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

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3) Each $G_{i}, \quad 1 \leqslant i \leqslant k$, 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 $V_{i}^{\prime}$ 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 $R_{1}, \ldots, R_{n}$ the $n$ reflections in the walls of $F$. We shall relate the degrees $d_{1}, \ldots, d_{n}$ of the basic homogeneous invariants to the eigenvalues of $R_{1} \ldots R_{n}$. We first prove

Theorem 3.7. Let $\sigma(i)$ be any permutation of $1, \ldots, n$. Then $R_{1} \ldots R_{n}$ is conjugate to $R_{\sigma(1)} \ldots R_{\sigma(n)}$

Proof. Observe that $R_{1}\left(R_{1} \ldots R_{n}\right) R_{1}=R_{2} \ldots R_{n} R_{1}$ so that all cyclic permutations yield conjugate transformations. We may also permute any two adjacent $R_{i}^{\prime}$ s for which the corresponding walls are orthogonal, as the $R_{i}^{\prime} \mathrm{s}$ then commute. Theorem 3.7 will then follow from the following

Lemma 3.1. Let $p_{1}, \ldots, p_{n}$ be nodes of a tree $T$. Any circular arrangement of $1, \ldots, n$ 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 $1, \ldots, n-1$ 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 $--n j i-\cdots$. If $p_{j}, p_{n}$ are not linked, then we first interchange $j, n$ and then $j, i$, obtaining $--j i n--$. We may therefore arrange $1, \ldots, n-1$ 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 $1, \ldots, n$.

In view of Theorem 3.7, the eigenvalues of $R_{1} \ldots R_{n}$ are independent of the order in which the $R_{i}$ 's appear. They are also independent of the particularly chosen $F$. For let $F^{\prime}$ be another fundamental region as described in Theorem 3.3. Then $F^{\prime}=\sigma F, \sigma \in G$. The reflections in the walls of $F^{\prime}$
are given by $R_{i}^{\prime}=\sigma R_{i} \sigma^{-1}, 1 \leqslant i \leqslant n$, so that $R_{1}^{\prime} \ldots R_{n}^{\prime}=\sigma R_{1} \ldots R_{n} \sigma^{-1}$. The main result of the present section is the following

Theorem 3.8 (Coleman [8]). Let $R_{1} \ldots R_{n}$ have order $h$. Let $\zeta=$ $e^{2 \pi i / h}$. The eigenvalues of $R_{1} \ldots R_{n}$ are given by $\zeta^{\left(d_{j}-1\right)}, 1 \leqslant j \leqslant n$, the $d_{j}^{\prime} s$ 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 $=\frac{1}{2} n h$. 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 $A=\left(a_{i j}\right)$ be an $n \times n$ matrix with non-negative entries. We associate with $A$ a graph $\mathscr{G}$ consisting of $n$ nodes, connecting the nodes $i, j$ iff $a_{i j}>0$. $A$ is said to be connected iff $\mathscr{G}$ is connected.

Lemma 3.2. Let $A=\left(a_{i j}\right)$ 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 $Q(x)=\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} a_{i j} x_{i} x_{j}$ be the quadratic form associated with $\left(a_{i j}\right)$. Then $\lambda=\operatorname{Max}_{\|x\|=1} Q(x)>0$, where $\|x\|^{2}=\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{i}^{2}$. Choose $v=\left(v_{1}, \ldots, v_{n}\right),\|v\|=1$, so that $Q(v)=\lambda$ and let $e=\left(e_{1}, \ldots, e_{n}\right)$, where $e_{i}=\left|v_{i}\right|, 1 \leqslant i \leqslant n$. Then $e_{i} \geqslant 0,1 \leqslant i \leqslant n$, and $\|e\|=1$. As all $a_{i j} \geqslant 0$ and $\|e\|=1$, we have $\lambda=Q(v) \leqslant Q(e) \leqslant \lambda$, so that $Q(e)$ $=\lambda$. The latter implies $A e=\lambda e$. It remains to show that each $e_{i}>0$. Choose $e_{j}>0$. Because of the connectivity assumption, we may choose $i_{1}, \ldots, j_{r}=j$ so that $a_{i j_{1}}, a_{j_{1} j_{2}}, \ldots, a_{j_{r-1}, j}$ 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 $h=$ order of $R_{1} \ldots R_{n}, \quad r=$ number of reflections in $G$. Then $r=\frac{n h}{2}$.

