

AUTOMORPHISMS OF THE SYMPLECTIC MODULAR GROUP

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1. **Introduction.** Let Ω_n denote the unimodular group consisting of all $n \times n$ integral matrices of determinant ± 1 , and let $I^{(n)}$ be the identity matrix in Ω_n . We shall use 0 to denote a null matrix whose size is determined by the context, X' for the transpose of X , and $X \oplus Y$ for the direct sum of X and Y . We call an integral matrix *primitive* if the greatest common divisor of its maximal size minors is 1.

Define

$$(1) \quad \mathfrak{F} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I^{(n)} \\ -I^{(n)} & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and let the symplectic group Sp_{2n} consist of all rational $2n \times 2n$ matrices \mathfrak{M} satisfying

$$(2) \quad \mathfrak{M}\mathfrak{F}\mathfrak{M}' = \mathfrak{F}.$$

We define the symplectic modular group Γ_{2n} to be the group of integral matrices in Sp_{2n} . Although we shall not do so in this paper, it is sometimes more convenient to work with the factor group of Γ_{2n} over its center $\pm \mathfrak{F}$; see [1; 2; 3]⁽¹⁾. We may also define an extended group Δ_{2n} consisting of all integral matrices \mathfrak{M} for which $\mathfrak{M}\mathfrak{F}\mathfrak{M}' = \pm \mathfrak{F}$.

The automorphisms of Sp_{2n} (over any field) have previously been determined [5], as have the automorphisms of Γ_2 (see [4]). The object of this paper is to determine all automorphisms of Γ_{2n} . Let us call a homomorphism of Γ_{2n} into $\{\pm 1\}$ a *character*. Then we shall prove that every automorphism τ of Γ_{2n} is given by

$$\mathfrak{x}^\tau = \psi(\mathfrak{x})\mathfrak{X}\mathfrak{x}\mathfrak{X}^{-1} \quad \text{for all } \mathfrak{x} \in \Gamma_{2n},$$

where ψ is a character, and $\mathfrak{X} \in \Delta_{2n}$. We may remark at this point that the mapping σ defined by

$$\mathfrak{x}^\sigma = \mathfrak{x}'^{-1} \quad \text{for all } \mathfrak{x} \in \Gamma_{2n}$$

is obviously an automorphism. As we shall see, however, it is an inner automorphism.

Let us set

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(1) Numbers in brackets refer to the bibliography at the end of this paper.

$$(3) \quad \mathfrak{M} = \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix},$$

where A, B, C, D are integral $n \times n$ matrices. Then $\mathfrak{M} \in \Gamma_{2n}$ if and only if the following conditions are satisfied:

$$(4) \quad AB' \text{ symmetric, } CD' \text{ symmetric, } AD' - BC' = I.$$

We single out for future use certain types of elements of Γ_{2n} :

(1) Translations:

$$\mathfrak{T} = \begin{pmatrix} I & S \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \text{ or } \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ S & I \end{pmatrix}, \quad S \text{ symmetric.}$$

(2) Rotations:

$$\mathfrak{R} = \begin{pmatrix} U & 0 \\ 0 & U^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, \quad U \in \Omega_n.$$

(3) Semi-involutions:

$$\mathfrak{S} = \begin{pmatrix} J & I - J \\ J - I & J \end{pmatrix}, \quad J \text{ diagonal with diagonal elements 0's and 1's.}$$

Further, if \mathfrak{M} given by (3) is in Γ_{2n} , then

$$(5) \quad \mathfrak{M}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} D' & -B' \\ -C' & A' \end{pmatrix}.$$

Finally, if

$$\mathfrak{M}_i = \begin{pmatrix} A_i & B_i \\ C_i & D_i \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma_{2n_i} \quad (i = 1, 2),$$

we define the *symplectic direct sum* $\mathfrak{M}_1 * \mathfrak{M}_2 \in \Gamma_{2(n_1+n_2)}$ by

$$\mathfrak{M}_1 * \mathfrak{M}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} A_1 & 0 & B_1 & 0 \\ 0 & A_2 & 0 & B_2 \\ C_1 & 0 & D_1 & 0 \\ 0 & C_2 & 0 & D_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We may remark that as \mathfrak{M} ranges over all elements of Γ_{2n} , the matrix $[-I^{(n)} + I^{(n)}]\mathfrak{M}$ ranges over all elements in $\Delta'_{2n} = \{\mathfrak{X} \in \Delta_{2n} : \mathfrak{X} \in \Gamma_{2n}\}$. Thence $\mathfrak{M}_i \in \Delta'_{2n_i}$ ($i = 1, 2$) implies $\mathfrak{M}_1 * \mathfrak{M}_2 \in \Delta'_{2(n_1+n_2)}$. However, $\mathfrak{M}_1 \in \Gamma_{2n_1}$ and $\mathfrak{M}_2 \in \Delta_{2n_2}$ implies $\mathfrak{M}_1 * \mathfrak{M}_2 \notin \Delta_{2(n_1+n_2)}$.

