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Canonical bases of invariant polynomials for the irreducible reflection groups of types E_6 , E_7 , and E_8

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Abstract

Given a rank n irreducible finite reflection group W , the W -invariant polynomial functions defined in \mathbb{R}^n can be written as polynomials of n algebraically independent homogeneous polynomial functions, $p_1(x), \dots, p_n(x)$, called basic invariant polynomials. Their degrees are well known and typical of the given group W . The polynomial $p_1(x)$ has the lowest degree, equal to 2. It has been proved that it is possible to choose all the other $n-1$ basic invariant polynomials in such a way that they satisfy a certain system of differential equations, including the Laplace equations $\Delta p_a(x) = 0$, $a = 2, \dots, n$, and so are harmonic functions. Bases of this kind are called canonical. Explicit formulas for canonical bases of invariant polynomials have been found for all irreducible finite reflection groups, except for those of types E_6 , E_7 and E_8 . Those for the groups of types E_6 , E_7 and E_8 are determined in this article.

Key words: Basic invariant polynomials, Basic invariants, Finite reflection groups, Harmonic functions

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1. Introduction

When a rank n irreducible finite reflection group W acts in \mathbb{R}^n , there are no fixed points besides the origin of \mathbb{R}^n , and, with no loss of generality, one can assume that $W \subset O(n)$. By saying that $f(x)$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is a *W-invariant function*, one means that $f(gx) = f(x)$, for all $g \in W$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$. It is well known from Ref. [1] that there exist a basis of n algebraically independent W -invariant real homogeneous polynomial functions $p_1(x), \dots, p_n(x)$, called *basic invariant polynomials*, such that all W -invariant polynomial functions can be univocally written as polynomial functions of the basic invariant polynomials: $f(x) = \hat{f}(p_1(x), \dots, p_n(x))$, with $\hat{f}(p_1, \dots, p_n) = \hat{f}(p)$ a polynomial function of $p \in \mathbb{R}^n$. We recall that, because of the algebraic independence of $p_1(x), \dots, p_n(x)$, there is no polynomial $\hat{f}(p)$, not equal to the null polynomial 0 (that one with all vanishing coefficients), for which $\hat{f}(p_1(x), \dots, p_n(x)) = 0$, for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

Given the irreducible finite reflection group W , there are infinitely many possible choices of a set of n basic invariant polynomials, but their degrees $d_a = \deg(p_a(x))$, $a = 1, \dots, n$, are well known and typical of the given group W . They were determined by Coxeter in Ref. [2], and they are all different, except in the case of the groups of type D_n , with even n , in which case there are two basic invariant polynomials of degree n . Usually, as we do, the basic invariant polynomials are ordered according to their degrees, by requiring

$$d_1 \leq d_2 \leq \dots \leq d_n.$$

The irreducibility of W implies $d_1 = 2$, and the orthogonality of W allows one to take

$$p_1(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2. \quad (1)$$

The other $n - 1$ basic invariant polynomials have expressions that depend on the specific group, but are not univocally determined. To be more precise, a rank n finite orthogonal reflection group W is generated by the n orthogonal reflections with respect to the hyperplanes orthogonal to the n simple roots. A rotation of the n simple roots with respect to the system of coordinates used in \mathbb{R}^n , imply different matrix expressions for the group elements and these imply different explicit expressions of the basic invariant polynomials of degree greater than 2. Moreover, even if the matrix representation of the group W is given, the choice of the basic invariant polynomials is not unique,

because it is possible to make algebraic combinations of a given set of basic polynomials to obtain a new set of basic invariant polynomials equally good for that matrix representation (such a change of basis is described in detail in step 2 in Section 2).

Several authors determined explicit bases of invariant polynomials for (some of) the irreducible finite reflection groups, for example Coxeter in Ref. [2], Ignatenko in Ref. [6], Mehta in Ref. [9], and many others that are not cited here. A few authors tried to select, among the infinitely many possibilities, some distinguished bases of invariant polynomials, by requiring some supplementary conditions to be satisfied. For example, Saito, Yano and Sekiguchi in Ref. [12] defined the *flat bases*, Sartori and Talamini in Ref. [13] the *a-bases*, and Flatto in Ref. [4] and Iwasaki in Ref. [7] the *canonical bases*. In this article we are concerned with the canonical bases, so it is convenient to recall some definitions and results.

