

Remarks on involutions on a root system

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はじめに, 1983. 11.16-11.19 の表現論シンポジウムでの
著者の講演内容とこの報告とは無関係であることをお断りし
ておきます。

この報告の内容は, root 系の involution について最近調
べたことをまとめたものです。[OS] を参照されれば, こ
こで導入した R -root system の意義がわかるでしょう。

root 系の一般の involution については杉浦先生が調べられ
ています ([S])。一般の involution と実半単純 Lie 環の
Cartan subalgebras の共役類とが関係しており, それについ
ても言及する予定でした。しかし, 紙面の都合, 結果に少
し不完全な所もあり, またオランダの A.G. Helminck が国際
数学者会議で類似の結果を報告している, などの理由で, こ
れに掲載するのは差し控えました。

§1. The Satake diagram for an involution of a root system.

Let Σ be a root system on a real vector space V . Unless otherwise stated, Σ is assumed to be reduced, that is, $\frac{1}{2}\alpha \notin \Sigma$ for any $\alpha \in \Sigma$. Let $A(\Sigma)$ be the automorphism group of Σ . Let $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ be an $A(\Sigma)$ -invariant inner product on Σ . As usual, $W = W(\Sigma)$ denotes the Weyl group of Σ . Clearly $W \subset A(W)$. If Ψ is a fundamental system for Σ , then $\Sigma^+(\Psi)$ denotes the set of positive roots for the order defined by Ψ .

Definition 1.1. If σ is an involution of Σ , then the pair (Σ, σ) is called a root system with an involution.

Let (Σ, σ) be a root system with an involution. Put $V^\pm = \{v \in V; \sigma v = \pm v\}$ and $\Sigma_0 = V^+ \cap \Sigma$.

Definition 1.2. Let (Σ, σ) be a root system with an involution. Let Ψ be a fundamental system for Σ . Then Ψ is called a σ -fundamental system if σ leaves $\Sigma^+(\Psi) - \Sigma_0$ invariant.

Let (Σ, σ) be a root system with an involution and let Ψ be a σ -fundamental system for Σ . Then for the triple (Σ, Ψ, σ) , a diagram $S(\Sigma, \Psi, \sigma)$ is defined by the same way as the Satake diagram is done for a normal $(-\sigma)$ -system of roots.

Definition 1.3. The diagram $S(\Sigma, \Psi, \sigma)$ is called the

Satake diagram for the root system with an involution (Σ, σ) .

§2. N-root systems.

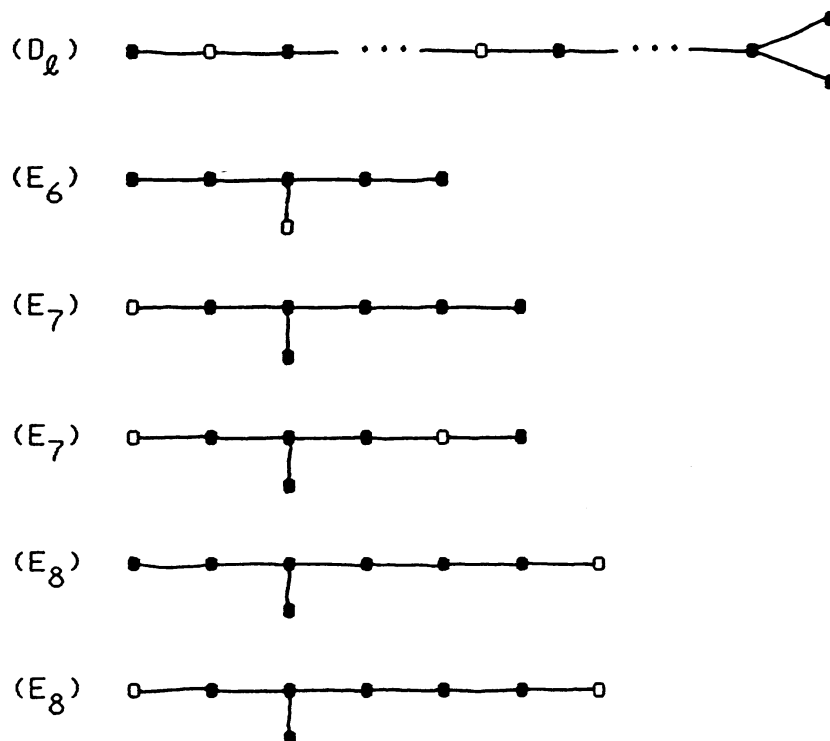
Definition 2.1. Let (Σ, σ) be a root system with an involution. Then (Σ, σ) is called an N-root system (with an involution) if $\sigma\alpha + \alpha \notin \Sigma$ for any $\alpha \in \Sigma$.