2. Involutions in Γ_{2n} . It is known [4] that as $x, y,$ and z range over all non-negative integers such that $2x + y + z = n$, the matrix

$$(6) \quad W(x, y, z) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} + \cdots + \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} + (-I)^{(y)} + I^{(z)}$$

(where x 2×2 blocks occur) gives a complete set of nonconjugate involutions in Ω_n . By an $[x, y, z]$ involution in Ω_n we mean any conjugate of $W(x, y, z)$ in Ω_n . Now define

$$\mathfrak{B}(x, y, z) = W(x, y, z) + W'(x, y, z) \in \Gamma_{2n}.$$

THEOREM 1. *The matrices $\mathfrak{B}(x, y, z)$ with $2x + y + z = n$ give a complete set of nonconjugate involutions in Γ_{2n} .*

Proof. We use induction on n . The result is trivial for $n = 1$, so now let \mathfrak{X} be an involution in Γ_{2n} , $n > 1$. From $\mathfrak{X}^2 = I^{(2n)}$ we conclude that the characteristic roots of \mathfrak{X} are 1's and -1 's. Let ϵ be a characteristic root of \mathfrak{X} ; then there exists a primitive row vector \mathfrak{r} such that $\mathfrak{r}\mathfrak{X} = \epsilon\mathfrak{r}$. We can then find [6] a matrix $\mathfrak{Y} \in \Gamma_{2n}$ whose first row is \mathfrak{r} . In that case the first row of $\mathfrak{X}_1 = \mathfrak{Y}\mathfrak{X}\mathfrak{Y}^{-1}$ is $(\epsilon \ 0 \ \cdots \ 0)$. Since \mathfrak{X}_1 is an involution in Γ_{2n} , we obtain

$$\mathfrak{X}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon & 0 \cdots 0 & 0 & 0 \cdots 0 \\ * & & 0 & \\ \vdots & A_1 & \vdots & B_1 \\ \vdots & & 0 & \\ * & & & \\ * & * \cdots * & \epsilon & 0 \cdots 0 \\ * & & * & \\ \vdots & C_1 & \vdots & D_1 \\ \vdots & & \vdots & \\ * & & * & \end{bmatrix},$$

where

$$\begin{pmatrix} A_1 & B_1 \\ C_1 & D_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

is itself an involution in $\Gamma_{2(n-1)}$. Continuing this procedure, we see that \mathfrak{X} is conjugate in Γ_{2n} to a matrix of the form

$$\mathfrak{X}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} A & 0 \\ C & D \end{pmatrix}.$$

From the fact that \mathfrak{X}_2 is an involution in Γ_{2n} , we deduce at once that A is an involution in Ω_n , and $D = A'^{-1}$. However,

$$\begin{pmatrix} U & 0 \\ 0 & U'^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} A & 0 \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} U^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & U' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} UAU^{-1} & 0 \\ \bar{C} & U'^{-1}DU' \end{pmatrix},$$

and so by choosing $U \in \Omega_n$ properly, we find that \mathfrak{X} is conjugate to \mathfrak{X}_3 given by

$$\mathfrak{X}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} W(x, y, z) & 0 \\ C & W'(x, y, z) \end{pmatrix}$$

with a new C . Since $\mathfrak{X}_3 \in \Gamma_{2n}$ is an involution, we have

$$(7) \quad CW \text{ symmetric, } C \text{ skew-symmetric.}$$

The proof now splits into two cases:

CASE 1. If either $y \neq 0$ or $z \neq 0$, we may set $W(x, y, z) = W_1 \dagger (\epsilon)$, $\epsilon = \pm 1$. From (7) we find that

$$\mathfrak{X}_3 = \begin{bmatrix} W_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \epsilon & 0 & 0 \\ C_1 & -\mathfrak{r}' & W_1' & 0 \\ \mathfrak{r} & 0 & 0 & \epsilon \end{bmatrix},$$

and that

$$\mathfrak{Z} = \begin{pmatrix} W_1 & 0 \\ C_1 & W_1' \end{pmatrix}$$

is an involution in $\Gamma_{2(n-1)}$. By the induction hypothesis there exist integers x_1, y_1, z_1 with $2x_1 + y_1 + z_1 = n - 1$, such that \mathfrak{Z} is conjugate to $\mathfrak{B}(x_1, y_1, z_1)$. For the moment set $P = W(x_1, y_1, z_1)$. Then in Γ_{2n} , \mathfrak{X}_3 is conjugate to \mathfrak{X}_4 , where

$$\mathfrak{X}_4 = \begin{bmatrix} P & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \epsilon & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\mathfrak{r}' & P' & 0 \\ \mathfrak{r} & 0 & 0 & \epsilon \end{bmatrix}$$

with a new \mathfrak{r} . But then

$$\mathfrak{X}_5 = \mathfrak{S}\mathfrak{X}_4\mathfrak{S}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} P & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \mathfrak{r} & \epsilon & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & P' & \mathfrak{r}' \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \epsilon \end{bmatrix} \text{ where } \mathfrak{S} = \begin{bmatrix} I^{(n-1)} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & I^{(n-1)} & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Since \mathfrak{X}_5 is now a direct sum $W \dagger W'$, where W is an involution in Ω_n , the result follows upon transforming \mathfrak{X}_5 by a suitably chosen rotation in Γ_{2n} .

CASE 2. If both y and z are 0, we write $W(x, y, z) = L \dagger W_1$, where

$$L = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then, as before, \mathfrak{X}_3 is conjugate to \mathfrak{X}_4 given by

$$\mathfrak{X}_4 = \begin{bmatrix} L & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & W_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & b & B & L' \\ -b & 0 & & \\ -B' & 0 & 0 & W_1' \end{bmatrix}.$$

However,

$$\mathfrak{M} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & I^{(2)} & 0 \\ 0 & I^{(n-2)} & 0 & 0 \\ -I^{(2)} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & I^{(n-2)} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I^{(n)} & 0 \\ 0 \dagger b \dagger 0^{(n-2)} & I^{(n)} \end{bmatrix} \in \Gamma_{2n},$$

and we have

$$\mathfrak{M}\mathfrak{X}_4\mathfrak{M}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} L' & B \\ 0 & W_1 \end{pmatrix} \dagger \begin{pmatrix} L & 0 \\ B' & W_1' \end{pmatrix}.$$

The result then follows as in the previous case.

