

## 2. The Computation of the Degrees for Real Finite Reflection Groups

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- 3) Each  $G_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , is one of the groups described in Theorem 3.5.  
 $G$  is a Coxeter group iff  $V_0 = 0$ .

The proof of Theorem 3.6 is identical with that of Theorem 2.7. We simply observe that we may now choose the  $V_i$ 's to be mutually orthogonal.

## 2. THE COMPUTATION OF THE DEGREES FOR REAL FINITE REFLECTION GROUPS

Let  $G$  be a finite irreducible orthogonal reflection group acting on the  $n$ -dimensional Euclidean space  $R^n$ . Let  $F$  be a fundamental region as described in Theorem 3.3 and  $R_1, \dots, R_n$  the  $n$  reflections in the walls of  $F$ . We shall relate the degrees  $d_1, \dots, d_n$  of the basic homogeneous invariants to the eigenvalues of  $R_1 \dots R_n$ . We first prove

**THEOREM 3.7.** *Let  $\sigma(i)$  be any permutation of  $1, \dots, n$ . Then  $R_1 \dots R_n$  is conjugate to  $R_{\sigma(1)} \dots R_{\sigma(n)}$*

*Proof.* Observe that  $R_1 (R_1 \dots R_n) R_1 = R_2 \dots R_n R_1$  so that all cyclic permutations yield conjugate transformations. We may also permute any two adjacent  $R_i$ 's for which the corresponding walls are orthogonal, as the  $R_i$ 's then commute. Theorem 3.7 will then follow from the following

**LEMMA 3.1.** Let  $p_1, \dots, p_n$  be nodes of a tree  $T$ . Any circular arrangement of  $1, \dots, n$  can be obtained from a sequence of interchanges of pairs  $i, j$  which are adjacent on the circle and for which  $p_i, p_j$  are not linked in  $T$ .

*Proof of Lemma 3.1.* We proceed by induction, the result being obvious for  $n = 1$  or  $2$ . We may assume that  $p_n$  is an end node of the tree, i.e. it links to precisely one other node. We first rearrange  $1, \dots, n-1$  as we wish. To show that this can be done, we just consider the possibility ---  $inj$  --- where  $p_i, p_j$  are not linked. If  $p_i, p_n$  are not linked, then we interchange first  $i, n$  and then  $i, j$ , obtaining ---  $nji$  ---. If  $p_j, p_n$  are not linked, then we first interchange  $j, n$  and then  $j, i$ , obtaining ---  $j in$  ---. We may therefore arrange  $1, \dots, n-1$  in the desired order. Shifting  $n$  in one direction, which is permissible as  $n$  just fails to commute with one element, we obtain the desired arrangement of  $1, \dots, n$ .

In view of Theorem 3.7, the eigenvalues of  $R_1 \dots R_n$  are independent of the order in which the  $R_i$ 's appear. They are also independent of the particularly chosen  $F$ . For let  $F'$  be another fundamental region as described in Theorem 3.3. Then  $F' = \sigma F$ ,  $\sigma \in G$ . The reflections in the walls of  $F'$

are given by  $R'_i = \sigma R_i \sigma^{-1}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , so that  $R'_1 \dots R'_n = \sigma R_1 \dots R_n \sigma^{-1}$ . The main result of the present section is the following

**THEOREM 3.8** (Coleman [8]). *Let  $R_1 \dots R_n$  have order  $h$ . Let  $\zeta = e^{2\pi i/h}$ . The eigenvalues of  $R_1 \dots R_n$  are given by  $\zeta^{(d_j-1)}$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq n$ , the  $d_j$ 's being the degrees of the basic homogeneous invariants of  $G$ .*

Theorem 3.8. was first obtained by Coxeter [7], who verified this fact for each group listed in Theorem 3.5. Coleman [8] supplied a general proof, using the fact that the number of reflections  $= \frac{1}{2} nh$ . This fact, which was at first known only by individual verification [7], was proven by Steinberg [20]. In view of Theorem 3.8, the numbers  $m_j = d_j - 1$  are usually referred to as the exponents of the group  $G$ .

We begin by proving Steinberg's result, needed for the proof of Coleman's theorem. We require a preliminary lemma and employ the following terminology. Let  $A = (a_{ij})$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix with non-negative entries. We associate with  $A$  a graph  $\mathcal{G}$  consisting of  $n$  nodes, connecting the nodes  $i, j$  iff  $a_{ij} > 0$ .  $A$  is said to be connected iff  $\mathcal{G}$  is connected.

