathfrak{e}_8, \mathfrak{e}_7+\mathfrak{sp}(1))$	4	$\sigma_1$	$E_7 \times \text{Sp}(1) / \langle (c, -1) \rangle$
<b>FI</b>	$(\mathfrak{f}_4, \mathfrak{sp}(3)+\mathfrak{sp}(1))$	4	$\sigma_1$	$(\text{Sp}(3) \times \text{Sp}(1)) / \langle (-I, -1) \rangle$
<b>FII</b>	$(\mathfrak{f}_4, \mathfrak{so}(9))$	1	$\sigma_2$	$\text{Spin}(9)$
<b>G</b>	$(\mathfrak{g}_2, \mathfrak{sp}(1)+\mathfrak{sp}(1))$	2	$\sigma$	$(\text{Sp}(1) \times \text{Sp}(1)) / \langle (-1, -1) \rangle$

**Table 2.** Symmetric pairs and symmetric subgroups. (When  $n = 4$ , DIII is identical to BDI when  $p = 2$  and  $q = 6$ .)

Consider an inner automorphism  $\theta = \sigma_1$  or  $\sigma_2$ . Let  $\theta' \in E_6$  be an involution which maps to  $\theta$  under the covering  $\pi : E_6 \rightarrow \text{Int}(\mathfrak{e}_6)$ . We have

$$\text{Int}(\mathfrak{e}_6)^\theta = \{g \in E_6 \mid \theta' g \theta'^{-1} g^{-1} \in Z(E_6)\} / Z(E_6),$$

$$\text{Int}(\mathfrak{e}_6)_0^\theta = \{g \in E_6 \mid \theta' g \theta'^{-1} g^{-1} = 1\} / Z(E_6),$$

(use [Proposition 4.1](#) here). If  $\{g \in E_6 \mid \theta' g \theta'^{-1} g^{-1} \in Z(E_6)\} \neq E_6^\theta$ , then there exists  $g \in E_6$  such that  $\theta' g \theta'^{-1} g^{-1} = c \in Z(E_6)$ . Then  $g \theta' g^{-1} = \theta' c^{-1}$ . But  $o(\theta') = 2 \neq 6 = o(\theta' c^{-1})$ . So  $g \theta' g^{-1} \neq \theta' c^{-1}$ . Then  $\{g \in E_6 \mid \theta(g) g^{-1} \in Z(E_6)\} = E_6^\theta$  and so  $\text{Int}(\mathfrak{e}_6)^\theta = \text{Int}(\mathfrak{e}_6)_0^\theta$ . Since  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2$  commutes with  $\tau$ ,

$$\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{e}_6)^\theta = \text{Int}(\mathfrak{e}_6)_0^\theta \rtimes \langle \tau \rangle.$$

The conjugation action of  $\tau$  on  $\text{Int}(\mathfrak{e}_6)_0^\theta$  is determined by its action on  $\mathfrak{k}_0 = \mathfrak{u}_0^\theta$ , and

$$(\mathfrak{e}_6^{\sigma_1})^\tau = \mathfrak{sp}(3) \oplus \mathfrak{sp}(1), \quad (\mathfrak{e}_6^{\sigma_2})^\tau = \mathfrak{so}(9).$$

**5B. Type E<sub>7</sub>.** Now  $\mathfrak{u}_0 = \mathfrak{e}_7$  and  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{e}_7) = \text{Int}(\mathfrak{e}_7)$  is connected. Let  $\pi : E_7 \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{e}_7)$  be the adjoint homomorphism, which is a 2-fold covering. Let

$$\sigma'_1 = \exp(\pi i H'_2) \in E_7,$$

$$\sigma'_2 = \exp\left(\pi i \frac{H'_2 + H'_5 + H'_7}{2}\right) \in E_7,$$

$$\sigma'_3 = \exp\left(\pi i \frac{2H'_1 + H'_2 + H'_5 + H'_7}{2}\right) \in E_7.$$

Then  $\pi(\sigma'_i) = \sigma_i$ ,  $o(\sigma'_1) = 2$ ,  $o(\sigma'_2) = 4$  and  $o(\sigma'_3) = 4$ . One has

$$\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{e}_7)^{\sigma_i} \cong \{g \in E_7 \mid g \sigma'_i g^{-1} \sigma_i'^{-1} \in Z(E_7)\} / Z(E_7),$$

$$\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{e}_7)_0^{\sigma_i} \cong \{g \in E_7 \mid g \sigma'_i g^{-1} \sigma_i'^{-1} = 1\} / Z(E_7)$$

(use [Proposition 4.1](#) here), where  $Z(E_7) = \langle \exp(\pi i (H'_2 + H'_5 + H'_7)) \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$  is the center of  $E_7$ .

For  $\theta = \sigma_1$ , suppose that there exists  $g \in E_7$  such that

$$g \sigma'_1 g^{-1} (\sigma'_1)^{-1} = \exp(\pi i (H'_2 + H'_5 + H'_7)).$$

Then  $g \exp(\pi i H'_2) g^{-1} = \exp(\pi i (H'_5 + H'_7))$ . Then there exists  $w \in W$  such that  $w(\exp(\pi i H'_2)) = \exp(\pi i (H'_5 + H'_7))$ . Since  $w(\exp(\pi i H'_{\alpha_2})) = \exp(\pi i H'_{w(\alpha_2)})$ , we get  $\exp(\pi i H'_{w(\alpha_2)}) = \exp(\pi i (H'_5 + H'_7))$ . Then

$$w(\alpha_2) \in (\alpha_5 + \alpha_7) + 2 \text{span}_{\mathbb{Z}}\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4, \alpha_5, \alpha_6, \alpha_7\}.$$

There are no roots in  $(\alpha_5 + \alpha_7) + 2 \text{span}_{\mathbb{Z}}\{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4, \alpha_5, \alpha_6, \alpha_7\}$ , so there are no  $g \in E_7$  such that  $(g \sigma'_1 g^{-1}) \sigma_1'^{-1} = \exp(\pi i (H'_2 + H'_5 + H'_7))$ . Then

$$\{g \in E_7 \mid (g \sigma'_1 g^{-1}) \sigma_1'^{-1} \in Z(E_7)\} = E_7^{\sigma'_1}.$$

So  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{e}_7)^{\sigma_1} = \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{e}_7)_0^{\sigma_1}$ .

For  $\theta = \sigma_2$  or  $\sigma_3$ , let

$$\omega = \exp\left(\frac{\pi(X_{\alpha_2} - X_{-\alpha_2})}{2}\right) \exp\left(\frac{\pi(X_{\alpha_5} - X_{-\alpha_5})}{2}\right) \exp\left(\frac{\pi(X_{\alpha_7} - X_{-\alpha_7})}{2}\right).$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \omega \sigma'_2 \omega^{-1} &= \sigma'^{-1}_2 = \sigma'_2 \exp(\pi i(H'_2 + H'_5 + H'_7)), \\ \omega \sigma'_3 \omega^{-1} &= \sigma'^{-1}_3 = \sigma'_3 \exp(\pi i(H'_2 + H'_5 + H'_7)), \end{aligned}$$

and  $\omega^2 = 1$ . Then  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{e}_7)^\theta = \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{e}_7)_0^\theta \rtimes \langle \omega \rangle$ . The conjugation action of  $\omega$  on  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{e}_7)_0^\theta$  is determined by its action on  $\mathfrak{k}_0 = \mathfrak{u}_0^\theta$ , and we have

$$(\mathfrak{e}_7^{\sigma_2})^\omega = \mathfrak{f}_4, \quad (\mathfrak{e}_7^{\sigma_3})^\omega = \mathfrak{sp}(4).$$

Further,  $\omega$  acts on  $\mathfrak{h}$  as  $s_{\alpha_2} s_{\alpha_5} s_{\alpha_7}$ , where  $s_\alpha$  in the Weyl group is the reflection corresponding to the root  $\alpha$ .