In Refs. [3] and [5] Flatto and Wiener were concerned with certain mean value problems and they established an algorithm to compute bases of invariant polynomials of finite reflection groups (not of type D_n , even n) related to the mean value problems considered. Their algorithm is quite difficult to use for an explicit computation of the bases of invariant polynomials they were interested in. In Ref. [4] Flatto refined his previous results and gave a much simpler algorithm, that can be applied also the groups of type D_n , even n . To review the algorithm of Ref. [4], let us define a bilinear map that maps two polynomials $p(x)$ and $q(x)$ into a polynomial $(p, q)(x)$, obtained in the following way:

$$(p, q)(x) = p(\partial) q(x), \quad (2)$$

where $p(\partial)$ means that in $p(x)$ one has to replace all occurrences of x_i^k with $\frac{\partial^k}{\partial x_i^k}$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, $k \in \mathbb{N}$, and $p(\partial) q(x)$ in Eq. (2) is the polynomial obtained by the application of the differential operator $p(\partial)$ to the polynomial $q(x)$. If $p(x)$ and $q(x)$ are real homogeneous polynomials of degree d_p and d_q , respectively, then $(p, q)(x)$ is 0 if $d_p > d_q$, a real number (also equal to $(q, p)(x)$) if $d_p = d_q$, and a real homogeneous polynomial of degree $d_q - d_p$ if $d_p < d_q$. In Ref. [4] Flatto proved that, for all irreducible finite reflection groups W , the basic invariant polynomials he was interested in, let us call them $h_1(x), \dots, h_n(x)$, satisfy the following set of partial differential equa-

tions:

$$(h_a, h_b)(x) = 0, \quad a, b = 1, \dots, n, \quad a \neq b. \quad (3)$$

For what it is said above, these equations are not trivial only if $d_a \leq d_b$ (with the case $d_a = d_b$ concerning the case $W = D_n$, even n , only). Moreover (see Ref. [4], pp. 555–556), given a set of basic invariant polynomials $h_1(x), \dots, h_n(x)$, satisfying Eq. (3), if $h_a(x)$ is a polynomial with degree d_a of multiplicity one in the set of degrees $\{d_1, \dots, d_n\}$ (this condition excludes the two basic invariant polynomials of degree n that exist in the case $W = D_n$, even n , only), then the polynomial $h_a(x)$ is determined up to real constant multiples. In the case of D_n , even n , given any two basic invariant polynomials of degree n satisfying Eq. (3), let us call them $h_{\frac{n}{2}}(x)$ and $h_{\frac{n}{2}+1}(x)$, all other possible couples of invariant polynomials of degree n , satisfying Eq. (3), belong to the linear space $L_n = \{c_1 h_{\frac{n}{2}}(x) + c_2 h_{\frac{n}{2}+1}(x) \mid c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}\}$. Iwasaki in Ref. [7] called *canonical* a basis of invariant polynomials satisfying Eq. (3).

In Ref. [10] Nakashima and Tsujie gave a method to determine the canonical bases of the real irreducible finite reflection groups that is different from those proposed in Refs. [3], [5] and [4]. Together with Terao, in Ref. [11], they also defined the canonical bases for the unitary reflection groups, and extended to the unitary reflection groups many results of Ref. [10].