**LEMMA 3.2.** Let  $A = (a_{ij})$  be a symmetric connected matrix. The largest eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of  $A$  is positive and a corresponding eigenvector  $e$  can be chosen all of whose entries are positive.

**REMARK.** The above is a special case of a theorem of Frobenius concerning the eigenvalues of matrices with non-negative entries [13]. Indeed the symmetry of  $A$  is not required. This extraneous assumption permits for a somewhat simpler proof and suffices for our purposes.

*Proof.* Let  $Q(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_i x_j$  be the quadratic form associated with  $(a_{ij})$ . Then  $\lambda = \max_{\|x\|=1} Q(x) > 0$ , where  $\|x\|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2$ . Choose  $v = (v_1, \dots, v_n)$ ,  $\|v\| = 1$ , so that  $Q(v) = \lambda$  and let  $e = (e_1, \dots, e_n)$ , where  $e_i = |v_i|$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . Then  $e_i \geq 0$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , and  $\|e\| = 1$ . As all  $a_{ij} \geq 0$  and  $\|e\| = 1$ , we have  $\lambda = Q(v) \leq Q(e) \leq \lambda$ , so that  $Q(e) = \lambda$ . The latter implies  $Ae = \lambda e$ . It remains to show that each  $e_i > 0$ . Choose  $e_j > 0$ . Because of the connectivity assumption, we may choose  $i_1, \dots, i_r = j$  so that  $a_{i_1 j_1}, a_{j_1 j_2}, \dots, a_{j_{r-1} j}$  are all  $> 0$ . The relation  $\lambda e_{j_{r-1}} = \sum_{k=1}^n a_{j_{r-1} k} e_k$  shows that  $e_{j_{r-1}} > 0$ . Repeating this reasoning  $r$  times, we conclude that each  $e_i > 0$ .

THEOREM 3.9 (Steinberg [20]). Let  $h = \text{order of } R_1 \dots R_n$ ,  $r = \text{number of reflections in } G$ . Then  $r = \frac{nh}{2}$ .

*Proof.* We may label the walls of the fundamental region  $F$  so that  $W_1 \dots W_s$  are mutually perpendicular, and  $W_{s+1}, \dots, W_n$  are mutually perpendicular (I.e. if the nodes corresponding to  $W_1, \dots, W_s$  are black and those corresponding to  $W_{s+1}, \dots, W_n$  are white, then each black node is linked only to white nodes and conversely). Let  $E_1 = W_{s+1} \cap \dots \cap W_n$ ,  $E_2 = W_1 \cap \dots \cap W_s$ . Thus in terms of the dual basis  $\{r'_i\}$ ,  $E_1$  is the linear span of  $r'_1, \dots, r'_s$  and  $E_2$  the linear span of  $r'_{s+1}, \dots, r'_n$ . Let  $S = R_{s+1} \dots R_n$ ,  $T = R_1, \dots, R_s$  and denote the orthogonal complement of  $E_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , by  $E_i^\perp$ . The restriction of  $S$  to  $E_1$ , denoted by  $S_{E_1}$ , is the identity  $r_{s+1}, \dots, r_n$  form a basis for  $E_1^\perp$ . Since they are orthogonal to each other,  $R_i r_j = 0$  for  $i \neq j$ ,  $s+1 \leq i, j \leq n$ , so that  $S_{E_1}^\perp = - \text{identity}$ . Similarly  $T_{E_2} = \text{identity}$ ,  $T_{E_2}^\perp = - \text{identity}$ . We require the following

LEMMA 3.3. Let  $G_0$  be the  $n \times n$  matrix  $((r_i, r_j))$  and  $I$  the  $n \times n$  identity matrix.  $I - G_0$  is connected. Thus, by Lemma 3.2,  $I - G_0$  has a biggest positive eigenvalue  $\lambda$  and a corresponding eigenvector  $e$  with positive entries. Let  $\sigma = \sum_{i=1}^s e_i r'_i$ ,  $\tau = \sum_{i=s+1}^n e_i r'_i$ . The plane  $\pi$ , determined by  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$ , has non-trivial intersection with  $E_1^\perp$  and  $E_2^\perp$ . It follows that  $S_\pi(T_\pi)$  is a reflection of  $\pi$  in the line through  $\sigma$  ( $\tau$ ).