**5C. Types  $E_8, F_4, G_2$ .** If  $\mathfrak{u}_0 = \mathfrak{e}_8, \mathfrak{f}_4, \mathfrak{g}_2$ , then  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  is connected and simply connected. By Proposition 4.1,  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta$  is connected. Then they are determined by  $\mathfrak{u}_0^\theta$  and  $\mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{g}^{-\theta}$ .

### 6. Klein four-subgroups of $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$

In this section, we classify Klein four-subgroups  $\Gamma$  (called simply Klein subgroups) in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  up to conjugation. We also determine the fixed-point subgroups  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\Gamma$ . Note that such a  $\Gamma$  is equal to  $\{1, \theta, \sigma, \theta\sigma\}$  for two commuting involutions  $\theta \neq \sigma$ . Fix an involution  $\theta$ ; the conjugacy class of  $\Gamma$  is determined by the conjugacy classes of the involution  $\sigma (\neq \theta)$  in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta$ .

#### 6A. Ordered commuting pairs of involutions and semisimple symmetric pairs.

For a compact simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{u}_0$  and its complexification  $\mathfrak{g}$ , the isomorphism classes of semisimple symmetric pairs  $(\mathfrak{g}_0, \mathfrak{h}_0)$  with  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  a real form of  $\mathfrak{g}$  and  $\mathfrak{h}_0 (\neq \mathfrak{g}_0)$  noncompact are in one-to-one correspondence with the conjugacy classes of ordered commuting pairs of involutions  $(\theta, \sigma)$  in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  with  $\theta \neq \sigma$ . One direction of this correspondence is as follows: let  $\mathfrak{u}_{i,j}$  ( $i, j = 0$  or  $1$ ) be the joint eigenspace of  $\theta$  and  $\sigma$  where  $\theta$  acts on it as  $(-1)^i$  and  $\sigma$  acts on it as  $(-1)^j$ . Then we have a decomposition

$$\mathfrak{u}_0 = \mathfrak{u}_{0,0} \oplus \mathfrak{u}_{0,1} \oplus \mathfrak{u}_{1,0} \oplus \mathfrak{u}_{1,1}.$$

Then  $\mathfrak{k}_0 = \mathfrak{u}_0^\theta = \mathfrak{u}_{0,0} \oplus \mathfrak{u}_{0,1}$  and  $i\mathfrak{p}_0 = \mathfrak{u}_0^{-\theta} = \mathfrak{u}_{1,0} \oplus \mathfrak{u}_{1,1}$ . Extend  $\theta, \sigma$  to holomorphic automorphisms of  $\mathfrak{g}$  and let

$$\mathfrak{g}_0 = \mathfrak{k}_0 + \mathfrak{p}_0 = \mathfrak{u}_{0,0} + \mathfrak{u}_{0,1} + i(\mathfrak{u}_{1,0} + \mathfrak{u}_{1,1}) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathfrak{h}_0 = \mathfrak{g}_0^\sigma = \mathfrak{u}_{0,0} + i\mathfrak{u}_{1,0}.$$

$u_0$	$\Gamma_i$	$\mathfrak{l}_0 = u_0^{\Gamma_i}$	Type
$\mathfrak{su}(p+q)$	$\Gamma_{p,q} = \langle \tau, I_{p,q} \rangle$	$\mathfrak{so}(p) + \mathfrak{so}(q)$	<b>AI-AI-AIII, S</b>
$\mathfrak{su}(2p)$	$\Gamma_p = \langle \tau, J_p \rangle$	$\mathfrak{u}(p)$	<b>AI-AII-AIII, N</b>
$\mathfrak{su}(2p+2q)$	$\Gamma'_{p,q} = \langle \tau, J_{p+q}, I'_{p,q} \rangle$	$\mathfrak{sp}(p) + \mathfrak{sp}(q)$	<b>AII-AII-AIII, S</b>
$\mathfrak{su}(p+q+r+s)$	$\Gamma_{p,q,r,s}$	$\mathfrak{s}(\mathfrak{u}(p) + \mathfrak{u}(q) + \mathfrak{u}(r) + \mathfrak{u}(s))$	<b>AIII-AIII-AIII, NSV</b>
$\mathfrak{su}(2p)$	$\Gamma_p = \langle I_{p,p}, J_p \rangle$	$\mathfrak{su}(p)$	<b>AIII-AIII-AIII, V</b>
$\mathfrak{so}(p+q+r+s)$	$\Gamma_{p,q,r,s}$	$\mathfrak{so}(p) + \mathfrak{so}(q) + \mathfrak{so}(r) + \mathfrak{so}(s)$	<b>BDI-BDI-BDI, NSV</b>
$\mathfrak{so}(2p)$	$\Gamma_p = \langle J_p, I_{p,p} \rangle$	$\mathfrak{so}(p)$	<b>DI-DI-DIII, S</b>
$\mathfrak{so}(2p+2q)$	$\Gamma_{p,q} = \langle J_{p+q}, I'_{p,q} \rangle$	$\mathfrak{u}(p) + \mathfrak{u}(q)$	<b>DI-DIII-DIII, S</b>
$\mathfrak{so}(4p)$	$\Gamma'_p = \langle J_{2p}, K_p \rangle$	$\mathfrak{sp}(p)$	<b>DIII-DIII-DIII, V</b>
$\mathfrak{sp}(p)$	$\Gamma_p = \langle \mathbf{i}I, \mathbf{j}I \rangle$	$\mathfrak{so}(p)$	<b>CI-CI-CI, V</b>
$\mathfrak{sp}(p+q)$	$\Gamma_{p,q} = \langle \mathbf{i}I, I_{p,q} \rangle$	$\mathfrak{u}(p) + \mathfrak{u}(q)$	<b>CI-CI-CII, S</b>
$\mathfrak{sp}(2p)$	$\Gamma'_p = \langle \mathbf{i}I, \mathbf{j}J_p \rangle$	$\mathfrak{sp}(p)$	<b>CI-CII-CII, S</b>
$\mathfrak{sp}(p+q+r+s)$	$\Gamma_{p,q,r,s}$	$\mathfrak{sp}(p) + \mathfrak{sp}(q) + \mathfrak{sp}(r) + \mathfrak{sp}(s)$	<b>CII-CII-CII, NSV</b>

**Table 3.** Klein subgroups in  $\text{Aut}(u_0)$  for the classical cases. (When  $p=1, q=3, \Gamma_{1,3}$  is very special since  $\text{Ad}(I_{2,6}) \sim \text{Ad}(J_4)$ .)

Then  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  is a real form of  $\mathfrak{g}$  and  $(\mathfrak{g}_0, \mathfrak{h}_0)$  is a semisimple symmetric pair with  $\mathfrak{h}_0 \neq \mathfrak{g}_0$  and noncompact. The other direction of this correspondence needs a more sophisticated argument.

When  $\theta$  is fixed, the conjugacy classes of the pairs  $(\theta, \sigma)$  in  $\text{Aut}(u_0)$  are in one-to-one correspondence with the  $\text{Aut}(u_0)^\theta$ -conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(u_0)^\theta - \{\theta\}$ .