At page 556 of Ref. [4], Flatto noted that Eq. (3) allows one to determine by recursion a canonical basis $h_1(x), \dots, h_n(x)$, going up with the degrees, from d_1 to d_n . However, this method is not suitable to determine the canonical bases in an explicit way, because Eq. (3) is non-linear in the unknown invariant polynomials $h_1(x), \dots, h_n(x)$, and one soon encounters very difficult calculations. In Ref. [7], using the results of Ref. [4], Iwasaki noted that one can simplify Eq. (3), by replacing it with the following equivalent set of partial differential equations (equivalent if $W \neq D_n$, even n):

$$(p_a, h_b)(x) = 0, \quad a, b = 1, \dots, n, \quad d_a < d_b, \quad (4)$$

where $p_1(x), \dots, p_n(x)$ is any known basis of homogeneous invariant polynomials. In the case of D_n , even n , a system equivalent to Eq. (3), is obtained by adding to Eq. (4), the partial differential equation:

$$(h_{\frac{n}{2}}, h_{\frac{n}{2}+1})(x) = 0. \quad (5)$$

To determine explicitly a canonical basis with this method, one has just to write the most general basis transformation $p \rightarrow h$ (see details in step 2 in

Section 2), and solve Eq. (4), and possibly Eq. (5), going up with the degrees, from d_1 to d_n . The solution of the system of equations arising from Eq. (4), and possibly Eq. (5), is much simpler than that one arising from Eq. (3).

It is natural to fix a normalization of the polynomials in a canonical basis. Given a real homogeneous polynomial $p(x)$, let us call (*canonical*) *norm* of p the non-negative number:

$$\|p\|_c = \sqrt{(p, p)(x)}.$$

$\|p\|_c$ is a real positive number if $p(x) \neq 0$, and 0 if $p(x) = 0$, where 0 here is the null polynomial.

A normalized canonical basis can be defined, for example, by requiring the following conditions, in addition to those of Eq. (3) (or to those of Eq. (4), and possibly Eq. (5)):

$$\|h_a\|_c = 1, \quad a = 1, \dots, n. \quad (6)$$

This normalization was first proposed by Nakashima and Tsujie in Ref. [10]. It turns out that a polynomial of a normalized canonical basis is univocally determined in all cases in which its degree has multiplicity one in the set of degrees $\{d_1, \dots, d_n\}$, and that, in the case of groups of type D_n , even n , the two equal degree polynomials of a normalized canonical basis are determined up to orthogonal transformations in the linear space L_n they generate.

The explicit expressions of the polynomials in a normalized canonical basis have real coefficients that usually are irrational and have non-trivial common divisors. In addition, $p_1(x)$ has not the standard form (1). For these reasons, in some applications it might be better to avoid the normalization of Eq. (6).

Because of the special form of $p_1(x)$ (that is given by Eq. (1), or is proportional to it, as in the normalized canonical bases), the differential operator $p_1(\partial)$ is the Laplace operator Δ (or is proportional to it), in fact:

$$p_1(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad p_1(\partial) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i^2} = \Delta$$

This implies that all basic polynomials $h_b(x)$, $b = 2, \dots, n$, satisfying Eq. (3), satisfy in particular the equations $(h_1, h_b)(x) = 0$, $b = 2, \dots, n$, that is,

the Laplace equations

$$\Delta h_b(x) = 0, \quad b = 2, \dots, n,$$

and are thus harmonic polynomials. This means, in particular, that the basic polynomials $h_b(x)$, $b = 2, \dots, n$, satisfy all nice theorems on harmonic functions, like the mean value property, the maximum-minimum principle and so on.

The explicit form of the canonical bases of the irreducible finite reflection groups of types A_n , B_n , D_n and $I_2(m)$, were determined in Ref. [7] and those of type H_3 , H_4 and F_4 were determined in Ref. [8]. The explicit form of the canonical bases of the irreducible finite reflection groups of types E_6 , E_7 and E_8 are determined in this article. The author verified the results of Ref. [8] and found that they are correct, but for the sign of the monomials containing Δ_3 in Table 4, concerning the basic invariant polynomials of H_3 . The canonical bases in Ref. [8] are not normalized and to get the normalized canonical bases one has to multiply each of the basic polynomials there listed by a suitable real factor.