*Proof.* The entries of  $I - G_0$  are  $\geq 0$ , as  $(r_i, r_j) \leq 0$  whenever  $i \neq j$ . The irreducibility of  $G$  is equivalent to saying that  $I - G_0$  is connected. Let

$$G_0 = \begin{pmatrix} I & A \\ A' & I \end{pmatrix}, \quad G_0^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} B & C \\ C' & D \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $A, C$  are  $s \times n - s$  matrices (we use  $I$  to denote the identity matrix for various degrees; here degree  $I = s$ ). The relations  $r_i = \sum_{j=1}^n (r_i, r_j) r'_j$ ,  $r'_i = \sum_{j=1}^n (r'_i, r'_j) r_j$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , show that  $G_0^{-1} = ((r'_i, r'_j))$ . Since  $G_0^{-1} G_0 = I$ , we have

$$(3.1) \quad BA + C = C' + DA' = 0$$

Let  $e^1$  be the vector consisting of the first  $s$  components of  $e$ ,  $e^2$  the vector

<sup>1</sup>) Geometrically, the directions of  $\sigma$ ,  $\tau$  are those in  $E_1, E_2$  which produce the smallest angle. To prove this, one solves this minimum problem by the method of multipliers. Lagrange's equations lead to (3.2.).



consisting of the last  $n - s$  components of  $e$ . The equation  $(I - G_0) e = \lambda e$  becomes

$$(3.2) \quad A e^2 + \lambda e^1 = A' e^1 + \lambda e^2 = 0.$$

(3.1), (3.2) imply

$$(3.3) \quad \lambda B e^1 - C e^2 = \lambda D e^2 - C' e^1 = 0.$$

Let  $\sigma = \sum_{i=1}^s e_i r'_i$ ,  $\tau = \sum_{i=s+1}^n e_i r'_i$ . (3.3) may be rewritten as

$$(3.4) \quad \begin{aligned} r'_i \cdot (\lambda \sigma - \tau) &= 0, \quad 1 \leq i \leq s, \\ r'_i \cdot (\lambda \tau - \sigma) &= 0, \quad s + 1 \leq i \leq n. \end{aligned}$$

The vectors  $\lambda \sigma - \tau$ ,  $\lambda \tau - \sigma$  are  $\neq 0$  and in  $\pi$ . (3.4) states that  $\lambda \sigma - \tau \in E_1^\perp$ ,  $\lambda \tau - \sigma \in E_2^\perp$ . Since  $\sigma \in E_1$ ,  $\sigma' = \lambda \sigma - \tau \in E_1^\perp$ , we have  $S(\sigma) = \sigma$ ,  $S(\sigma') = -\sigma'$ . I.e.  $S_\pi$  is a reflection in the line through  $\sigma$ . Similarly,  $T_\pi$  is a reflection in the line through  $\tau$ .

We now return to the proof of Theorem 3.9. Let  $H$  be the subgroup generated by  $S, T$ .  $H_\pi$  is the group generated by  $S_\pi, T_\pi$ . Let

$$F_0 = \{v \mid v = x\sigma + y\tau, x, y > 0\} = F \cap \pi.$$

$F_0$  is a fundamental region for  $H_\pi$ . For let  $\gamma \in H$ ,  $\gamma_\pi \neq I$ . Then  $\gamma \neq I$  and we have  $\gamma_\pi F \cap F = \gamma F \cap F \cap \pi = \Phi$ .  $R_\pi$  is a rotation of  $\pi$  through twice the angle between  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$ . We show that  $\text{ord } R_\pi = h$ . For let  $\text{ord } R_\pi = k$ . Since  $R^h = I$ ,  $R_\pi^h = I$ , we have  $k \leq h$ . Choose  $p \in F_0$ .  $R^k(p) = R_\pi^k(p) = p$  so that  $R^k F \cap F \neq \Phi \Rightarrow R^k = I \Rightarrow h \leq k$ . Thus

$h = k$ . It follows that  $F_0$  is an angular wedge of angular width  $\frac{2\pi}{h}$  and

$H_\pi$  is a dihedral group of order  $2h$ . The  $h$  transforms of  $\sigma$  are contained in precisely  $(n-s)$  r.h.'s. The  $h$  transforms of  $\tau$  are contained in precisely  $s$  r.h.'s. Every r.h. of  $G$  has a non-trivial intersection with  $\pi$ . Since each of the transforms of  $F_0$  is contained in a chamber of  $G$  and each chamber is free of r.h.'s, these r.h.'s meet  $\pi$  only at the transforms of  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$ . Counting the r.h.'s at the transforms of  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$ , we obtain the count  $hs + h(n-s) = hn$ . Each r.h. is however counted twice, as it intersects  $\pi$  in a line and

thus meets two of the  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$  transforms. Hence  $r = \frac{hn}{2}$ .