For an exceptional compact simple Lie algebra  $u_0$  and any representative  $\theta$  of involution classes in Section 3, we give the representatives of classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(u_0)^\theta - \{\theta\}$  and identify their classes in  $\text{Aut}(u_0)$ . For any classical compact simple Lie algebra  $u_0$  and a representative  $\theta$  of an involution class, we have a similar classification of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(u_0)^\theta - \{\theta\}$ ; we omit it here but remark that the representatives can be constructed from Table 3. This gives a new proof to Berger’s classification of semisimple symmetric pairs.

In most cases the symmetric subgroup  $\text{Aut}(u_0)^\theta$  is a product of classical groups with some twisting, for which we can classify their involution classes by matrix calculations. In the remaining cases,  $u_0^\theta = \mathfrak{s}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{z}$  for an exceptional simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{s}_0$  and an algebra  $\mathfrak{z} = 0, i\mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathfrak{sp}(1)$ . We have a homomorphism

$$p : \text{Aut}(u_0)^\theta \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{s}_0).$$

Then what we need to do is to classify involutions in  $p^{-1}(\sigma)$  for  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{s}_0)$  an involution or the identity element, which is not hard in general.

For an exceptional compact simple Lie algebra  $u_0$ , the conjugacy class of an involution  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(u_0)$  is determined by  $\dim \mathfrak{g}^\sigma$ . (This is an accidental phenomenon



observed by Helgason [2001, pp. 517–518].) For any involution  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta - \{\theta\}$ , the class of  $\sigma$  in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  is determined by  $\dim \mathfrak{g}^\sigma = \dim \mathfrak{k}^\sigma + \dim \mathfrak{p}^\sigma$  and the dimensions  $\dim \mathfrak{k}^\sigma, \dim \mathfrak{p}^\sigma$  can be calculated from the class of  $\sigma$  in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta$ . The coroots  $H'_i$  are defined in (2) and (5) and the involutions  $\sigma_i, \sigma, \tau$  are defined in Section 3.

Type  $\mathbf{E}_6$ . Now  $\mathfrak{u}_0 = \mathfrak{e}_6$ . For  $\theta = \sigma_1 = \exp(\pi i H'_2)$ , one has

$$\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^{\sigma_1} = (\text{SU}(6) \times \text{Sp}(1) / \langle (e^{2\pi i/3} I, 1), (-I, -1) \rangle) \rtimes \langle \tau \rangle,$$

$\sigma_1 = (I, -1) = (-I, 1)$ , where  $\text{Ad}(\tau)(X, Y) = (J_3 \bar{X} J_3^{-1}, Y)$ . Then, in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \begin{pmatrix} -I_2 & 0 \\ 0 & I_2 \end{pmatrix}, 1 \right) &\sim \sigma_2, & \left( \begin{pmatrix} -I_2 & 0 \\ 0 & I_4 \end{pmatrix}, 1 \right) &\sim \sigma_1, \\ \left( \begin{pmatrix} iI_5 & 0 \\ 0 & -iI_1 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{i} \right) &\sim \sigma_2, & \left( \begin{pmatrix} iI_3 & 0 \\ 0 & -iI_3 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{i} \right) &\sim \sigma_1, \\ \tau &\sim \sigma_3, & \tau \sigma_1 &\sim \sigma_4, & \tau(J_3, \mathbf{i}) &\sim \sigma_4. \end{aligned}$$

These elements represent all the conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta - \{\theta\}$ .

For  $\theta = \sigma_2 = \exp(\pi i (H'_1 + H'_6))$ , one has

$$\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^{\sigma_2} = ((\text{Spin}(10) \times \text{U}(1)) / \langle (c, i) \rangle) \rtimes \langle \tau \rangle, \quad \sigma_2 = (-1, 1) = (1, -1),$$

where  $c = e_1 e_2 \cdots e_{10}$  and  $\text{Ad}(\tau)(x, z) = ((e_1 e_2 \cdots e_9)x(e_1 e_2 \cdots e_9)^{-1}, z^{-1})$ . Then, in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} (e_1 e_2 e_3 e_4, 1) &\sim \sigma_1, & (e_1 e_2 \cdots e_8, 1) &\sim \sigma_2, \\ \left( \delta, \frac{1+i}{\sqrt{2}} \right) &\sim \sigma_2, & \left( -\delta, \frac{1+i}{\sqrt{2}} \right) &\sim \sigma_1, \\ \tau &\sim \sigma_3, & \tau(e_1 e_2 e_3 e_4, 1) &\sim \sigma_4, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\delta = \frac{1 + e_1 e_2}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{1 + e_3 e_4}{\sqrt{2}} \cdots \frac{1 + e_9 e_{10}}{\sqrt{2}}.$$

These elements represent all the conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta - \{\theta\}$ .

For  $\theta = \sigma_3 = \tau$ , one has  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^{\sigma_3} = \mathbf{F}_4 \rtimes \langle \tau \rangle$ . Let  $\tau_1, \tau_2$  be involutions in  $\mathbf{F}_4$  with

$$\mathfrak{f}_4^{\tau_1} \cong \mathfrak{sp}(3) \oplus \mathfrak{sp}(1), \quad \mathfrak{f}_4^{\tau_2} \cong \mathfrak{so}(9).$$

Then, in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_1 &\sim \sigma_1, & \tau_2 &\sim \sigma_2, \\ \sigma_3 \tau_1 &\sim \sigma_4, & \sigma_3 \tau_2 &\sim \sigma_3, \end{aligned}$$

these elements represent all the conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta - \{\theta\}$ .

For  $\theta = \sigma_4 = \tau \exp(\pi i H'_2)$ , one has  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^{\sigma_4} = (\text{Sp}(4)/\langle -I \rangle) \times \langle \sigma_4 \rangle$ . Let

$$\tau_1 = \mathbf{i}I, \quad \tau_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -I_2 & 0 \\ 0 & I_2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \tau_3 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & I_3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then, in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_1 &\sim \sigma_1, & \tau_2 &\sim \sigma_2, & \tau_3 &\sim \sigma_1, \\ \sigma_4 \tau_1 &\sim \sigma_4, & \sigma_4 \tau_2 &\sim \sigma_4, & \sigma_4 \tau_3 &\sim \sigma_3. \end{aligned}$$

These elements represent all the conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta - \{\theta\}$ .

*Type E7.* Now  $\mathfrak{u}_0 = \mathfrak{e}_7$ . For  $\theta = \sigma_1 = \exp(\pi i H'_2)$ , one has

$$\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^{\sigma_1} = (\text{Spin}(12) \times \text{Sp}(1))/\langle (c, 1), (-1, -1) \rangle,$$

where  $\sigma_1 = (-1, 1) = (1, -1)$ ,  $c = e_1 e_2 \cdots e_{12}$ . Let

$$\delta = \frac{1 + e_1 e_2}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{1 + e_3 e_4}{\sqrt{2}} \cdots \frac{1 + e_{11} e_{12}}{\sqrt{2}}.$$

Then, in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} (e_1 e_2 e_3 e_4, 1) &\sim \sigma_1, & (e_1 e_2, \mathbf{i}) &\sim \sigma_2, & (e_1 e_2 \cdots e_6, \mathbf{i}) &\sim \sigma_3, \\ (\delta, 1) &\sim \sigma_2, & (-\delta, 1) &\sim \sigma_3, & (e_1 \delta e_1, \mathbf{i}) &\sim \sigma_1. \end{aligned}$$

These elements represent all conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta - \{\theta\}$ .