Remark 2.2. By definition, a root system with an involution (Σ, σ) is an N-root system if and only if Σ is $(-\sigma)$ -normal in the sense of [Ar].

Let $\mathfrak{g}$ be a real semisimple Lie algebra and let $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} + \mathfrak{p}$ be a Cartan decomposition of $\mathfrak{g}$. Let θ be the corresponding Cartan involution. Let $\mathfrak{a}$ be a maximal abelian subspace of $\mathfrak{p}$ and let $\mathfrak{h}$ be a Cartan subalgebra of $\mathfrak{g}$ containing $\mathfrak{a}$. Then, by definition, $\theta\mathfrak{h} = \mathfrak{h}$. Let Σ be the root system of $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h})$. Then Σ is also regarded as the root system on the real vector space $V = \sqrt{-1}(\mathfrak{k} \cap \mathfrak{h}) + \mathfrak{p} \cap \mathfrak{h}$. Since θ leaves V invariant, we may put $\sigma = \theta|_V$. Then it follows from [Ar] that (Σ, σ) is an N-root system with an involution.

Definition 2.3. An N-root system (Σ, σ) is called an NE-root system (with an involution) if (Σ, σ) is obtained from a semisimple Lie algebra as in the above way.

The classification of NE-root systems is equivalent to that of real forms of complex semisimple Lie algebras. From this stand point, Araki [Ar] accomplished the classification of NE-root systems. But, as was noted in [Ar], every N-root system is not an NE-root system. The classification of N-root systems is essentially given in [Ar], but this is not explicitly written there. By this reason, we now give the list of such N-root systems (Σ, σ) that Σ is σ -irreducible and that (Σ, σ) is not an NE-root system. The result is given in the following table.



In the rest of this section, we discuss the condition introduced in [OS, §3].

Let Σ be a root system and let σ, σ' be involutions of Σ . Then consider the following conditions:

(A0) (Σ, σ) and (Σ, σ') are N-root systems.

(A1) $\sigma\sigma' = \sigma'\sigma$.