We have thus shown that any involution $\mathfrak{X} \in \Gamma_{2n}$ is conjugate to some $\mathfrak{B}(x, y, z)$. On the other hand, if $\mathfrak{B}(x, y, z)$ and $\mathfrak{B}(x_0, y_0, z_0)$ were conjugate in Γ_{2n} , they would certainly be conjugate in Ω_{2n} . This implies [4] that $x = x_0$, $y = y_0$, and $z = z_0$.

The conjugates of $\mathfrak{B}(x, y, z)$ in Γ_{2n} will be called (x, y, z) involutions.

3. Characterization of the $\pm(0, 1, n-1)$ involutions. In Sp_{2n} , every involution is conjugate to one of the form $I^{(2p)} * -I^{(2q)}$, with $p+q=n$. Any involution in the class of $I^{(2p)} * -I^{(2q)}$ is said to have *signature* $\{p, q\}$ (see [5]). One easily proves that any (x, y, z) involution in Γ_{2n} has signature $\{x+z, x+y\}$, and that the negative of an (x, y, z) involution is of type (x, z, y) .

It is known that an abelian set of involutions of signature $\{p, q\}$ in Sp_{2n} cannot contain more than $C_{n,p}$ elements (see [5, Theorem 2; 7, §19]). We shall use this fact in proving the following basic result:

THEOREM 2. *Under any automorphism of Γ_{2n} , the image of a $(0, 1, n-1)$ involution is either a $(0, 1, n-1)$ involution or a $(0, n-1, 1)$ involution.*

Proof. (i) An abelian set of involutions in Γ_{2n} , each of type (x, y, z) , we shall call an (x, y, z) set. Let $f(x, y, z)$ be the number of elements in an (x, y, z) set of largest size. The above-quoted result shows that

$$f(x, y, z) \leq C_{n, x+z},$$

so for $(x, y, z) = \pm(0, 0, n), \pm(0, 1, n-1), \pm(1, 0, n-2)$ we have $f(x, y, z) \leq n$.

We now show that $f(x, y, z) > n$ except for the 6 cases given above.

From an abelian set \mathcal{K} of $[x, y, z]$ involutions in Ω_n , one obtains an (x, y, z) set in Γ_{2n} by taking the set of matrices $U \dagger U'^{-1}$, $U \in \mathcal{K}$. We know, however, that there exist abelian sets of $[x, y, z]$ involutions in Ω_n containing more than n elements, except for the 6 cases listed above (see [8, §§12 and 13]).

(ii) The $\pm(0, 0, n)$ involutions in Γ_{2n} are $\pm I^{(2n)}$, so that certainly a $(0, 1, n-1)$ involution cannot be mapped onto a $\pm(0, 0, n)$ involution by an automorphism of Γ_{2n} . It remains to prove that the image cannot be of type $\pm(1, 0, n-2)$. To begin with, a simple calculation shows that two rotations $U \dagger U'^{-1}$ and $V \dagger V'^{-1}$ are conjugate in Γ_{2n} if and only if U and V are conjugate in Ω_n . For $n > 2$, there are at least two nonconjugate $[1, 0, n-2]$ sets in Ω_n , each containing n elements; on the other hand, there is a unique (up to conjugacy) abelian set of n $[0, 1, n-1]$ involutions in Ω_n (see [8, §12]). Hence for $n > 2$, the image of a $(0, 1, n-1)$ involution in Γ_{2n} must be of type $\pm(0, 1, n-1)$.

(iii) The case $n = 1$ is trivial, and so we are left with $n = 2$. Now we have

$$I^{(2)*} - I^{(2)} = \left(I^{(2)*} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right)^2,$$

so any $(0, 1, 1)$ involution in Γ_4 is the square of some element of Γ_4 . We show that the $(1, 0, 0)$ involutions in Γ_4 are not squares. For suppose that

$$\begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix}^2 = \begin{pmatrix} L & 0 \\ 0 & L' \end{pmatrix}, \text{ where } \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma_4 \text{ and } L = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

From (5) we then have

$$\begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} L & 0 \\ 0 & L' \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} D' & -B' \\ -C' & A' \end{pmatrix}.$$

This implies that

$$\begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ (a-d)/2 & d & 0 & b \\ c & -2c & a & (a+d)/2 \\ -2c & 4c & 0 & -d \end{bmatrix}.$$

Using $AD' - BC' = I$, we find that

$$-d^2 - 4bc = 1,$$

whence $d^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$, since a, b, c, d are integers. This is impossible, and so the theorem is proved.

4. Automorphisms of Γ_4 . As is usually the case with determination of

automorphisms of a group of matrices, the lower the dimension the more difficult the proof. We begin by stating in (i) some earlier results (see [4]) which will be needed.

(i) The group Δ_2 coincides with Ω_2 , and Γ_2 is the subgroup Ω_2^+ consisting of all elements of Ω_2 with determinant $+1$. For the remainder of this paper we let

$$(8) \quad S = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then S and T generate Γ_2 , and in any relation $S^{m_1}T^{n_1}S^{m_2}T^{n_2} \cdots = I$ the sum $m_1+n_1+m_2+n_2+\cdots$ is always even. Hence the elements $X \in \Gamma_2$ can be classified as even or odd according to the parity of the sum of the exponents when X is expressed as a product of powers of S and T . The only nontrivial character of Γ_2 is defined by

$$\epsilon(X) = \begin{cases} 1, & X \text{ even,} \\ -1, & X \text{ odd.} \end{cases}$$

Then every automorphism τ of Γ_2 is given by

$$X^\tau = \lambda(X)AXA^{-1} \quad \text{for all } X \in \Gamma_2,$$

where λ is a character, and $A \in \Omega_2$.