As a by product of the above proof, we obtain the following result required to establish Theorem 3.8.

THEOREM 3.10.  $\zeta = e^{2\pi i/h}$  is an eigenvalue of  $R$ . Corresponding to  $\zeta$ , we may choose an eigenvector  $v$  not lying in any r.h. (Note: if  $v$  is complex, then  $v$  is said to lie in the r.h.  $\pi$  iff  $L(v) = 0$ ,  $L(x) = 0$  being the equation of  $\pi$ ).

*Proof.* Assume first that the  $R_i$ 's are labeled as in the proof of Theorem 3.9; i.e. the walls  $W_1, \dots, W_s$  are mutually perpendicular as are also  $W_{s+1}, \dots, W_n$ . Let  $\pi$  be the plane of Lemma 3.3. We choose two orthonormal vectors  $v_1, v_2$  in  $\pi$  such that  $v_1$  is not contained in any r.h. of  $G$  and

$$(3.5) \quad \begin{aligned} R(v_1) &= \cos \frac{2\pi}{h} v_1 + \sin \frac{2\pi}{h} v_2 \\ R(v_2) &= -\sin \frac{2\pi}{h} v_1 + \cos \frac{2\pi}{h} v_2 \end{aligned}$$

Let  $v = v_1 - iv_2$ . We conclude from (3.5) that  $R(v) = e^{2i\pi/h} v$ . Thus  $v$  is an eigenvector corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\zeta = e^{2i\pi/h}$ .  $v$  is not in any r.h. of  $G$  as  $v_1$  is not in any r.h. of  $G$ .

For an arbitrary labeling of indices, choose a permutation  $i_1, \dots, i_n$  of  $1, \dots, n$  so that the above reasoning applies to  $R' = R_{i_1} \dots R_{i_n}$ . By Theorem 3.7.  $R = R_1 \dots R_n = \sigma R' \sigma^{-1}$  for some  $\sigma \in G$ . Hence  $R(\sigma v) = \zeta(\sigma v)$ . Since the r.h.'s are permuted by  $\sigma$ , we conclude that  $\sigma v$  is also not contained in any r.h. of  $G$ .

We also require

THEOREM 3.11. 1 is not an eigenvalue of  $R$ .

REMARK. In Theorem 3.12 we obtain the characteristic equation of  $R$ , from which we may obtain Theorem 3.11. The following proof is shorter and avoids any explicit matrix representation for  $R$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\pi$  be the r.h. corresponding to the root  $r$  and  $\sigma$  the reflection in  $\pi$ . Then  $v' = \sigma v$  becomes

$$(3.6) \quad v' = v - 2(v, r)r$$

Suppose that  $R_1 \dots R_n v = v$ ,  $\Leftrightarrow R_2 \dots R_n v = R_1 v$ . Repeated application of (3.6) shows that  $R_2 \dots R_n v = v + \lambda_2 r_2 + \dots + \lambda_n r_n$ ,  $\lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$  being real numbers depending on  $v$ . Hence

$$(3.7) \quad v + \lambda_2 r_2 + \dots + \lambda_n r_n = v - 2(v, r_1)r_1$$

Since  $r_1, \dots, r_n$  are linearly independent we must have  $(v, r_1) = 0 \Leftrightarrow R_1 v = v$ , so that  $R_2 \dots R_n v = v$ . Repeating the reasoning, we con-

clude  $(v, r_i) = 0, 1 \leq i \leq n, \Rightarrow v = 0$ . Thus 1 is not an eigenvalue of  $R_1 \dots R_n$ .

We can now provide the

*Proof of Theorem 3.8.* Let  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  be linearly independent eigenvectors of  $R$  with  $v_1$  chosen as in Theorem 3.10; i.e.  $v_1$  corresponds to the eigenvalue  $\zeta = e^{2i\pi/h}$  and does not lie in any r.h. of  $G$ . Let  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  be a coordinate system adapted to  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ . As  $R^h = I$ , all eigenvalues of  $R$  are  $h$ -th roots of  $I$ . By Theorem 3.11, 1 is not an eigenvalue of  $R$ . Hence the eigenvalues of  $R$  are  $\zeta^{m_1}, \dots, \zeta^{m_n}$  where  $m_1 = 1$  and  $1 \leq m_1 \leq \dots \leq m_n = h - 1, 1 \leq i \leq n$ .  $R$  is given by  $x'_i = \zeta^{m_i} x_i, 1 \leq i \leq n$ .