Proof. We may label the walls of the fundamental region $F$ so that $W_{1} \ldots W_{s}$ are mutually perpendicular, and $W_{s+1}, \ldots, W_{n}$ are mutually perpendicular (I.e. if the nodes corresponding to $W_{1}, \ldots, W_{s}$ are black and those corresponding to $W_{s+1}, \ldots, W_{n}$ are white, then each black node is linked only to white nodes and conversely). Let $E_{1}=W_{s+1} \cap \ldots \cap W_{n}$, $E_{2}=W_{1} \cap \ldots \cap W_{s}$. Thus in terms of the dual basis $\left\{r_{i}^{\prime}\right\}, E_{1}$ is the linear span of $r_{1}^{\prime}, \ldots, r_{s}^{\prime}$ and $E_{2}$ the linear span of $r_{s+1}^{\prime}, \ldots, r_{n}^{\prime}$. Let $\mathrm{S}=R_{s+1} \ldots R_{n}$, $T=R_{1}, \ldots, R_{s}$ 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 $r_{s+1}, \ldots, r_{n}$ form a basis for $E_{1}^{\perp}$. Since they are orthogonal to each other, $R_{i} r_{j}=0$ for $i \neq j, s+1 \leqslant i, j \leqslant n$, so that $S_{E_{1}}^{\perp}=-$ identity. Similarly $T_{E_{2}}$ $=$ identity, $T_{E_{2}}^{\perp}=-$ identity. We require the following

Lemma 3.3. Let $G_{0}$ be the $n \times n$ matrix $\left(\left(r_{i}, r_{j}\right)\right)$ 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 $\left.\sigma=\sum_{i=1}^{s} e_{i} r_{i}^{\prime}, \tau=\sum_{i=s+1}^{n} e_{i} r_{i}^{\prime}{ }^{1}\right)$. The plane $\pi$, determined by $\sigma$ and $\tau$, has non-trivial intersection with $E_{1}^{\perp}$ and $E_{2}^{\perp}$. It follows that $S_{\pi}\left(T_{\pi}\right)$ is a reflection of $\pi$ in the line through $\sigma(\tau)$.

Proof. The entries of $I-G_{0}$ are $\geqslant 0$, as $\left(r_{i}, r_{j}\right) \leqslant 0$ whenever $i \neq j$. The irreducibility of $G$ is equivalent to saying that $I-G_{0}$ is connected. Let

$$
G_{0}=\left(\begin{array}{cc}
I & A \\
A^{\prime} & I
\end{array}\right), G_{0}^{-1}=\left(\begin{array}{c}
B \\
C \\
C^{\prime} D
\end{array}\right)
$$

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 $r_{i}=\sum_{j=1}^{n}\left(r_{i}, r_{j}\right) r_{j}^{\prime}$, $r_{i}^{\prime}=\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(r_{i}^{\prime}, r_{j}^{\prime}\right) r_{j}, 1 \leqslant i \leqslant n$, show that $G_{0}^{-1}=\left(\left(r_{i}^{\prime}, r_{j}^{\prime}\right)\right)$. Since $G_{0}^{-1} G_{0}$ $=I$, we have

$$
\begin{equation*}
B A+C=C^{\prime}+D A^{\prime}=0 \tag{3.1}
\end{equation*}
$$

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

[^0]consisting of the last $n-s$ components of $e$. The equation $\left(I-G_{0}\right) e=\lambda e$ becomes
\[

$$
\begin{equation*}
A e^{2}+\lambda e^{1}=A^{\prime} e^{1}+\lambda e^{2}=0 \tag{3.2}
\end{equation*}
$$

\]

(3.1), (3.2) imply

$$
\begin{equation*}
\lambda B e^{1}-C e^{2}=\lambda D e^{2}-C^{\prime} e^{1}=0 \tag{3.3}
\end{equation*}
$$

Let $\sigma=\sum_{1=1}^{s} e_{i} r_{i}^{\prime}, \tau=\sum_{i=s+1}^{n} e_{i} r_{i}^{\prime}$. (3.3) may be rewritten as

$$
\begin{align*}
& r_{i}^{\prime} \cdot(\lambda \sigma-\tau)=0, \quad 1 \leqslant i \leqslant s,  \tag{3.4}\\
& r_{i}^{\prime} \cdot(\lambda \tau-\sigma)=0, \quad s+1 \leqslant i \leqslant n .
\end{align*}
$$