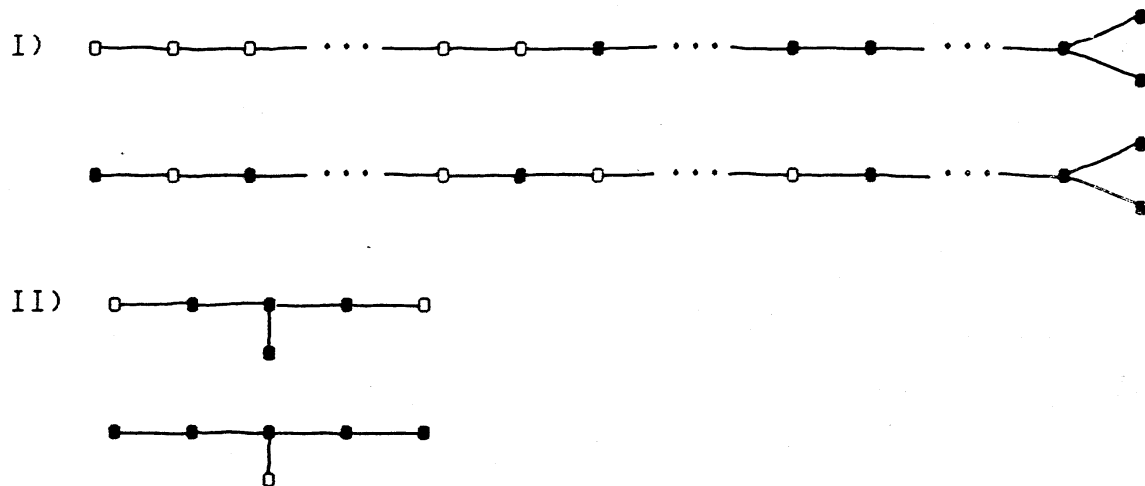
(A2) If $\alpha \in \Sigma$ satisfies the condition $(1-\sigma)(1-\sigma')\alpha = 0$, then $\sigma\alpha = \alpha$ or $\sigma'\alpha = \alpha$ holds.

Discuss the relation between these conditions and the Satake diagrams.

Proposition 2.4. Let (Σ, σ) and (Σ, σ') be N-root systems. Assume that there exists a fundamental system Ψ for Σ such that Σ is both σ -fundamental and σ' -fundamental. Then the conditions (A1) and (A2) are equivalent.

The proof is based on the classification of N-root systems and is accomplished by case by case examination.

Remark 2.5. Let $(\Sigma, \sigma), (\Sigma, \sigma')$ be one of the followings.



Then $\sigma\sigma' \neq \sigma'\sigma$. The remaining cases are satisfied with the conditions in Proposition 2.4.

Let Σ be a root system and let σ, σ' be involutions of Σ . Assume that (Σ, σ) and (Σ, σ') are N-root systems and that (A1) and (A2) hold. Put $\Sigma(\sigma) = \{\frac{1}{2}(\alpha - \sigma\alpha); \alpha \in \Sigma\} - \{0\}$. Then it follows from [Ar] that $\Sigma(\sigma)$ is a root system. Moreover, since $\sigma\sigma' = \sigma'\sigma$, the involution σ' leaves $\Sigma(\sigma)$ invariant. Hence $(\Sigma(\sigma), \sigma')$ is a root system with an involution. In genral, $(\Sigma(\sigma), \sigma')$ is not an N-root system. But $(\Sigma(\sigma), \sigma')$ is satisfied with the following condition:

(*) If $\lambda \in \Sigma(\sigma)$ satisfies that $\langle \lambda, \sigma'\lambda \rangle < 0$, then $\sigma'\lambda = -\lambda$.

(Cf. [OS, §3]). Noting this, we define the following.

Definition 2.6. Let (Σ, σ) be a root system with an involution. Assume that Σ is not necessarily reduced. Then (Σ, σ) is an R-root system (with an involution) if the condition (**) holds:

(**) If $\alpha \in \Sigma$ satisfies that $\langle \alpha, \sigma\alpha \rangle < 0$, then $\sigma\alpha = -\alpha$.

Remark 2.7. (1) If (Σ, σ) is an N-root system, then (Σ, σ) is also an R-root system.

(2) If (Σ, σ) is an R-root system, then $\Sigma(\sigma)$ is also a root system.

(3) Let (Σ, σ) and (Σ, σ') be N-root systems. Then both $(\Sigma(\sigma), \sigma')$ and $(\Sigma(\sigma'), \sigma)$ are R-root systems. Moreover, if $\Sigma(\sigma, \sigma') = \{\frac{1}{4}(1-\sigma)(1-\sigma')\alpha; \alpha \in \Sigma\} - \{0\}$, then $\Sigma(\sigma, \sigma')$ is a root system.

§3. The classification of R-root systems with involutions.