Let  $I_1, \dots, I_n$  be a basic set of homogeneous invariants of  $G$  of respective degrees  $d_1 \leq \dots \leq d_n$ . By Theorem 2.5,

$$J = \frac{\partial (I_1, \dots, I_n)}{\partial (x_1, \dots, x_n)} \neq 0$$

off the r.h.'s of  $G$ . Hence  $J \neq 0$  whenever  $x = (x_1, 0, \dots, 0), x_1 \neq 0$ . It follows that there exists a permutation  $j = j(i)$  of 1 to  $n$  such that

$$\frac{\partial I_i}{\partial x_j}(x_1, 0, \dots, 0) \neq 0$$

for  $x_1 \neq 0$  and  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . This means that the  $x_1^{d_i-1}$  coefficient of

$$\frac{\partial I_i}{\partial x_j} \neq 0 \Rightarrow x_1^{d_i-1} x_j$$

coefficient of  $I_i \neq 0, 1 \leq i \leq n$ . Hence each  $x_1^{d_i-1} x_j$  is invariant under  $R$ . I.e.

$$(3.8) \quad (d_i - 1) + m_j \equiv 0 \pmod{h}, 1 \leq i \leq n$$

Rewrite (3.8) as

$$(3.9) \quad d_i - 1 = (h - m_j) + \varepsilon_i h, 1 \leq i \leq n$$

where each  $\varepsilon_i$  is an integer  $\geq 0$ . Let  $m'_j = h - m_j$ . The eigenvalues of  $R$  occur in pairs, so that the set of numbers  $\{m'_j\}$  is identical with  $\{m_j\}$ . Summing both sides of (3.9) from  $i = 1$  to  $i = n$ , we get

$$(3.10) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n (d_i - 1) = \sum_{j=1}^n m'_j + \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \varepsilon_i \right) h$$

By Theorem 2.2,  $\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i - 1) = r$ . Since

$$(3.11) \quad \sum_{j=1}^n m_j' = \sum_{j=1}^n (h - m_j) = nh - \sum_{j=1}^n m_j',$$

we also have  $\sum_{j=1}^n m_j' = \frac{nh}{2}$ . We conclude from Theorem 3.9 that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (d_i - 1) = \sum_{j=1}^n m_j'. \quad (3.10) \text{ shows that } \sum_{i=1}^n \varepsilon_i = 0 \Rightarrow \varepsilon_i = 0, 1 \leq i \leq n.$$

It follows from (3.9) that  $d_i - 1 = m_i, 1 \leq i \leq n$ .

To make effective use of Coleman's Theorem, we need the explicit expression for the characteristic equation of  $R$ .

**THEOREM 3.12** (Coxeter [5], p. 218). *The characteristic equation of  $R = R_1 \dots R_n$  is given by*

$$(3.12) \quad \begin{vmatrix} \frac{1+\lambda}{2} & \lambda a_{12} & \dots & \lambda a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & \frac{1+\lambda}{2} & \lambda a_{23} & \dots & \lambda a_{2n} \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ a_{n1} & \dots & a_{n,n-1} & \frac{1+\lambda}{2} \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

where  $a_{ij} = -\cos(\pi/p_{ij}), 1 \leq i, j \leq n$ .

*Proof.* Let  $v = \sigma v'$  where  $\sigma$  is a reflection in the r.h. perpendicular to the root  $r$ .

Then

$$(3.13) \quad v = v' - 2(v' \cdot r) r$$

We use (3.13) to obtain the matrix for  $R_j$  relative to the basis  $r'_1, \dots, r'_n$ .

Let  $v = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i r'_i, v' = \sum_{i=1}^n x'_i r'_i$ . Then  $v' \cdot r_j = x'_j, r_j = \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij} r'_i$ .

Substituting into (3.13), we get

$$(3.14) \quad v = R_j v' \Leftrightarrow x_i = x'_i - 2a_{ij} x'_j, 1 \leq i \leq n$$

Let

$$v = R_1 v^{(1)}, v^{(1)} = R_2 v^{(2)}, \dots, v^{(n-1)} = R_n v^{(n)}$$

so that  $v = R_1 \dots R_n v^{(n)}$ . Suppose that  $v^{(j)} = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^{(j)} r'_i, 1 \leq j \leq n$ .