Moreover,

$$\langle \sigma_1, (e_1 e_2 e_3 e_4, 1) \rangle \sim F_2, \quad \langle \sigma_1, (e_1 \delta e_1, \mathbf{i}) \rangle \sim F_1.$$

For  $\theta = \sigma_2 = \tau = \exp\left(\pi i \frac{H'_2 + H'_5 + H'_7}{2}\right)$ , one has

$$\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)_0^{\sigma_2} = ((E_6 \times U(1))/\langle (c, e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}}) \rangle) \rtimes \langle \omega \rangle,$$

where  $c$  is a nontrivial central element of  $E_6$  with  $o(c) = 3$ ,  $\sigma_2 = (1, -1)$  and  $(\mathfrak{e}_6 \oplus i\mathbb{R})^\omega = \mathfrak{f}_4 \oplus 0$ . Let  $\tau_1, \tau_2$  be involutions in  $E_6$  with

$$\mathfrak{e}_6^{\tau_1} \cong \mathfrak{su}(6) \oplus \mathfrak{sp}(1), \quad \mathfrak{e}_6^{\tau_2} \cong \mathfrak{so}(10) \oplus i\mathbb{R}.$$

Then, in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_1 &\sim \sigma_1, & \tau_2 &\sim \sigma_1, \\ \tau_1 \sigma_2 &\sim \sigma_3, & \tau_2 \sigma_2 &\sim \sigma_2, \\ \omega &\sim \sigma_2, & \omega \eta &\sim \sigma_3, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\eta \in F_4 = E_6^\omega$  is an involution with  $(\mathfrak{f}_4)^\eta \cong \mathfrak{sp}(3) \oplus \mathfrak{sp}(1)$ . These elements represent all the conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta - \{\theta\}$ .

For

$$\theta = \sigma_3 = \exp\left(\pi i \frac{H'_2 + H'_5 + H'_7 + 2H'_1}{2}\right),$$

one has

$$\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^{\sigma_3} = (\text{SU}(8)/\langle iI \rangle) \rtimes \langle \omega \rangle, \quad \sigma_3 = \frac{1+i}{\sqrt{2}}I,$$

where  $\text{Ad}(\omega)X = J_4 \bar{X} J_4^{-1}$ . Let  $\tau_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -I_2 & \\ & I_6 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\tau_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -I_4 & \\ & I_4 \end{pmatrix}$ . Then, in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_1 \sim \sigma_1, \quad \tau_2 \sim \sigma_1, \quad \tau_1 \sigma_3 \sim \sigma_2, \quad \tau_2 \sigma_3 \sim \sigma_3, \\ \omega \sim \sigma_2, \quad \omega \sigma_3 \sim \sigma_3, \quad \omega J_4 \sim \sigma_3. \end{aligned}$$

These elements represent all conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta - \{\theta\}$ .

**Type E<sub>8</sub>.** Now  $\mathfrak{u}_0 = \mathfrak{e}_8$ . For  $\theta = \sigma_1 = \exp(\pi i H'_2)$ , one has

$$\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^{\sigma_1} \cong (\text{E}_7 \times \text{Sp}(1))/\langle (c, -1) \rangle,$$

where  $\sigma_1 = (1, -1) = (c, 1)$ . Let  $\tau_1, \tau_2$  denote the elements in  $\text{E}_7$  with  $\tau_1^2 = \tau_2^2 = c$  and  $\mathfrak{e}_7^{\tau_1} \cong \mathfrak{e}_6 \oplus i\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathfrak{e}_7^{\tau_2} \cong \mathfrak{su}(8)$ . Let  $\tau_3, \tau_4$  be involutions in  $\text{E}_7$  such that there exist Klein subgroups  $\Gamma, \Gamma' \subset \text{E}_7$  with three nonidentity elements in  $\Gamma$  all conjugate to  $\tau_3$ , three nonidentity elements in  $\Gamma'$  all conjugate to  $\tau_4$ , and  $\mathfrak{e}_7^\Gamma \cong \mathfrak{su}(6) \oplus (i\mathbb{R})^2$ ,  $\mathfrak{e}_7^{\Gamma'} \cong \mathfrak{so}(8) \oplus (\mathfrak{sp}(1))^3$ . Then, in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ ,

$$(\tau_1, \mathbf{i}) \sim \sigma_1, \quad (\tau_2, \mathbf{i}) \sim \sigma_2, \quad (\tau_3, 1) \sim \sigma_1, \quad (\tau_4, 1) \sim \sigma_2.$$

These elements represent all conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta - \{\theta\}$ .

For  $\theta = \sigma_2 = \exp(\pi i (H'_2 + H'_1))$ , one has  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^{\sigma_2} \cong \text{Spin}(16)/\langle c \rangle$ , where  $\sigma_2 = -1$ ,  $c = e_1 e_2 \cdots e_{16}$ . Let

$$\delta = \frac{1 + e_1 e_2}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{1 + e_3 e_4}{\sqrt{2}} \cdots \frac{1 + e_{15} e_{16}}{\sqrt{2}},$$

$$\tau_1 = e_1 e_2 e_3 e_4, \quad \tau_2 = e_1 e_2 e_3 \cdots e_8, \quad \tau_3 = \delta, \quad \tau_4 = -\delta.$$

Then, in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ ,

$$\tau_1 \sim \sigma_1, \quad \tau_2 \sim \sigma_2, \quad \tau_3 \sim \sigma_1, \quad \tau_4 \sim \sigma_2.$$

These elements represent all the conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta - \{\theta\}$ .

**Type F<sub>4</sub>.** When  $\mathfrak{u}_0 = \mathfrak{f}_4$ , for  $\theta = \sigma_1 = \exp(\pi i H'_1)$ ,

$$\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^{\sigma_1} \cong \text{Sp}(3) \times \text{Sp}(1)/\langle (-I, -1) \rangle,$$

where  $\sigma_1 = (-I, 1) = (I, -1)$ . Let

$$\tau_1 = \left( \left( \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, 1 \right), \quad \tau_2 = \left( \left( \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, 1 \right), \quad \tau_3 = (\mathbf{i}I, \mathbf{i}).$$

Then, in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ ,

$$\tau_1 \sim \sigma_1, \quad \tau_2 \sim \sigma_2, \quad \tau_3 \sim \sigma_1.$$

These elements represent all conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta - \{\theta\}$ .

For  $\theta = \sigma_2 = \exp(\pi i H'_4)$ , one has  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^{\sigma_2} \cong \text{Spin}(9)$ ,  $\sigma_2 = -1$ . Let  $\tau_1 = e_1 e_2 e_3 e_4$ ,  $\tau_2 = e_1 e_2 e_3 \cdots e_8$ . Then, in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ , we have  $\tau_1 \sim \sigma_1$  and  $\tau_2 \sim \sigma_2$ . These elements represent all conjugacy classes of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta - \{\theta\}$ .

**Type  $\mathbf{G}_2$ .** When  $\mathfrak{u}_0 = \mathfrak{g}_2$  and  $\theta = \sigma = \exp(\pi i H'_1)$ , one has

$$\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^{\sigma_1} \cong \text{Sp}(1) \times \text{Sp}(1)/\langle(-1, -1)\rangle,$$

where  $\sigma_1 = (-1, 1) = (1, -1)$ . Denote  $\tau = (\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{i})$ . Then, in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ , we have  $\tau \sim \sigma$ , and  $\tau$  represents the unique conjugacy class of involutions in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta - \{\theta\}$ .

By the above, we have reproved Berger’s classification of semisimple symmetric pairs. The next proposition is an immediate consequence of this classification.