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 $\sigma \in E_{1}, \sigma^{\prime}=\lambda \sigma-\tau \in E_{1}^{\perp}$, we have $S(\sigma)=\sigma, S\left(\sigma^{\prime}\right)=-\sigma^{\prime}$. 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 ord $R_{\pi}=h$. For let ord $R_{\pi}=k$. Since $R^{h}=I, R_{\pi}^{h}=I$, we have $k \leqslant h$. Choose $p \in F_{0}$. $R^{k}(p)=R_{\pi}^{k}(p)=p$ so that $R^{k} F \cap F \neq \Phi \Rightarrow R^{k}=I \Rightarrow h \leqslant k$. 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 $2 h$. 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 $h s+h(n-s)$ $=h n$. 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 $r=\frac{h n}{2}$.

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 $\mathrm{R}_{i}^{\prime} \mathrm{s}$ are labeled as in the proof of Theorem 3.9; i.e. the walls $W_{1}, \ldots, W_{s}$ are mutually perpendicular as are also $W_{s+1}, \ldots, W_{n}$. 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

$$
\begin{align*}
& R\left(v_{1}\right)=\cos \frac{2 \pi}{h} v_{1}+\sin \frac{2 \pi}{h} v_{2} \\
& R\left(v_{2}\right)=-\sin \frac{2 \pi}{h} v_{1}+\cos \frac{2 \pi}{h} v_{2} \tag{3.5}
\end{align*}
$$

Let $v=v_{1}-i v_{2}$. We conclude from (3.5) that $R(v)=e^{2 i \pi / h} v$. Thus $v$ is an eigenvector corresponding to the eigenvalue $\zeta=e^{2 i \pi / h} . v$ 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 $i_{1}, \ldots, i_{n}$ of $1, \ldots, n$ so that the above reasoning applies to $R^{\prime}=R_{i_{1}} \ldots R_{i_{n}}$. By Theorem 3.7. $R=R_{1} \ldots R_{n}=\sigma R^{\prime} \sigma^{-1}$ 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 $v^{\prime}=\sigma v$ becomes

$$
\begin{equation*}
v^{\prime}=v-2(v, r) r \tag{3.6}
\end{equation*}
$$

Suppose that $R_{1} \ldots R_{n} v=v, \Leftrightarrow R_{2} \ldots R_{n} v=R_{1} v$. Repeated application of (3.6) shows that $R_{2} \ldots R_{n} v=v+\lambda_{2} r_{2}+\ldots+\lambda_{n} r_{n}, \lambda_{2}, \ldots, \lambda_{n}$ being real numbers depending on $v$. Hence

$$
\begin{equation*}
v+\lambda_{2} r_{2}+\ldots+\lambda_{n} r_{n}=v-2\left(v, r_{1}\right) r_{1} \tag{3.7}
\end{equation*}
$$

Since $r_{1}, \ldots, r_{n}$ are linearly independent we must have $\left(v, r_{1}\right)=0$ $\Leftrightarrow R_{1} v=v$, so that $R_{2} \ldots R_{n} v=v$. Repeating the reasoning, we con-
clude $\left(v, r_{i}\right)=0,1 \leqslant i \leqslant n, \Rightarrow v=0$. Thus 1 is not an eigenvalue of $R_{1} \ldots R_{n}$.

We can now provide the
Proof of Theorem 3.8. Let $v_{1}, \ldots, v_{n}$ be linearly independent eigenvectors of $R$ with $v_{1}$ chosenas in Theorem 3.10; i.e. $v_{1}$ corresponds to the eigenvalue $\zeta=e^{2 i \pi / h}$ and does not lie in any r.h. of $G$. Let $x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}$ be a coordinate system adapted to $v_{1}, \ldots, v_{n}$. 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 $\zeta^{m_{1}}, \ldots, \zeta^{m_{n}}$ where $m_{1}=1$ and $1 \leqslant m_{1} \leqslant \ldots \leqslant m_{n}$ $=h-1,1 \leqslant i \leqslant n . R$ is given by $x_{i}^{\prime}=\zeta^{m_{i}} x_{i}, 1 \leqslant i \leqslant n$.