In this section, we classify R-root systems with involutions.

First give a lemma.

Lemma 3.1. Let (Σ, σ) be an R-root system. Assume that Σ is simply-laced or is doubly-laced of type (1:3) (for the definition of these terminologies, see [Ar]). Then (Σ, σ) is an N-root system.

Proof. We assume that there exists an element α of Σ such that $\alpha + \sigma\alpha \in \Sigma$ and lead a contradiction.

First consider the case where Σ is simply-laced. Then since α and $\alpha + \sigma\alpha$ are of the same length, we have

$$\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle = \langle \alpha + \sigma\alpha, \alpha + \sigma\alpha \rangle = 2\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle + 2\langle \alpha, \sigma\alpha \rangle.$$

This implies that $2\langle \alpha, \sigma\alpha \rangle = -\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle < 0$. Since (Σ, σ) is an

R-root system, we find that $\sigma\alpha = -\alpha$ and $0 = \alpha + \sigma\alpha \in \Sigma$. This contradicts the assumption on α .

Next consider the case where Σ is doubly-laced of type (1:3). In this case $\langle \alpha + \sigma\alpha, \alpha + \sigma\alpha \rangle = k\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle$, where k is one of 1, 3 and $\frac{1}{3}$. Then it follows that $2 \frac{\langle \alpha, \sigma\alpha \rangle}{\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle} = k - 2$. If $k = 1$, by the same argument as above, we lead a contradiction. Hence due to [W, p.10], we find that k must be 3. Then $\langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle = 2\langle \alpha, \sigma\alpha \rangle$. Let s_α be the reflection with respect to α . Then $s_\alpha(\alpha + \sigma\alpha) = \sigma\alpha - 2\alpha$ is a root of Σ . On the other hand, it follows that $\langle \sigma\alpha - 2\alpha, \sigma(\sigma\alpha - 2\alpha) \rangle = -\frac{3}{2} \langle \alpha, \alpha \rangle < 0$. This combined with the regularity of (Σ, σ) shows that $\sigma(\sigma\alpha - 2\alpha) = -(\sigma\alpha - 2\alpha)$. Then $\sigma\alpha = -\alpha$. This contradicts the assumption $\alpha + \sigma\alpha \in \Sigma$. q.e.d.

From now on, we are going to determine all the involutions σ on an irreducible, reduced root system Σ such that (Σ, σ) is an R-root system. As was already remarked, we restrict our attention to such an R-root system (Σ, σ) that (Σ, σ) is not an N-root system. The subsequent discussions are based on Araki's one [Ar]. Namely, first investigate such an involution σ on a root system Σ that $\Sigma(\sigma)$ is of rank 1. Next do the general case for the types B_ℓ , C_ℓ and F_4 , separately. (It suffices to discuss on these cases by reason of Lemma 3.1.) Since the discussions are easy but rather long, we only give here the results. We use the notation in [LIE] without notice.

The case of type B_ℓ .

Let (Σ, σ) be an R-root system such that Σ is of type B_ℓ . Let α_i ($1 \leq i \leq \ell$) be a σ -fundamental system of Σ such that

$$\begin{array}{c} \circ \text{---} \cdots \text{---} \circ \text{---} \circ \\ \alpha_1 \qquad \qquad \alpha_{\ell-1} \quad \alpha_\ell \end{array}$$

Then there exists a number $k \leq \ell$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma \alpha_{2i-1} &= \alpha_{2i-1} & (i < k) \\ \sigma \alpha_{2i} &= -\alpha_{2i-1} - \alpha_{2i} - \alpha_{2i+1} & (i < k-1) \\ \sigma \alpha_{2k} &= -\alpha_{2k-1} - 2\alpha_{2k} - \cdots - 2\alpha_\ell \\ \sigma \alpha_i &= \alpha_i & (2k < i). \end{aligned}$$

Its Satake diagram is given as follows:

$$\begin{array}{c} \bullet \text{---} \circ \text{---} \bullet \text{---} \cdots \text{---} \circ \text{---} \bullet \text{---} \cdots \text{---} \bullet \text{---} \bullet \\ 1 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad \quad \quad 2k \quad 2k+1 \quad \quad \quad \ell-1 \quad \ell \end{array}$$

The case of type C_ℓ .