**Proposition 6.1.** *There are 23, 19, 8, 5, and 1 isomorphism classes of nontrivial (that is,  $\mathfrak{h}_0 \neq \mathfrak{g}_0$ ) semisimple symmetric pairs  $(\mathfrak{g}_0, \mathfrak{h}_0)$  with  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  noncompact and  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_0 \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C}$  a complex simple Lie algebra of types  $\mathbf{E}_6, \mathbf{E}_7, \mathbf{E}_8, \mathbf{F}_4$ , and  $\mathbf{G}_2$ , respectively.*

**6B. Klein subgroups, speciality, regularity and centralizers.** For a Klein group  $\Gamma \subset \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ , we call the conjugacy classes of the involutions in  $\Gamma$  the *involution type* of  $\Gamma$ , and the classes of Riemannian symmetric pairs corresponding to the involutions in  $\Gamma$  the *symmetric space type* of  $\Gamma$ . Since there is a one-to-one correspondence between these two types, we simply say *type* of  $\Gamma$  for either involution type or symmetric space type.

For a compact simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{u}_0$ , a Klein subgroup  $\Gamma$  of  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  is called *regular* if any two distinct conjugate (in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ ) elements  $\sigma, \theta \in \Gamma$  are conjugate by an element  $g \in \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  commuting with  $\theta\sigma$  (that is,  $g \in \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^{\theta\sigma}$ ).

A Klein subgroup  $\Gamma \subset \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  is called *special* if there are two (distinct) elements of  $\Gamma$  which are conjugate in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ . It is called *very special* if three involutions of  $\Gamma$  are pairwise conjugate in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ . Otherwise it is called nonspecial. The definition of special is due to [Ōshima and Sekiguchi 1984].

In Tables 3 and 4, we list some Klein subgroups  $\Gamma_i \subset \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  for each compact simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{u}_0$  together with their symmetric space types (when  $\mathfrak{u}_0$  is classical) or involution types (when  $\mathfrak{u}_0$  is exceptional). These subgroups are not conjugate to each other since their fixed point subalgebras  $\mathfrak{u}_0^{\Gamma_i}$  are nonisomorphic. In the last column we also indicate whether they are special or not. For brevity, we write N to mean nonspecial, S to mean special but not very special, V to mean very special. The speciality of the subgroups  $\Gamma_{p,q,r,s}$  depends on the parameters. In general they can be nonspecial, special or very special; in this case we use NSV to denote their

$\mathfrak{u}_0$	$\Gamma_i$	$\mathfrak{l}_0 = \mathfrak{u}_0^{\Gamma_i}$	Type
$\mathfrak{e}_6$	$\Gamma_1 = \langle \exp(\pi i H'_2), \exp(\pi i H'_4) \rangle$	$(\mathfrak{su}(3))^2 \oplus (i\mathbb{R})^2$	$(\sigma_1, \sigma_1, \sigma_1), V$
$\mathfrak{e}_6$	$\Gamma_2 = \langle \exp(\pi i H'_4), \exp(\pi i (H'_3 + H'_4 + H'_5)) \rangle$	$\mathfrak{su}(4) \oplus (\mathfrak{sp}(1))^2 \oplus i\mathbb{R}$	$(\sigma_1, \sigma_1, \sigma_2), S$
$\mathfrak{e}_6$	$\Gamma_3 = \langle \exp(\pi i (H'_2 + H'_1)), \exp(\pi i (H'_4 + H'_1)) \rangle$	$\mathfrak{su}(5) \oplus (i\mathbb{R})^2$	$(\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_2), S$
$\mathfrak{e}_6$	$\Gamma_4 = \langle \exp(\pi i (H'_1 + H'_6)), \exp(\pi i (H'_3 + H'_5)) \rangle$	$\mathfrak{so}(8) \oplus (i\mathbb{R})^2$	$(\sigma_2, \sigma_2, \sigma_2), V$
$\mathfrak{e}_6$	$\Gamma_5 = \langle \exp(\pi i H'_2), \tau \rangle$	$\mathfrak{sp}(3) \oplus \mathfrak{sp}(1)$	$(\sigma_1, \sigma_3, \sigma_4), N$
$\mathfrak{e}_6$	$\Gamma_6 = \langle \exp(\pi i H'_2), \tau \exp(\pi i H'_4) \rangle$	$\mathfrak{so}(6) \oplus i\mathbb{R}$	$(\sigma_1, \sigma_4, \sigma_4), S$
$\mathfrak{e}_6$	$\Gamma_7 = \langle \exp(\pi i (H'_1 + H'_6)), \tau \rangle$	$\mathfrak{so}(9)$	$(\sigma_2, \sigma_3, \sigma_3), S$
$\mathfrak{e}_6$	$\Gamma_8 = \langle \exp(\pi i (H'_1 + H'_6)), \tau \exp(\pi i H'_2) \rangle$	$\mathfrak{so}(5) \oplus \mathfrak{so}(5)$	$(\sigma_2, \sigma_4, \sigma_4), S$
$\mathfrak{e}_7$	$\Gamma_1 = \langle \exp(\pi i H'_2), \exp(\pi i H'_4) \rangle$	$\mathfrak{su}(6) \oplus (i\mathbb{R})^2$	$(\sigma_1, \sigma_1, \sigma_1), V$
$\mathfrak{e}_7$	$\Gamma_2 = \langle \exp(\pi i H'_2), \exp(\pi i H'_3) \rangle$	$\mathfrak{so}(8) \oplus (\mathfrak{sp}(1))^3$	$(\sigma_1, \sigma_1, \sigma_1), V$
$\mathfrak{e}_7$	$\Gamma_3 = \langle \exp(\pi i H'_2), \tau \rangle$	$\mathfrak{so}(10) \oplus (i\mathbb{R})^2$	$(\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_2), S$
$\mathfrak{e}_7$	$\Gamma_4 = \langle \exp(\pi i H'_1), \tau \rangle$	$\mathfrak{su}(6) \oplus \mathfrak{sp}(1) \oplus i\mathbb{R}$	$(\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3), N$
$\mathfrak{e}_7$	$\Gamma_5 = \langle \exp(\pi i H'_2), \tau \exp(\pi i H'_1) \rangle$	$\mathfrak{su}(4) \oplus \mathfrak{su}(4) \oplus i\mathbb{R}$	$(\sigma_1, \sigma_3, \sigma_3), S$
$\mathfrak{e}_7$	$\Gamma_6 = \langle \tau, \omega \rangle$	$\mathfrak{f}_4$	$(\sigma_2, \sigma_2, \sigma_2), V$
$\mathfrak{e}_7$	$\Gamma_7 = \langle \tau, \omega \exp(\pi i H'_1) \rangle$	$\mathfrak{sp}(4)$	$(\sigma_2, \sigma_3, \sigma_3), S$
$\mathfrak{e}_7$	$\Gamma_8 = \langle \tau \exp(\pi i H'_1), \omega \exp(\pi i H'_3) \rangle$	$\mathfrak{so}(8)$	$(\sigma_3, \sigma_3, \sigma_3), V$
$\mathfrak{e}_8$	$\Gamma_1 = \langle \exp(\pi i H'_2), \exp(\pi i H'_4) \rangle$	$\mathfrak{e}_6 \oplus (i\mathbb{R})^2$	$(\sigma_1, \sigma_1, \sigma_1), V$
$\mathfrak{e}_8$	$\Gamma_2 = \langle \exp(\pi i H'_2), \exp(\pi i H'_1) \rangle$	$\mathfrak{so}(12) \oplus (\mathfrak{sp}(1))^2$	$(\sigma_1, \sigma_1, \sigma_2), S$
$\mathfrak{e}_8$	$\Gamma_3 = \langle \exp(\pi i H'_2), \exp(\pi i (H'_1 + H'_4)) \rangle$	$\mathfrak{su}(8) \oplus i\mathbb{R}$	$(\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_2), S$
$\mathfrak{e}_8$	$\Gamma_4 = \langle \exp(\pi i (H'_2 + H'_1)), \exp(\pi i (H'_5 + H'_1)) \rangle$	$\mathfrak{so}(8) \oplus \mathfrak{so}(8)$	$(\sigma_2, \sigma_2, \sigma_2), V$
$\mathfrak{f}_4$	$\Gamma_1 = \langle \exp(\pi i H'_2), \exp(\pi i H'_1) \rangle$	$\mathfrak{su}(3) \oplus (i\mathbb{R})^2$	$(\sigma_1, \sigma_1, \sigma_1), V$
$\mathfrak{f}_4$	$\Gamma_2 = \langle \exp(\pi i H'_3), \exp(\pi i H'_2) \rangle$	$\mathfrak{so}(5) \oplus (\mathfrak{sp}(1))^2$	$(\sigma_1, \sigma_1, \sigma_2), S$
$\mathfrak{f}_4$	$\Gamma_3 = \langle \exp(\pi i H'_4), \exp(\pi i H'_3) \rangle$	$\mathfrak{so}(8)$	$(\sigma_2, \sigma_2, \sigma_2), V$
$\mathfrak{g}_2$	$\Gamma = \langle \exp(\pi i H'_1), \exp(\pi i H'_2) \rangle$	$(i\mathbb{R})^2$	$(\sigma, \sigma, \sigma), V$