Let $I_{1}, \ldots, I_{n}$ be a basic set of homogeneous invariants of $G$ of respective degrees $d_{1} \leqslant \ldots \leqslant d_{n}$. By Theorem 2.5,

$$
J=\frac{\partial\left(I_{1}, \ldots, I_{n}\right)}{\partial\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)} \neq 0
$$

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

$$
\frac{\partial I_{i}}{\partial x_{j}}\left(x_{1}, 0, \ldots, 0\right) \neq 0
$$

for $x_{1} \neq 0$ and $1 \leqslant i \leqslant n$. 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 $I_{i} \neq 0,1 \leqslant i \leqslant n$. Hence each $x_{1}^{d_{i}-1} x_{j}$ is invariant under $R$. I.e.

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(d_{i}-1\right)+m_{j} \equiv 0(\bmod h), 1 \leqslant i \leqslant n \tag{3.8}
\end{equation*}
$$

Rewrite (3.8) as

$$
\begin{equation*}
d_{i}-1=\left(h-m_{j}\right)+\varepsilon_{i} h, 1 \leqslant i \leqslant n \tag{3.9}
\end{equation*}
$$

where each $\varepsilon_{i}$ is an integer $\geqslant 0$. Let $m_{j}^{\prime}=h-m_{j}$. The eigenvalues of $R$ occur in pairs, so that the set of numbers $\left\{m_{j}^{\prime}\right\}$ is identical with $\left\{m_{j}\right\}$. Summing both sides of (3.9) from $i=1$ to $i=n$, we get

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(d_{i}-1\right)=\sum_{j=1}^{n} m_{j}^{\prime}+\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \varepsilon_{i}\right) h \tag{3.10}
\end{equation*}
$$

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

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{j=1}^{n} m_{j}^{\prime}=\sum_{j=1}^{n}\left(h-m_{j}\right)=n h-\sum_{j=1}^{n} m_{j}^{\prime}, \tag{3.11}
\end{equation*}
$$

we also have $\sum_{j=1}^{n} m_{j}^{\prime}=\frac{n h}{2}$. We conclude from Theorem 3.9 that $\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(d_{i}-1\right)=\sum_{j=1}^{n} m_{j}^{\prime}$. (3.10) shows that $\sum_{i=1}^{n} \varepsilon_{i}=0 \Rightarrow \varepsilon_{i}=0,1 \leqslant i \leqslant n$. It follows from (3.9) that $d_{i}-1=m_{i}, 1 \leqslant i \leqslant n$.

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 $R=R_{1} \ldots R_{n}$ is given by
(3.12)

| $\frac{1+\lambda}{2}$ $\lambda a_{12}$ $\ldots$ $\lambda a_{1 n}$ <br> $a_{21}$ $\frac{1+\lambda}{2}$ $\lambda a_{23} \ldots \lambda a_{2 n}$  <br> $\ldots \ldots$. $\ldots .$.   |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $a_{n 1}$ | $\ldots$ | $a_{n, n-1}$ | $\frac{1+\lambda}{2}$ |$|=0$

where $a_{i j}=-\cos \left(\pi / p_{i j}\right), 1 \leqslant i, j \leqslant n$.
Proof. Let $v=\sigma v^{\prime}$ where $\sigma$ is a reflection in the r.h. perpendicular to the root $r$.
Then

$$
\begin{equation*}
v=v^{\prime}-2\left(v^{\prime} \cdot r\right) r \tag{3.13}
\end{equation*}
$$

We use (3.13) to obtain the matrix for $R_{j}$ relative to the basis $r_{1}^{\prime}, \ldots, r_{n}^{\prime}$. Let $v=\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{i} r_{i}^{\prime}, v^{\prime}=\sum_{i=1}^{r} x_{i}^{\prime} r_{i}^{\prime}$. Then $v^{\prime} \cdot r_{j}=x_{j}^{\prime}, r_{j}=\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{i j} r_{i}^{\prime}$. Substituting into (3.13), we get

$$
\begin{equation*}
v=R_{j} v^{\prime} \Leftrightarrow x_{i}=x_{i}^{\prime}-2 a_{i j} x_{j}^{\prime}, 1 \leqslant i \leqslant n \tag{3.14}
\end{equation*}
$$

Let

$$
v=R_{1} v^{(1)}, v^{(1)}=R_{2} v^{(2)}, \ldots, v^{(n-1)}=R_{n} v^{(n)}
$$

so that $v=R_{1} \ldots R_{n} v^{(n)}$. Suppose that $v^{(j)}=\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{i}^{(j)} r_{i}^{\prime}, 1 \leqslant j \leqslant n$. We conclude from (3.14) that