Let (Σ, σ) be an R-root system such that Σ is of type C_ℓ . Let α_i ($1 \leq i \leq \ell$) be a σ -fundamental system of Σ such that

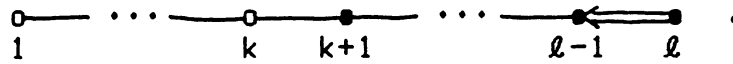
$$\begin{array}{c} \circ \text{---} \cdots \text{---} \circ \text{---} \circ \\ \alpha_1 \qquad \qquad \alpha_{\ell-1} \quad \alpha_\ell \end{array}$$

Then we find that there is a number k ($1 < k < \ell$) such that the involution σ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma \alpha_i &= -\alpha_i & (1 \leq i < k) \\ \sigma \alpha_k &= -\alpha_k - 2\alpha_{k+1} - \cdots - 2\alpha_{\ell-1} - \alpha_\ell \end{aligned}$$

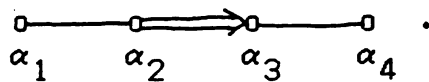
$$\sigma\alpha_i = \alpha_i \quad (k < i \leq \ell).$$

In this case, its Satake diagram is given by



The case of type F_4 .

Let (Σ, σ) be an R-root system such that Σ is of type F_4 . Let α_i ($1 \leq i \leq 4$) be a σ -fundamental system of Σ such that



Then σ coincides with one of the involutions defined below:

$$(I) \quad \sigma\alpha_1 = -\alpha_1 - 3\alpha_2 - 4\alpha_3 - 2\alpha_4, \quad \sigma\alpha_i = \alpha_i \quad (1 < i \leq 4).$$

$$(II) \quad \begin{aligned} \sigma\alpha_1 &= -\alpha_1 - 2\alpha_2 - 2\alpha_3 \\ \sigma\alpha_i &= \alpha_i \quad (i = 2, 3) \\ \sigma\alpha_4 &= -\alpha_2 - 2\alpha_3 - \alpha_4. \end{aligned}$$

The Satake diagrams of the former and the latter are given by



respectively.

Remark 3.2. Let (Σ, σ) be an R-root system but not an N-root system. Assume that Σ is irreducible and reduced. Put

$\Sigma^V = \{ \frac{2\alpha}{(\alpha, \alpha)}; \alpha \in \Sigma \}$. Then it is known (cf. [LIE]) that Σ^V is also a root system, irreducible and reduced. Furthermore, σ leaves Σ^V invariant. By the above classification, we find that in almost all cases, (Σ^V, σ) is an N-root system. The only exceptional case is the involution for the root system of type F_4 defined in (II).

In the above discussions, we always assumed that Σ is reduced. Now we treat a non-reduced one. Hence, let Σ be an irreducible, non-reduced root system. Then it follows ([LIE]) that the type of Σ is BC_ℓ . Put $\Sigma_{(5)} = \{ \alpha \in \Sigma; \frac{1}{2}\alpha \notin \Sigma \}$ and $\Sigma_{(1)} = \{ \alpha \in \Sigma; 2\alpha \notin \Sigma \}$. Then, by definition, $\Sigma_{(5)}$ is of type B_ℓ and $\Sigma_{(1)}$ is of type C_ℓ .

Let σ be an involution on Σ such that (Σ, σ) is an R-root system. Then σ leaves both of $\Sigma_{(5)}$ and $\Sigma_{(1)}$ invariant. It is clear that one of the following condition holds.