**Table 4.** Klein four-subgroups in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  for the exceptional cases.

speciality. The reader can determine for which parameters they are nonspecial, special or very special. The notation  $I_{p,q}, J_p$ , etc. is defined in Section 2C.

**Theorem 6.2.** *For a compact simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{u}_0$ , any Klein subgroup  $\Gamma \subset \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  is conjugate to one in Table 3 or Table 4 and they are all regular.*

*Proof.* When  $\mathfrak{u}_0$  is a classical compact simple Lie algebra, we can do matrix calculation to show Table 3 is complete and any Klein subgroup is regular. When  $\mathfrak{u}_0$  is an exceptional compact simple Lie algebra, from Klein subgroups we get nonconjugate commuting pairs of involutions  $(\theta_1, \theta_2)$  distinguished by the isomorphism type of  $\mathfrak{u}_0^{(\theta_1, \theta_2)}$  or the distribution of the classes of the (ordered) tuples  $(\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3)$ . When  $\mathfrak{u}_0$  is of type  $\mathbf{E}_6, \mathbf{E}_7, \mathbf{E}_8, \mathbf{F}_4$ , or  $\mathbf{G}_2$ , we get (at least) 23, 19, 8, 5, or 1 nonconjugate commuting pairs, respectively. By Proposition 6.1, they represent all conjugacy classes of commuting pairs of involutions. So Table 4 is complete.

For an exceptional simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{u}_0$ , suppose that some Klein subgroup fails to be regular. Then we can construct nonconjugate commuting pairs  $(\theta_1, \theta_2)$  and  $(\theta'_1, \theta'_2)$  ( $= (\theta_2, \theta_1)$ ) with  $\langle \theta_1, \theta_2 \rangle = \langle \theta'_1, \theta'_2 \rangle$ ,  $\theta_1 \sim \theta'_1$ ,  $\theta_2 \sim \theta'_2$ ,  $\theta_1\theta_2 \sim \theta'_1\theta'_2$ . Then there should exist more isomorphism classes of semisimple symmetric pairs. But it is not the case, and it follows that any Klein subgroup is regular.  $\square$

Another way of proving all Klein subgroups of  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  are regular is as follows. First we just need to check for any commuting pair of involutions  $\theta_1, \theta_2 \in \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  with  $\theta_1 \sim \theta_2$  (in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ ),  $\theta_1, \theta_2$  are conjugate in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta$ , where  $\theta = \theta_1\theta_2$ . Fix  $\theta$  as a representative in Section 3, when  $\mathfrak{u}_0$  is an exceptional simple Lie algebra. This was already checked in the last subsection; when  $\mathfrak{u}_0$  is a classical simple Lie algebra, we can check this from the data in Table 3 (list of Klein groups with symmetric space type) and Table 2 (symmetric subgroups).

A statement equivalent to the regularity of all Klein subgroups (Theorem 6.2) is that two commuting pairs of involutions  $(\theta, \sigma)$  and  $(\theta', \sigma')$  are conjugate in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  if and only if

$$\theta \sim \theta', \quad \sigma \sim \sigma', \quad \theta\sigma \sim \theta'\sigma'$$

and the Klein subgroups  $\langle \theta, \sigma \rangle, \langle \theta', \sigma' \rangle$  are conjugate. This statement clearly implies the second statement in Theorem 6.2. To derive this statement from Theorem 6.2, give two pairs  $(\theta, \sigma)$  and  $(\theta', \sigma')$  with  $\theta \sim \theta', \sigma \sim \sigma', \theta\sigma \sim \theta'\sigma'$  and  $\langle \theta, \sigma \rangle \sim \langle \theta', \sigma' \rangle$ . After replacing  $(\theta', \sigma')$  by a pair conjugate to it, we may assume  $\langle \theta, \sigma \rangle = \langle \theta', \sigma' \rangle$ , that is,  $(\theta, \sigma)$  and  $(\theta', \sigma')$  generate the same Klein subgroup. By Theorem 6.2,  $\langle \theta, \sigma \rangle$  is regular, so  $(\theta, \sigma)$  and  $(\theta', \sigma')$  are conjugate. Since any Klein subgroup of  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  is regular, a conjugacy class of Klein subgroups gives 6, 3, or 1 isomorphism types of semisimple symmetric pairs when it is nonspecial, special but not very special, or very special, respectively.

The fact that all Klein subgroups in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  are regular is an interesting phenomenon. The property of regularity can be generalized to closed subgroups of any Lie group; a vast array of examples of nonregular subgroups is given in [Larsen 1994].

From Tables 1 and 4, we can abstract the following facts.

**Proposition 6.3.** *When  $\mathfrak{u}_0$  is an exceptional compact simple Lie algebra, any two classes of involutions have commuting representatives; for any Klein group  $\Gamma \subset \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$  the centralizer  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\Gamma$  intersects  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ .*

For classical compact simple Lie algebras, both statements of the above proposition fail in general. For example, in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{su}(2n))$  and for an odd  $p$  with  $1 \leq p \leq n-1$ ,  $\tau \circ \text{Ad}(I_{n,n})$  ( $\tau =$  complex conjugation) doesn't commute with any involution conjugate to  $\text{Ad}(I_{p,2n-p})$ ; in  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{so}(4n))$ ,  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{so}(4n))^{\Gamma_n} \subset \text{Int}(\mathfrak{so}(4n))$  (see Table 3 for the definition of  $\Gamma_n$ ).

For each Klein subgroup  $\Gamma$  listed in Table 3 or 4 with two generators  $\theta, \sigma \in \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)$ , we get the centralizer  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\Gamma$  by calculating  $(\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\theta)^\sigma$ . The results

about  $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{u}_0)^\Gamma$  are listed in [Table 5](#) for classical compact simple Lie algebras and in [Table 6](#) for exceptional compact simple Lie algebras.