(ii) Now let τ be any automorphism of Γ_4 . After changing τ by a suitable inner automorphism, we may assume that $\mathfrak{P}^\tau = \pm \mathfrak{P}$, where

$$\mathfrak{P} = I^{(2)} * -I^{(2)}.$$

Since \mathfrak{P} and $-\mathfrak{P}$ are conjugate in Γ_4 , assume in fact that $\mathfrak{P}^\tau = \mathfrak{P}$. Then any element of Γ_4 which commutes with \mathfrak{P} maps into another such element, so that

$$(Y_1 * Z_1)^\tau = Y_2 * Z_2,$$

where $Y_1, Y_2, Z_1, Z_2 \in \Gamma_2$. Let us set

$$\begin{aligned} (Y * I)^\tau &= Y^\alpha * Y^\beta && \text{for } Y \in \Gamma_2, \\ (I * Z)^\tau &= Z^\gamma * Z^\delta && \text{for } Z \in \Gamma_2. \end{aligned}$$

Then $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta$ are all homomorphisms of Γ_2 into itself, since

$$(Y_1 * Z_1)(Y_2 * Z_2) = Y_1 Y_2 * Z_1 Z_2.$$

Further, since $Y * I$ and $I * Z$ commute, so do Y^α and Z^γ for all pairs of elements $Y, Z \in \Gamma_2$; also, every element of Γ_2 is a product $Y^\alpha Z^\gamma$ for some such pair. Since $S \in \Gamma_2$, there exists an element $X \in \Gamma_2$ such that $SX^{-1} \in \Gamma_2^\alpha$ and $X \in \Gamma_2^\gamma$. But then X commutes with SX^{-1} , whence $X = \pm I$ or $\pm S$. Therefore either $S \in \Gamma_2^\alpha$ or $S \in \Gamma_2^\gamma$.

Suppose now that $S \in \Gamma_2^\alpha$; since every element of Γ_2^γ commutes with S , we see that $\Gamma_2^\gamma \subset \{\pm I, \pm S\}$. However, $S \in \Gamma_2^\gamma$ would imply the finiteness of Γ_2^α , whence $\Gamma_2 = \Gamma_2^\alpha \Gamma_2^\gamma$ could not be true. Therefore $\Gamma_2^\gamma \subset \{\pm I\}$, and then certainly $\Gamma_2^\alpha = \Gamma_2$. Similarly, one of $\Gamma_2^\beta, \Gamma_2^\delta$ is Γ_2 , and the other is included in $\{\pm I\}$.

Now we use the fact that $(-\mathfrak{P})^\tau = -\mathfrak{P}$, that is

$$(-I * I)^\tau = -I * I.$$

Therefore $(-I)^\alpha = -I$; but if $\Gamma_2^\alpha \subset \{\pm I\}$, the fact that $-I = S^2$ would imply $(-I)^\alpha = I$. Hence $\Gamma_2^\alpha = \Gamma_2$, $\Gamma_2^\gamma \subset \{\pm I\}$, and therefore $\Gamma_2^\beta \subset \{\pm I\}$, $\Gamma_2^\delta = \Gamma_2$.

Next we prove that α is an automorphism; we need merely prove that $Y^\alpha = I$ implies $Y = I$. But if $Y^\alpha = I$, then $(Y * I)^\tau = I * \pm I$. Since $(I * I)^\tau = I * I$ and $(I * -I)^\tau = I * -I$, this implies that $Y = I$. By the same reasoning, δ is also an automorphism.

(iii) Now define

$$Y_1 \circ Y_2 = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & b_1 \\ c_1 & d_1 \end{pmatrix} \circ \begin{pmatrix} a_2 & b_2 \\ c_2 & d_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & a_1 & 0 & b_1 \\ a_2 & 0 & b_2 & 0 \\ 0 & c_1 & 0 & d_1 \\ c_2 & 0 & d_2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then $Y_1 \circ Y_2 \in \Gamma_4$ if and only if $Y_1, Y_2 \in \Gamma_2$. The elements of Γ_4 which anti-commute with \mathfrak{P} are of the form $Y_1 \circ Y_2$, and we have

$$\begin{aligned} (A * B)(C \circ D) &= AC \circ BD, \\ (A \circ B)(C * D) &= AD \circ BC, \\ (A \circ B)(C \circ D) &= AD * BC. \end{aligned}$$

Suppose now that $(I \circ I)^\tau = U \circ V$. Since $(I \circ I)^2 = I * I$, we have $(U \circ V)^2 = UV * VU = I * I$, so $V = U^{-1}$. But now let

$$\mathfrak{X}^\sigma = (U^{-1} * I)\mathfrak{X}^\tau(U * I).$$

Then $\mathfrak{P}^\sigma = \mathfrak{P}$, σ and τ differ by an inner automorphism, and $(I \circ I)^\sigma = I \circ I$. Changing notation, we henceforth assume $\mathfrak{P}^\tau = \mathfrak{P}$ and $(I \circ I)^\tau = I \circ I$. From

$$(I \circ I)(Y * Z)(I \circ I) = Z * Y$$

we deduce

$$(I \circ I)(Z^\gamma Y^\alpha * Y^\beta Z^\delta)(I \circ I) = Y^\gamma Z^\alpha * Z^\beta Y^\delta.$$

Therefore

$$Z^\gamma Y^\alpha = Z^\beta Y^\delta$$

for all $Y, Z \in \Gamma_2$. Hence $\beta = \gamma, \alpha = \delta$. We have thus shown that for any $Y, Z \in \Gamma_2$ we have

$$(Y * Z)^\tau = \lambda(Z)Y^{\alpha * \lambda(Y)Z^\alpha},$$

where λ is a character, and α is an automorphism of Γ_2 .