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
x_{i}=x_{i}^{\prime}-2 a_{i 1} x_{1}^{\prime} \\
x_{i}^{\prime}=x_{i}^{\prime \prime}-2 a_{i 2} x_{2}^{\prime \prime} \\
\cdots \cdots \ldots, 1 \leqslant i \leqslant n  \tag{3.15}\\
x_{i}^{(n-1)}=x_{i}^{(n)}-2 a_{i n} x_{n}{ }^{(n)}
\end{array}\right.
$$

Let $y_{i}=x^{(k)}, 1 \leqslant i \leqslant n$. For each $i$ we rewrite (3.15) as

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
x_{i}^{\prime}-x_{i}=2 a_{i 1} y_{1}  \tag{3.16}\\
x_{i}^{\prime \prime}-x_{i}^{\prime}=2 a_{i 2} y_{2} \\
\cdots \cdots \cdots \\
y_{i}-x_{i}^{(i-1)}=2 a_{i i} y_{i}
\end{array}\right.
$$

$$
\left\{\begin{array}{l}
x_{i}^{(i+1)}-y_{i}=2 a_{i, i+1} y_{i+1}  \tag{3.17}\\
x_{i}^{(i+2)}-x_{i}^{(i+1)}=2 a_{i, i+2} y_{i+2} \\
\cdots \cdots \cdots \cdots \cdots \cdots \\
x_{i}^{(n)}-x_{i}^{(n-1)}=2 a_{i n} y_{n}
\end{array}\right.
$$

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

$$
\begin{equation*}
-x_{i}=\sum_{j=1}^{i-1} 2 a_{i j} y_{j}+y_{i}, 1 \leqslant i \leqslant n \tag{3.18}
\end{equation*}
$$

$$
\begin{equation*}
x_{i}^{(n)}=\sum_{j=i+1}^{n} 2 a_{i j} y_{j}+y_{i}, 1 \leqslant i \leqslant n \tag{3.19}
\end{equation*}
$$

(3.18), (3.19) may be abbreviated as

$$
\begin{equation*}
-x=A y, x^{(n)}=A^{\prime} y \tag{3.20}
\end{equation*}
$$

where
(3.21) $A=\left[\begin{array}{ccccc}1 & & & & \\ 2 a_{21} & & & & \\ \cdot & 1 & & & \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & & \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 2 a_{n, n-1}\end{array}\right]$
the entries above the diagonal being zero.
Hence $x=-A\left(A^{\prime}\right)^{-1} x^{(n)}$, so that $-A\left(A^{\prime}\right)^{-1}$ is the matrix for $R=R_{1} \ldots R_{n}$ relative to the basis $r_{1}^{\prime}, \ldots, r_{n}^{\prime}$. The characteristic equation for $R$ is thus given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left|-A\left(A^{\prime}\right)^{-1}-\lambda I\right|=0 \Leftrightarrow\left|\frac{A+\lambda A^{\prime}}{2}\right|=0 \tag{3.22}
\end{equation*}
$$

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 $1, \ldots, n$. Thus $a_{i j}=0$ whenever $|j-i|>1$. Multiplying first the $i$-th row of the determinant in (3.12) by $\lambda^{(i-1) / 2}, 1 \leqslant i \leqslant n$, then the $j$-th column by $\lambda^{-j / 2}, 1 \leqslant j \leqslant n$, we get

$|$| $\Lambda$ |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\cdot$ |  | $a_{i j}$ |  |
|  | $\cdot$ |  |  |  |
|  |  | $\cdot$ |  | $=0$ |
| $a_{i j}$ |  | $\cdot$ |  |  |
|  |  |  | $\Lambda$ |  |

where $\Lambda=\frac{\lambda^{1 / 2}+\lambda^{-1 / 2}}{2}$
If $G$ is of type $I I$, 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 $i^{\prime}=i, j^{\prime}=j, 1 \leqslant i, j \leqslant n-1$, and $i^{\prime}=j^{\prime}=q+1$ whenever $i$ or $j=n$. Multiply first the $i$-th row of the determinant in (3.12) by $\lambda^{i^{\prime}-1} 2,1 \leqslant i \leqslant n$, then the $j$-th column by $\lambda^{-j^{\prime} / 2}$. 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
$\left|\begin{array}{lll}\Lambda & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2} & \Lambda & -\cos \frac{\pi}{5} \\ 0 & -\cos \frac{\pi}{5} & \Lambda\end{array}\right|=0$

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 $d_{1}=2, d_{2}=6, d_{3}=10$.


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ ) 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.).