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JING-SONG HUANG  
 DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS  
 HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (HKUST)  
 KOWLOON  
 HONG KONG SAR  
 CHINA  
[mahuang@ust.hk](mailto:mahuang@ust.hk)

$u_0$	$\Gamma_i$	$L = \text{Aut}(u_0)^{\Gamma_i}$
$\mathfrak{su}(p+q), p \neq q$	$\Gamma_{p,q}$	$((O(p) \times O(q))/\langle(-I_p, -I_q)\rangle) \rtimes \langle\tau\rangle$
$\mathfrak{su}(2p)$	$\Gamma_{p,p}$	$((O(p) \times O(p))/\langle(-I_p, -I_p)\rangle) \rtimes \langle\tau, J_p\rangle,$ $\text{Ad}(J_p)(X, Y) = (Y, X), \text{Ad}(\tau) = 1$
$\mathfrak{su}(2p)$	$\Gamma'_p$	$(U(p)/\langle-I_p\rangle) \rtimes \langle\tau, z\rangle, \text{Ad}(z) = 1$
$\mathfrak{su}(2p+2q), p \neq q$	$\Gamma'_{p,q}$	$((\text{Sp}(p) \times \text{Sp}(q))/\langle(-I_p, -I_q)\rangle) \rtimes \langle\tau J_{p+q}\rangle$
$\mathfrak{su}(4p)$	$\Gamma'_{p,p}$	$((\text{Sp}(p) \times \text{Sp}(p))/\langle(-I_p, -I_p)\rangle) \rtimes \langle\tau J_{2p}, J_p\rangle,$ $\text{Ad}(J_p)(X, Y) = (Y, X), \text{Ad}(\tau J_{2p}) = 1$
$\mathfrak{su}(p+q+r+s)$	$\Gamma_{p,q,r,s}$	$((S(U(p) \times U(q) \times U_r \times U_s)/\langle Z_{p+q+r+s}\rangle) \rtimes \langle\tau\rangle$ $\text{Ad}(\tau) = \text{complex conjugation}$
$\mathfrak{su}(2p+2r), p \neq r$	$\Gamma_{p,p,r,r}$	$((S(U(p) \times U(p) \times U_r \times U_r)/\langle Z_{2p+2r}\rangle) \rtimes \langle\tau, J_{p,r}\rangle$ $\text{Ad}(J_{p,r})(X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4) = (X_2, X_1, X_4, X_3)$
$\mathfrak{su}(4p)$	$\Gamma_{p,p,p,p}$	$((S(U(p) \times U(p) \times U(p) \times U(p))/\langle Z_{4p}\rangle) \rtimes \langle\tau, J_{2p}, J_{p,p}\rangle$ $\text{Ad}(J_{2p})(X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4) = (X_3, X_4, X_1, X_2)$
$\mathfrak{su}(2p)$	$\Gamma_p$	$PSU(p) \rtimes \langle F_p, \tau\rangle$ $\text{Ad}(\tau) = \text{complex conjugation}, \text{Ad}(F_p) = 1$
$\mathfrak{so}(p+q+r+s)$	$\Gamma_{p,q,r,s}$	$(O(p) \times O(q) \times O(r) \times O(s))/\langle-I_{p+q+r+s}\rangle$
$\mathfrak{so}(2p+2r), p \neq r$	$\Gamma_{p,p,r,r}$	$((O(p) \times O(p) \times O(r) \times O(r))/\langle-I_{2p+2r}\rangle) \rtimes \langle J_{p,r}\rangle$ $\text{Ad}(J_{p,r})(X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4) = (X_2, X_1, X_4, X_3)$
$\mathfrak{so}(4p), p \neq 2$	$\Gamma_{p,p,p,p}$	$((O(p))^4/\langle-I_{4p}\rangle) \rtimes \langle J_{2p}, J_{p,p}\rangle$ $\text{Ad}(J_{2p})(X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4) = (X_3, X_4, X_1, X_2)$
$\mathfrak{so}(8)$	$\Gamma_{2,2,2,2}$	$(U(1)^4/Z') \rtimes \langle\epsilon_{1,2}, \epsilon_{1,3}, \epsilon_{1,4}, S_4\rangle$ $\text{Ad}(\epsilon_{1,2})(X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4) = (-X_1, -X_2, X_3, X_4), \text{etc}$ $S_4$ acts by permutations
$\mathfrak{so}(2p)$	$\Gamma_p$	$(O(p)/\langle-I_p\rangle) \times F_p$
$\mathfrak{so}(2p+2q), p \neq q$	$\Gamma_{p,q}$	$((U(p) \times U(q))/\langle(-I_p, -I_q)\rangle) \rtimes \langle\tau\rangle$ $\text{Ad}(\tau) = \text{complex conjugation}$
$\mathfrak{so}(4p)$	$\Gamma_{p,p}$	$((U(p) \times U(p))/\langle(-I_p, -I_p)\rangle) \rtimes \langle\tau, J_p\rangle,$ $\text{Ad}(J_p)(X, Y) = (Y, X)$
$\mathfrak{so}(4p)$	$\Gamma'_p$	$(\text{Sp}(p)/\langle-I_p\rangle) \times F'_p$
$\mathfrak{sp}(n)$	$\Gamma_p$	$(O(n)/\langle-I_n\rangle) \times F_p$
$\mathfrak{sp}(p+q), p \neq q$	$\Gamma_{p,q}$	$((U(p) \times U(q))/\langle(-I_p, -I_q)\rangle) \rtimes \langle\tau\rangle$
$\mathfrak{sp}(2p)$	$\Gamma_{p,p}$	$((U(p) \times U(p))/\langle(-I_p, -I_p)\rangle) \rtimes \langle\tau, J_p\rangle,$ $\text{Ad}(\tau) = \text{complex conjugation}, \text{Ad}(J_p)(X, Y) = (Y, X)$
$\mathfrak{sp}(2p)$	$\Gamma'_p$	$(\text{Sp}(p)/\langle-I_p\rangle) \times F'_p$
$\mathfrak{sp}(p+q+r+s)$	$\Gamma_{p,q,r,s}$	$(\text{Sp}(p) \times \text{Sp}(q) \times \text{Sp}(r) \times \text{Sp}(s))/\langle-I_{p+q+r+s}\rangle$
$\mathfrak{sp}(2p+2r), p \neq r$	$\Gamma_{p,p,r,r}$	$((\text{Sp}(p) \times \text{Sp}(p) \times \text{Sp}(r) \times \text{Sp}(r))/\langle-I_{2p+2r}\rangle) \rtimes \langle J_{p,r}\rangle$ $\text{Ad}(J_{p,r})(X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4) = (X_2, X_1, X_4, X_3)$
$\mathfrak{sp}(4p)$	$\Gamma_{p,p,p,p}$	$((\text{Sp}(p))^4/\langle-I_{4p}\rangle) \rtimes \langle J_{2p}, J_{p,p}\rangle$ $\text{Ad}(J_{2p})(X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4) = (X_3, X_4, X_1, X_2)$