(iv) From the discussion in part (i) of this section, we know that there exists a character μ and an element $A \in \Delta_2$ such that $X^\alpha = \mu(X)AXA^{-1}$ for all $X \in \Gamma_2$. We remark next that if $\mathfrak{B} \in \Delta_{2n}$, the map ϕ defined by $\mathfrak{X}^\phi = \mathfrak{B}\mathfrak{X}\mathfrak{B}^{-1}$ for each $\mathfrak{X} \in \Gamma_{2n}$ is clearly an automorphism of Γ_{2n} . In particular, let us define an automorphism σ of Γ_4 by

$$\mathfrak{X}^\sigma = (A^{-1} * A^{-1})\mathfrak{X}^\tau(A * A) \quad \text{for all } \mathfrak{X} \in \Gamma_4.$$

Calling this new automorphism τ instead of σ , we then know that

$$(Y * Z)^\tau = \lambda(Z)\mu(Y)Y * \lambda(Y)\mu(Z)Z$$

for each pair $Y, Z \in \Gamma_2$, and further that

$$(I \circ I)^\tau = (A^{-1} * A^{-1})(I \circ I)(A * A) = I \circ I.$$

Thence we have

$$(Y \circ Z)^\tau = (Y * Z)^\tau(I \circ I)^\tau = \lambda(Z)\mu(Y)Y \circ \lambda(Y)\mu(Z)Z.$$

(v) We apply the above results to the 4 generators of Γ_4 , which are given by (see [3])

$$\mathfrak{R}_1 = I \circ I, \quad \mathfrak{R}_2 = T \dagger T'^{-1}, \quad \mathfrak{S}_0 = S * I, \quad \mathfrak{T}_0 = T * I$$

(where S and T are defined by (8)). We have at once

$$\mathfrak{R}_1^\tau = \mathfrak{R}_1, \quad \mathfrak{S}_0^\tau = \pm S * \pm I, \quad \mathfrak{T}_0 = \pm T * \pm I, \quad \mathfrak{S}_0^\tau \mathfrak{T}_0^\tau = \mathfrak{S}_0 \mathfrak{T}_0,$$

(the last equation holding because $\mathfrak{S}_0 \mathfrak{T}_0$ is a square).

We use now (and again later) an argument due to Hua [5] to find the possible images \mathfrak{R}_2^τ . Observe that

$$\begin{bmatrix} I^{(2)} & 2n & 0 \\ & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & & I^{(2)} \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{bmatrix} I^{(2)} & 0 & 0 \\ & 0 & 2m \\ 0 & & I^{(2)} \end{bmatrix}$$

are elements of Γ_4 which are invariant under τ ; their product is also invariant. Hence the group of all elements of Γ_4 which commute element-wise with the set of matrices of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} I^{(2)} & \lambda_1 & 0 \\ & 0 & \lambda_2 \\ 0 & & I^{(2)} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \lambda_1, \lambda_2 \text{ even integers,}$$

is mapped onto itself by τ . This group is readily found to consist of all elements of Γ_4 of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} E & B \\ 0 & E \end{pmatrix}, \text{ where } E = \begin{pmatrix} \pm 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \pm 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } EB' = BE.$$

The squares of these elements are the matrices of Γ_4 given by

$$(9) \quad \begin{pmatrix} I & M \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix},$$

where M is symmetric and all elements of M are even. Hence

$$\begin{pmatrix} I & M \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix}^r = \begin{pmatrix} I & M_1 \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix}$$

for even symmetric M , and M_1 is also even and symmetric.

Next observe that

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & I \\ -I & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} I & M \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -I \\ I & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ -M & I \end{pmatrix}.$$

Since

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & I \\ -I & 0 \end{pmatrix}^r = (S^* S)^r = \pm S^* \pm S,$$

we see that for even symmetric N we have

$$(10) \quad \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ N & I \end{pmatrix}^r = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ N_1 & I \end{pmatrix},$$

with N_1 even and symmetric.

Now let Σ be the group of matrices of the form (9) with M even and symmetric, and let Σ' be the group of matrices given by (10) with even symmetric N . Then τ maps both Σ and Σ' onto themselves, and so any element commuting with both Σ and Σ' maps into another such element. However, these elements are precisely the rotations in Γ_4 . Hence for each $U \in \Omega_2$ we have

$$\begin{pmatrix} U & 0 \\ 0 & U'^{-1} \end{pmatrix}^r = \begin{pmatrix} U^\sigma & 0 \\ 0 & (U^\sigma)'^{-1} \end{pmatrix}.$$

The map $U \rightarrow U^\sigma$ is an automorphism σ of Ω_2 , and we already know from $\mathfrak{P}^r = \mathfrak{P}$ and $\mathfrak{R}_1^r = \mathfrak{R}_1$ that $S^\sigma = S$. Consequently (see [4]) there are only 4 possibilities for T^σ , given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(vi) We next apply τ to both sides of the equation

$$(S * I) \begin{pmatrix} T^2 & 0 \\ 0 & T'^{-2} \end{pmatrix} (S * I)^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ -2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and use equation (10). This shows that

$$(T^2)^\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \pm 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

and so either

$$T^\sigma = T \text{ or } T^\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = T_1 \text{ (say).}$$

Now we show that $\mathfrak{S}_0^\sigma = \pm \mathfrak{S}_0$, $\mathfrak{I}_0^\sigma = \pm \mathfrak{I}_0$. For, \mathfrak{K}_2 and \mathfrak{I}_0 commute; hence so do \mathfrak{K}_2^σ and \mathfrak{I}_0^σ . However, $\mathfrak{K}_2^\sigma = \mathfrak{K}_2$ or $\mathfrak{K}_2^\sigma = T_1 \dagger T_1'^{-1}$, and it is easily verified that $\pm(T * -I)$ does not commute with either of these two possible images of \mathfrak{K}_2 . Therefore $\mathfrak{I}_0^\sigma = \pm(T * I)$, whence $\mathfrak{S}_0^\sigma = \pm(S * I)$.