We conclude from (3.14) that

$$(3.15) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x_i = x_i' - 2a_{i1} x_1' \\ x_i' = x_i'' - 2a_{i2} x_2'' \\ \dots\dots\dots, 1 \leq i \leq n \\ x_i^{(n-1)} = x_i^{(n)} - 2a_{in} x_n^{(n)} \end{array} \right.$$

Let  $y_i = x_i^{(k)}, 1 \leq i \leq n$ . For each  $i$  we rewrite (3.15) as

$$(3.16) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x_i' - x_i = 2a_{i1} y_1 \\ x_i'' - x_i' = 2a_{i2} y_2 \\ \dots\dots\dots \\ y_i - x_i^{(i-1)} = 2a_{ii} y_i \end{array} \right. \quad (3.17) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} x_i^{(i+1)} - y_i = 2a_{i,i+1} y_{i+1} \\ x_i^{(i+2)} - x_i^{(i+1)} = 2a_{i,i+2} y_{i+2} \\ \dots\dots\dots \\ x_i^{(n)} - x_i^{(n-1)} = 2a_{in} y_n \end{array} \right.$$

Adding up respectively the equations in (3.16), and (3.17), we obtain

$$(3.18) \quad -x_i = \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} 2a_{ij} y_j + y_i, 1 \leq i \leq n$$

$$(3.19) \quad x_i^{(n)} = \sum_{j=i+1}^n 2a_{ij} y_j + y_i, 1 \leq i \leq n$$

(3.18), (3.19) may be abbreviated as

$$(3.20) \quad -x = Ay, x^{(n)} = A' y$$

where

$$(3.21) \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & & \\ 2a_{21} & & & & \\ . & 1 & & & \\ . & . & . & & \\ . & . & . & . & \\ 2a_{n1} & . & . & 2a_{n, n-1} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

the entries above the diagonal being zero.

Hence  $x = -A(A')^{-1} x^{(n)}$ , so that  $-A(A')^{-1}$  is the matrix for  $R = R_1 \dots R_n$  relative to the basis  $r'_1, \dots, r'_n$ . The characteristic equation for  $R$  is thus given by

$$(3.22) \quad | -A(A')^{-1} - \lambda I | = 0 \Leftrightarrow \left| \frac{A + \lambda A'}{2} \right| = 0$$

which is the same as (3.12).

We rewrite the characteristic equation in a more symmetric form. Suppose first that  $G$  is of type  $I$ . We label nodes of the graphs in diagram 3.2 from left to right as  $1, \dots, n$ . Thus  $a_{ij} = 0$  whenever  $|j - i| > 1$ . Multiplying first the  $i$ -th row of the determinant in (3.12) by  $\lambda^{(i-1)/2}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , then the  $j$ -th column by  $\lambda^{-j/2}$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq n$ , we get

$$(3.23) \quad \begin{vmatrix} A & & & \\ & \cdot & & a_{ij} \\ & & \cdot & \\ & & & \cdot \\ a_{ij} & & & \\ & & & A \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

where  $A = \frac{\lambda^{1/2} + \lambda^{-1/2}}{2}$

If  $G$  is of type  $II$ , then the nodes on the principal chain are labeled from left to right as  $1$  to  $n - 1$ , the remaining node being labeled  $n$ . The  $n^{\text{th}}$  node is linked to the  $q^{\text{th}}$  node. Let  $i' = i, j' = j$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq n - 1$ , and  $i' = j' = q + 1$  whenever  $i$  or  $j = n$ . Multiply first the  $i$ -th row of the determinant in (3.12) by  $\lambda^{\frac{i'-1}{2}}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , then the  $j$ -th column by  $\lambda^{-j'/2}$ . We obtain again (3.23). We have proven

**COROLLARY.** *The characteristic equation of  $R$  is given by (3.23).*

We illustrate the use of Coleman's Theorem by computing the  $d_i$ 's for the icosahedral group  $I_3$ . In this case the characteristic equation (3.23) becomes

$$(3.24) \quad \begin{vmatrix} A & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2} & A & -\cos \frac{\pi}{5} \\ 0 & -\cos \frac{\pi}{5} & A \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

The roots of (3.24) are readily computed to be  $\zeta = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{10}}, \zeta^5, \zeta^9$ . It follows from Coleman's Theorem that  $d_1 = 2, d_2 = 6, d_3 = 10$ .