**Table 5.** Fixed point subgroups of Klein four-subgroups: classical cases.



$u_0$	$\Gamma_i$	$L = \text{Aut}(u_0)^{\Gamma_i}$
$e_6$	$\Gamma_1$	$((SU(3) \times SU(3) \times U(1) \times U(1)) / \langle (e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}} I, I, e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}}, 1), (I, e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}} I, e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{3}}, 1) \rangle) \rtimes \langle z, \tau \rangle,$ $\text{Ad}(\tau)(X, Y, \lambda, \mu) = (\bar{Y}, \bar{X}, \lambda, \mu), \text{Ad}(z)(X, Y, \lambda, \mu) = (Y, X, \lambda^{-1}, \mu^{-1})$
$e_6$	$\Gamma_2$	$(SU(4) \times \text{Sp}(1) \times \text{Sp}(1) \times U(1)) / \langle (iI, -1, 1, i), (I, -1, -1, -1) \rangle \rtimes \langle \tau \rangle,$ $\text{Ad}(\tau)(X, y, z, \lambda) = (J_2 \bar{X} (J_2)^{-1}, y, z, \lambda^{-1})$
$e_6$	$\Gamma_3$	$(SU(5) \times U(1) \times U(1)) \rtimes \langle \tau' \rangle, \quad \text{Ad}(\tau')(X, \lambda, \mu) = (\bar{X}, \lambda^{-1}, \mu^{-1})$
$e_6$	$\Gamma_4$	$((\text{Spin}(8) \times U(1) \times U(1)) / \langle (-1, -1, 1), (c, 1, -1) \rangle) \rtimes \langle \tau \rangle,$ $\text{Ad}(\tau)(x, \lambda, \mu) = (x, \lambda^{-1}, \mu^{-1})$
$e_6$	$\Gamma_5$	$((\text{Sp}(3) \times \text{Sp}(1)) / \langle (-I, -1) \rangle) \rtimes \langle \tau \rangle$
$e_6$	$\Gamma_6$	$((SO(6) \times U(1)) / \langle (-I, -1) \rangle) \rtimes \langle \tau', z \rangle,$ $\text{Ad}(z)(X, \lambda) = (I_{3,3} X I_{3,3}, \lambda^{-1}), \text{Ad}(\tau') = 1$
$e_6$	$\Gamma_7$	$\text{Spin}(9) \rtimes \langle \tau \rangle$
$e_6$	$\Gamma_8$	$((\text{Spin}(5) \times \text{Spin}(5)) / \langle (-1, -1) \rangle) \rtimes \langle \tau', z \rangle, \quad \text{Ad}(z)(x, y) = (y, x)$
$e_7$	$\Gamma_1$	$((SU(6) \times U(1) \times U(1)) / \langle (e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}} I, e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{3}}, 1), (-I, 1, 1) \rangle) \rtimes \langle z \rangle,$ $\text{Ad}(z)(X, \lambda, \mu) = (J_3 \bar{X} J_3^{-1}, \lambda^{-1}, \mu^{-1})$
$e_7$	$\Gamma_2$	$(\text{Spin}(8) \times \text{Sp}(1)^3) / \langle (c, -1, 1, 1), (1, -1, -1, -1), (-1, -1, -1, 1) \rangle$
$e_7$	$\Gamma_3$	$((\text{Spin}(10) \times U(1) \times U(1)) / \langle (c, i, 1) \rangle) \rtimes \langle z \rangle,$ $\text{Ad}(z)(x, \lambda, \mu) = (e_1 x e_1^{-1}, \lambda^{-1}, \mu^{-1})$
$e_7$	$\Gamma_4$	$((SU(6) \times \text{Sp}(1) \times U(1)) / \langle (e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}} I, I, e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{3}}, -I, -1, 1) \rangle) \rtimes \langle z \rangle,$ $\text{Ad}(z)(X, y, \lambda) = (J_3 \bar{X} J_3^{-1}, y, \lambda^{-1})$
$e_7$	$\Gamma_5$	$((\text{Spin}(6) \times \text{Spin}(6) \times U(1)) / \langle (c, c', 1), (1, -1, -1) \rangle) \rtimes \langle z_1, z_2 \rangle,$ $\text{Ad}(z_1)(x, y, \lambda) = (y, x, \lambda^{-1}), \text{Ad}(z_2)(x, y, \lambda) = (e_1 x e_1^{-1}, e_1 y e_1^{-1}, \lambda^{-1})$
$e_7$	$\Gamma_6$	$F_4 \rtimes \langle \tau, \omega \rangle$
$e_7$	$\Gamma_7$	$(\text{Sp}(4) / \langle -I \rangle) \rtimes \langle \tau, \omega' \rangle$
$e_7$	$\Gamma_8$	$(SO(8) / \langle -I \rangle) \rtimes \langle \tau', \omega' \rangle$
$e_8$	$\Gamma_1$	$((E_6 \times U(1) \times U(1)) / \langle (c, e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}}, 1) \rangle) \rtimes \langle z \rangle, \quad \mathfrak{f}_0^c = \mathfrak{f}_4 \oplus 0 \oplus 0$
$e_8$	$\Gamma_2$	$(\text{Spin}(12) \times \text{Sp}(1) \times \text{Sp}(1)) / \langle (c, -1, 1), (-1, -1, -1) \rangle$
$e_8$	$\Gamma_3$	$((SU(8) \times U(1)) / \langle (-I, 1), (iI, -1) \rangle) \rtimes \langle z \rangle, \quad \mathfrak{f}_0^c = \mathfrak{sp}(4) \oplus 0$
$e_8$	$\Gamma_4$	$((\text{Spin}(8) \times \text{Spin}(8)) / \langle (-1, -1), (c, c) \rangle) \rtimes \langle z \rangle, \quad \text{Ad}(z)(x, y) = (y, x)$
$\mathfrak{f}_4$	$\Gamma_1$	$((SU(3) \times U(1) \times U(1)) / \langle (e^{\frac{2\pi i}{3}} I, e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{3}}, 1) \rangle) \rtimes \langle z \rangle, \quad \mathfrak{f}_0^c = \mathfrak{so}(3) \oplus 0 \oplus 0$
$\mathfrak{f}_4$	$\Gamma_2$	$((\text{Sp}(2) \times \text{Sp}(1) \times \text{Sp}(1)) / \langle (-I, -1, -1) \rangle$
$\mathfrak{f}_4$	$\Gamma_3$	$\text{Spin}(8)$
$\mathfrak{g}_2$	$\Gamma$	$(U(1) \times U(1)) \rtimes \langle z \rangle, \quad \text{Ad}(z)(\lambda, \mu) = (\lambda^{-1}, \mu^{-1})$

**Table 6.** Fixed point subgroups of Klein four-subgroups: exceptional cases.

JUN YU

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

ETH ZURICH

8092 ZURICH

SWITZERLAND

[jun.yu@math.ethz.ch](mailto:jun.yu@math.ethz.ch)

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V. S. Varadarajan (Managing Editor)  
Department of Mathematics  
University of California  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1555  
[pacific@math.ucla.edu](mailto:pacific@math.ucla.edu)

Paul Balmer  
Department of Mathematics  
University of California  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1555  
[balmer@math.ucla.edu](mailto:balmer@math.ucla.edu)

Don Blasius  
Department of Mathematics  
University of California  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1555  
[blasius@math.ucla.edu](mailto:blasius@math.ucla.edu)

Vijayanthi Chari  
Department of Mathematics  
University of California  
Riverside, CA 92521-0135  
[chari@math.ucr.edu](mailto:chari@math.ucr.edu)

Daryl Cooper  
Department of Mathematics  
University of California  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-3080  
[cooper@math.ucsb.edu](mailto:cooper@math.ucsb.edu)

Robert Finn  
Department of Mathematics  
Stanford University  
Stanford, CA 94305-2125  
[finn@math.stanford.edu](mailto:finn@math.stanford.edu)

Kefeng Liu  
Department of Mathematics  
University of California  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1555  
[liu@math.ucla.edu](mailto:liu@math.ucla.edu)

Jiang-Hua Lu  
Department of Mathematics  
The University of Hong Kong  
Pokfulam Rd., Hong Kong  
[jhlu@maths.hku.hk](mailto:jhlu@maths.hku.hk)

Sorin Popa  
Department of Mathematics  
University of California  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1555  
[popa@math.ucla.edu](mailto:popa@math.ucla.edu)

Jie Qing  
Department of Mathematics  
University of California  
Santa Cruz, CA 95064  
[qing@cats.ucsc.edu](mailto:qing@cats.ucsc.edu)

Paul Yang  
Department of Mathematics  
Princeton University  
Princeton NJ 08544-1000  
[yang@math.princeton.edu](mailto:yang@math.princeton.edu)

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Silvio Levy, Scientific Editor, [production@msp.org](mailto:production@msp.org)

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