Next suppose that $\mathfrak{K}_2^\sigma = T_1 \dagger T_1'^{-1}$; then define τ_1 by $\mathfrak{X}^{\tau_1} = \mathfrak{P} \mathfrak{X}^r \mathfrak{P}^{-1}$. Then $\mathfrak{S}_0^{\tau_1} = \mathfrak{S}_0$, $\mathfrak{I}_0^{\tau_1} = \mathfrak{I}_0$, and $\mathfrak{K}_1^{\tau_1} = -\mathfrak{K}_1$, $\mathfrak{K}_2^{\tau_1} = -\mathfrak{K}_2$. We have therefore shown that apart from an "inner" automorphism by an element of Δ_4 , every automorphism τ of Γ_4 can be described by

$$(\mathfrak{K}_1, \mathfrak{K}_2, \mathfrak{S}_0, \mathfrak{I}_0)^\tau = (\pm \mathfrak{K}_1, \pm \mathfrak{K}_2, \pm \mathfrak{S}_0, \pm \mathfrak{I}_0),$$

and the signs must satisfy

$$\mathfrak{K}_1^\tau \mathfrak{K}_2^\tau = \mathfrak{K}_1 \mathfrak{K}_2, \quad \mathfrak{S}_0^\tau \mathfrak{I}_0^\tau = \mathfrak{S}_0 \mathfrak{I}_0$$

Thus every automorphism τ is given by

$$\mathfrak{X}^\tau = \theta(\mathfrak{X}) \mathfrak{X} \mathfrak{X}^{-1} \quad \text{for all } \mathfrak{X} \in \Gamma_4,$$

where $\mathfrak{X} \in \Delta_4$ and θ is a character of Γ_4 .

(vii) It will be shown in a future note by the author [9] that Γ_4 has exactly one nontrivial character θ , where θ is the map of Γ_4 into $\{\pm 1\}$ induced by

$$\theta(\mathfrak{K}_1) = \theta(\mathfrak{K}_2) = \theta(\mathfrak{S}_0) = \theta(\mathfrak{I}_0) = -1.$$

This fact, together with the preceding discussion, settles the question of automorphisms of Γ_4 . It will also be shown in the same note that Γ_{2n} , $n > 2$, has no nontrivial characters. This result will be needed in finding all automorphisms of Γ_{2n} .

5. Automorphisms of Γ_{2n} , $n > 2$. We are now ready to prove, by induction on n , the following result:

THEOREM 3. *For $n > 2$, every automorphism τ of Γ_{2n} is given by*

$$\mathfrak{X}^\tau = \mathfrak{X}\mathfrak{X}^{-1},$$

where $\mathfrak{X} \in \Delta_{2n}$ depends only on τ .

Proof. (i) Let $n \geq 3$; by the induction hypothesis and our previous results, we may assume that every automorphism σ of $\Gamma_{2(n-1)}$ is given by

$$X^\sigma = \theta(X) \cdot AXA^{-1},$$

where $A \in \Delta_{2(n-1)}$ and θ is a character of $\Gamma_{2(n-1)}$. Let τ be an automorphism of Γ_{2n} , and set

$$\mathfrak{B} = -I^{(2)} * I^{2(n-1)}.$$

We see from Theorem 2 that after changing τ by a suitable inner automorphism, we may take $\mathfrak{B}^\tau = \pm \mathfrak{B}$. The elements of Γ_{2n} which commute with \mathfrak{B} are of the form $Y_1 * Z_1$, $Y_1 \in \Gamma_2$, $Z_1 \in \Gamma_{2(n-1)}$, so that we have

$$(Y_1 * Z_1)^\tau = Y_2 * Z_2.$$

Again we set

$$\begin{aligned} (Y * I)^\tau &= Y^\alpha * Y^\beta && \text{for } Y \in \Gamma_2, \\ (I * Z)^\tau &= Z^\gamma * Z^\delta && \text{for } Z \in \Gamma_{2(n-1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Then Γ_2^α and $\Gamma_{2(n-1)}^\gamma$ commute elementwise, and Γ_2 is their product. As in §4, part (ii), we deduce that one of Γ_2^α , $\Gamma_{2(n-1)}^\gamma$ is Γ_2 , and the other is contained in $\{\pm I\}$.

(ii) For the moment set $\mathcal{A} = \Gamma_2^\beta$, $\mathcal{B} = \Gamma_{2(n-1)}^\delta$. Then \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} commute elementwise, and their product is $\Gamma_{2(n-1)}$. This shows that \mathcal{B} is a normal subgroup of $\Gamma_{2(n-1)}$. We shall show that $\mathcal{A} \subset \{\pm I\}$, $\mathcal{B} = \Gamma_{2(n-1)}$, and that δ is an automorphism.