(C.1) $(\Sigma_{(5)}, \sigma)$ is an N-root system.

(C.2) $(\Sigma_{(5)}, \sigma)$ is an R-root system but not an σ -N-root system.

In the case (C.1), $(\Sigma_{(1)}, \sigma)$ is an R-root system but not an N-root system. On the other hand, in the case (C.2), $(\Sigma_{(1)}, \sigma)$ is an N-root system. Noting this, we find that the classification of R-root systems related to the root system of type BC_ℓ is reduced to the known cases.

We collect here all the R-root systems (Σ, σ) . By the reason given before, it suffices to consider such a one that (Σ, σ) is not an N-root system and that Σ is irreducible.

Result I. Let (Σ, σ) is an R-root system. Assume that Σ is irreducible and reduced and that (Σ, σ) is not an N-root system. Let Ψ be a σ -fundamental system for Σ . Then the Satake diagram for (Σ, Ψ, σ) is one of the followings.

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)

Result II. Let (Σ, σ) be an R-root system. Assume that Σ is irreducible and non-reduced and that (Σ, σ) not an N-root system. Let Ψ be a σ -fundamental system for Σ . Then the Satake diagram for (Σ, Ψ, σ) is one of the followings.

- (5)
- (6)

Remark 3.3. Let (Σ, σ) be a root system with an involution. Then we observe the following by using the classification.

In the case where (Σ, σ) is an R-root system, the Satake diagram $S(\Sigma, \Phi, \sigma)$ does not depend on the choice of the

σ -fundamental system Φ .

Let $\mathfrak{g}$ be a real semisimple Lie algebra and let σ be its involution. Then there exists a Cartan involution θ of $\mathfrak{g}$ commuting with $\theta\sigma = \sigma\theta$. Let $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{h} + \mathfrak{q}$ be the direct sum decomposition for σ and let $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} + \mathfrak{p}$ be the Cartan involution for θ . Let $\mathfrak{a}$ be a maximal abelian subspace of $\mathfrak{p} \cap \mathfrak{q}$ and let $\mathfrak{j}$ be a maximal abelian subspace of $\mathfrak{q}$ containing $\mathfrak{a}$. Let $\mathfrak{j}_\mathbb{C}$ be the complexification of $\mathfrak{j}$ and let Σ be the root system of $(\mathfrak{g}_\mathbb{C}, \mathfrak{j}_\mathbb{C})$. Then it is clear that Σ is regarded as a root system on the real vector space $\mathfrak{j}_0 = \sqrt{-1}(\mathfrak{k} \cap \mathfrak{j}) + \mathfrak{p} \cap \mathfrak{j}$. Put $\sigma = \theta|_{\mathfrak{j}_0}$. Then it follows that (Σ, σ) is an R-root system.

Definition 3.4. An R-root system (Σ, σ) obtained in the above way is called an RE-root system.

By the classification of semisimple symmetric pairs, we find that the R-root systems given in (1)–(6) except (3) are really RE-root systems. For example, we have the following (cf. [OS]).

- (1) $(\mathfrak{so}^*(2n), \mathfrak{so}^*(2p) + \mathfrak{so}^*(2n-2p))$ ($2p < n$)
- (2) $(\mathfrak{su}(n+2k, n), \mathfrak{su}(n+k) + \mathfrak{su}(n, k) + \sqrt{-1}\mathbb{R})$
- (4) $(\mathfrak{e}_{6(-14)}, \mathfrak{su}(5, 1) + \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R}))$
- (5) $(\mathfrak{su}(p, q), \mathfrak{su}(k, 1) + \mathfrak{su}(p-k, q-k) + \sqrt{-1}\mathbb{R})$
- (6) $(\mathfrak{su}^*(2p, 2q), \mathfrak{su}^*(2k, 2l) + \mathfrak{su}^*(2(p-k), 2(q-l)) + \mathbb{R})$

References

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