For each involution $W \in \Gamma_{2(n-1)}$ we have $(W^\delta)^2 = I^\delta = I$. Suppose that $W^\delta = \pm I$ for every involution $W \in \Gamma_{2(n-1)}$; since the involutions in $\Gamma_{2(n-1)}$ generate all of $\Gamma_{2(n-1)}$ (this follows readily from [3]), this would mean that $\mathcal{B} \subset \{\pm I\}$, and so β would map Γ_2 homomorphically onto $\Gamma_{2(n-1)}$. We may then show that β is an isomorphism; for, suppose that $Y^\beta = I$, $Y \neq I$. Then

$$(Y * I)^\tau = Y^\alpha * I.$$

Since $\mathcal{B} \subset \{\pm I\}$, certainly $\Gamma_{2(n-1)}^\gamma$ is not contained in $\{\pm I\}$, and so $\Gamma_2^\alpha \subset \{\pm I\}$, that is, α is a character. Therefore $Y^\alpha = \pm I$. But $Y^\alpha = I$ is impossible, since then $(Y * I)^\tau = I^{(2n)}$ and $Y = I$. On the other hand, $Y^\alpha = -I$ is impossible, since in that case $(Y * I)^\tau = \mathfrak{B}$, so $(Y * I) = \pm \mathfrak{B}$. Therefore we would have $Y = -I$, and this gives a contradiction because $-I = S^2$, and α a character, together imply $(-I)^\alpha = I$. Therefore β is an isomorphism. However, this is itself impossible because Γ_2 has no involutions other than $\pm I$, whereas $\Gamma_{2(n-1)}$ has such involutions for $n > 2$.

We conclude from the above that there is at least one involution $W \in \Gamma_{2(n-1)}$

for which $W^b \neq \pm I$. However, \mathcal{B} is a normal subgroup of $\Gamma_{2(n-1)}$, and $W^b \in \mathcal{B}$. Therefore \mathcal{B} contains all of the conjugates of W^b in $\Gamma_{2(n-1)}$. It is not difficult to see that if $W^b \neq \pm I$, the only elements of $\Gamma_{2(n-1)}$ which commute element-wise with all conjugates of W^b are $\pm I$. Hence $\mathcal{A} \subset \{ \pm I \}$, and $\mathcal{B} = \Gamma_{2(n-1)}$. Consequently

$$(Y * Z)^\tau = \theta(Z)Y^\alpha * \lambda(Y)Z^\delta,$$

where θ and λ are characters, α is a homomorphism of Γ_2 onto itself, and δ a homomorphism of $\Gamma_{2(n-1)}$ onto itself. We deduce readily that α and δ are automorphisms, whence incidentally $\mathfrak{P}^\tau = \mathfrak{P}$.

By the discussion at the beginning of the proof, we know that there exist matrices $C \in \Omega_2$, $D \in \Delta_{2(n-1)}$, and characters μ, ν such that

$$Y^\alpha = \mu(Y)CYC^{-1}, \quad Z^\delta = \nu(Z)DZD^{-1}.$$

If $C * D \in \Delta_{2n}$, define τ_1 by

$$\mathfrak{X}^{\tau_1} = (C * D)^{-1} \mathfrak{X}^\tau (C * D),$$

so that

$$(Y * Z)^{\tau_1} = \theta(Z)\mu(Y)Y * \lambda(Y)\nu(Z)Z.$$

However, possibly $C * D \in \Delta_{2n}$. In that case, if $K = (-1) \dagger (1)$, then $CK * D \in \Delta_{2n}$, and we define τ_2 by

$$\mathfrak{X}^{\tau_2} = (CK * D)^{-1} \mathfrak{X}^\tau (CK * D).$$

Thus, changing notation, we may assume that

$$(11) \quad (Y * Z)^\tau = \theta(Z)\mu(Y)HYH^{-1} * \lambda(Y)\nu(Z)Z,$$

for any $Y \in \Gamma_2, Z \in \Gamma_{2(n-1)}$, where $\theta, \mu, \lambda, \nu$ are characters, and where either $H = I^{(2)}$ or $H = K$.

(iii) Suppose now that $Y \in \Gamma_2, Z \in \Gamma_{2(n-1)}$ are given by

$$Y = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}, \quad Z = \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then define $Y *^i Z$ to be the $2n \times 2n$ matrix \mathfrak{M} obtained by placing the elements of Y at the intersections of the i th and $(n+i)$ th rows and columns, filling in the remaining places in those rows and columns with 0's, and letting the matrix obtained from \mathfrak{M} by deleting the i th and $(n+i)$ th rows and columns be identical with Z . Then $Y *^i Z$ is a generalization of the previously defined symplectic direct sum, and in fact $Y *^1 Z = Y * Z$.

Now set

$$\mathfrak{P}_i = -I^{(2)} *^i I^{2(n-1)} = I^{(2)} * Q_i, \text{ say.}$$

Then Q_i is a square in $\Gamma_{2(n-1)}$ (since $-I = S^2$), and so from (11) we have

$$\mathfrak{F}_i^\tau = I * Q_i = \mathfrak{F}_i.$$

As before it then follows for $Y \in \Gamma_2, Z \in \Gamma_{2(n-1)}$ that

$$(12) \quad (Y *^i Z)^\tau = (F_i(Z) f_i(Y) A_i Y A_i^{-1}) *^i (g_i(Y) G_i(Z) B_i Z B_i^{-1}),$$

where $A_i \in \Omega_2, B_i \in \Delta_{2(n-1)}$, and F_i, f_i, g_i, G_i are characters.

(iv) Next let X and $Y \in \Gamma_2, Z \in \Gamma_{2(n-2)}$. Applying τ to both sides of the equation

$$X * (Y * Z) = Y *^2 (X * Z)$$

and using (12), we obtain

$$(13) \quad [F_1(Y * Z) f_1(X) A_1 X A_1^{-1}] * [g_1(X) G_1(Y * Z) B_1 (Y * Z) B_1^{-1}] \\ = [F_2(X * Z) f_2(Y) A_2 Y A_2^{-1}] *^2 [g_2(Y) G_2(X * Z) B_2 (X * Z) B_2^{-1}].$$

In particular for $X = -I, Y = I, Z = I$ this yields

$$B_2(-I * I) B_2^{-1} = -I * I,$$

so that

$$B_2 = \pm A_1 * C_2$$

and further

$$B_1 = \pm A_2 * \pm C_2.$$

We use these expressions for B_1 and B_2 in (13) and obtain

$$F_1(Y * Z) f_1(X) = g_2(Y) G_2(X * Z), \\ F_2(X * Z) f_2(Y) = g_1(X) G_1(Y * Z), \\ g_1(X) G_1(Y * Z) = g_2(Y) G_2(X * Z).$$

These imply that $f_1 = g_1$ and $f_2 = g_2$.

Continuing in this way we see that each B_i decomposes completely, and in fact if

$$\mathfrak{D} = A_1 * A_2 * \cdots * A_n,$$

then B_i is obtained from \mathfrak{D} by deleting A_i and possibly changing signs of some of the remaining A 's. Furthermore, if any $A_i \in \Delta'_2$, then every $A_i \in \Delta'_2$, since each $B_i \in \Delta_{2(n-1)}$. Therefore $\mathfrak{D} \in \Delta_{2n}$. After a further inner automorphism of Γ_{2n} by a factor of \mathfrak{D}^{-1} , we may assume hereafter that

$$(14) \quad (Y *^i Z)^\tau = f_i(Y) [F_i(Z) Y *^i G_i(Z) B_i Z B_i^{-1}]$$

for $Y \in \Gamma_2, Z \in \Gamma_{2(n-1)}$, where f_i, F_i and G_i are characters and each B_i is of the form $(\pm I) * \cdots * (\pm I)$, and in fact we may take $B_1 = I$.

(v) Define

$$U_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & 0 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad U_2 = T \dagger I^{(n-2)},$$

where T is given by (8). Then the generators of Γ_{2n} are (see [3]):

$$\mathfrak{R}_1 = U_1 \dagger U_1'^{-1}, \quad \mathfrak{R}_2 = U_2 \dagger U_2'^{-1}, \quad \mathfrak{I}_0 = T * I, \quad \mathfrak{S}_0 = S * I.$$

From (14) we find at once that

$$\mathfrak{I}_0^r = \pm \mathfrak{I}_0, \quad \mathfrak{S}_0^r = \pm \mathfrak{S}_0, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathfrak{S}_0^r \mathfrak{I}_0^r = \mathfrak{S}_0 \mathfrak{I}_0.$$

Next, the rotations of Γ_{2n} map onto rotations under τ , since the rotations are generated by the elements $Y *^i Z, i=1, \dots, n$, where Y and Z have the forms

$$Y = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & d \end{pmatrix}, \quad Z = \begin{pmatrix} A & 0 \\ 0 & D \end{pmatrix},$$

and the image of any such $Y *^i Z$ is of the same kind. Therefore τ induces an automorphism σ on the group Ω_n , where

$$\begin{pmatrix} V & 0 \\ 0 & V'^{-1} \end{pmatrix}^r = \begin{pmatrix} V^\sigma & 0 \\ 0 & (V^\sigma)^{-1} \end{pmatrix}.$$

We then know [4] that there exists $H \in \Omega_n$ such that

$$V^\sigma = HV^\omega H^{-1} \quad \text{for all } V \in \Omega_n,$$

where either $V^\omega = V$ for all V or $V^\omega = V'^{-1}$ for all V .

We know furthermore that τ maps every rotation \mathfrak{P}_i onto itself, from which we see that H is diagonal, with diagonal elements ± 1 's. Replace τ by τ_1 defined by

$$\mathfrak{P}_i^{\tau_1} = (H \dagger H) \mathfrak{P}_i (H \dagger H)$$

and change notation. We again have $\mathfrak{I}_0^r = \pm \mathfrak{I}_0, \mathfrak{S}_0^r = \pm \mathfrak{S}_0$, and $\mathfrak{S}_0^r \mathfrak{I}_0^r = \mathfrak{S}_0 \mathfrak{I}_0$, but now $V^\sigma = V^\omega$ for each $V \in \Omega_n$. The argument given in §4, parts (iii) and (iv) shows that $\mathfrak{R}_2^r = T'^{-1} \dagger T$ is impossible, so $V^\sigma = V$ for all $V \in \Omega_n$. Therefore τ is given by

$$(\mathfrak{R}_1, \mathfrak{R}_2, \mathfrak{I}_0, \mathfrak{S}_0)^r = (\mathfrak{R}_1, \mathfrak{R}_2, \pm \mathfrak{I}_0, \pm \mathfrak{S}_0).$$

However, as we have already mentioned, Γ_{2n} has no nontrivial character for $n \geq 3$. Hence $\mathfrak{I}_0^r = \mathfrak{I}_0, \mathfrak{S}_0^r = \mathfrak{S}_0$. This completes the proof of the theorem.

6. We remark finally that if $\mathfrak{M} \in \Gamma_{2n}$ is given by (3), then

$$\mathfrak{M}'^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} D & -C \\ -B & A \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I \\ -I & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -I \\ I & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

so the automorphism $\sigma: \mathfrak{M}^\sigma = \mathfrak{M}'^{-1}$ is inner.

Furthermore, any element of Δ_{2n} can be written as the product of an element of Γ_{2n} and $-I^{(n)} \dagger I^{(n)}$, so every automorphism of Γ_{2n} can be obtained by using inner automorphisms by elements in Γ_{2n} , coupled with the automorphism

$$\begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -I & 0 \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -I & 0 \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} A & -B \\ -C & D \end{pmatrix}.$$

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