2. The algorithm

The algorithm the author used to determine the explicit canonical bases for the groups of types E_6 , E_7 and E_8 , is essentially the same as that one used in Ref. [8]. It is described in detail in the following 6 steps. The algorithm here presented can be used to find the explicit canonical bases of any irreducible finite reflection groups not of type D_n , even n . At the end of this section it will be described how one can modify the algorithm to apply it to the groups of type D_n , even n .

1. One starts with a known basis, $p_a(x)$, $a = 1, \dots, n$, of W -invariant homogeneous polynomials (W is here any irreducible finite reflection groups not of type D_n , even n). One can use, for example, the bases determined by Mehta in Ref. [9]. These bases are not canonical.
2. One writes the most general basis transformation $p_a(x) \rightarrow h_a(x)$, $a = 1, \dots, n$, to get a new basis of W -invariant polynomials $h_a(x)$, $a =$

$1, \dots, n$. In order to obtain the new polynomials $h_a(x)$, $a = 1, \dots, n$, forming a set of algebraically independent homogeneous polynomials of degrees d_a , $a = 1, \dots, n$, there are some conditions to satisfy. As the new basic polynomials $h_a(x)$, $a = 1, \dots, n$, are real W -invariant polynomials, it must be possible to write them as real polynomials of the original basic invariant polynomials $p_a(x)$, $a = 1, \dots, n$. One has then expressions like the following ones:

$$h_a(x) = \widehat{h}_a(p_1(x), \dots, p_n(x)), \quad a = 1, \dots, n,$$

where the $\widehat{h}_a(p_1, \dots, p_n) = \widehat{h}_a(p)$ are real polynomial functions of $p \in \mathbb{R}^n$. The homogeneity of the $h_a(x)$ and the set of degrees d_1, \dots, d_n , of W , restrict the possible monomials appearing in $\widehat{h}_a(p)$: a monomial $p_1^{m_1} p_2^{m_2} \dots p_n^{m_n}$ is in $\widehat{h}_a(p)$ if and only if $\sum_{b=1}^n d_b m_b = d_a$. So one can easily write down explicitly the most general expressions of the $\widehat{h}_a(p)$, $a = 1, \dots, n$. Let us call z_i , $i = 1, 2, \dots$, the (unknown) real coefficients of the monomials in $\widehat{h}_a(p)$. For example, for $W = E_6$, the degrees of the basic invariant polynomials are $d_1, \dots, d_6 = 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12$, and one writes $\widehat{h}_6(p) = z_1 p_1^6 + z_2 p_1 p_2^2 + z_3 p_1^3 p_3 + z_4 p_3^2 + z_5 p_1^2 p_4 + z_6 p_6$. If one requires that the expression of $\widehat{h}_a(p)$ necessarily contains the variable p_a , for each $a = 1, \dots, n$, one is sure that the transformed invariant polynomials are algebraically independent. This also implies that the inverse transformation $h \rightarrow p$ is well defined and polynomial.

3. One substitutes in $\widehat{h}_a(p)$ the variables p_b , $b = 1, \dots, n$, with the basic invariant polynomials $p_b(x)$, $b = 1, \dots, n$, obtaining the real polynomial functions $h_a(x)$. The coefficients of the monomials in x_1, \dots, x_n that appear in $h_a(x)$, are real linear combinations of the z_i 's.
4. One inserts these general expressions of the polynomials $h_a(x)$, $a = 1, \dots, n$, in Eq. (4). The coefficients of similar monomials (with respect to the variables x_1, \dots, x_n) give the equations of a (quite big) system of linear equations for the indeterminates z_i 's.
5. One solves this linear system, and obtains the values of the z_i 's that define the basis transformation from the original basis $p_a(x)$, $a = 1, \dots, n$, to the canonical basis $h_a(x)$, $a = 1, \dots, n$. In each of the n explicit expressions $\widehat{h}_a(p)$, $a = 1, \dots, n$, one of the indeterminates z_i remains

undetermined and appears as a common multiplicative factor. If it is not required to find the normalized canonical basis, one can give to these n indeterminates z_i some convenient real values in such a way to avoid denominators and common divisors in the explicit expressions of the $h_a(x)$, $a = 1, \dots, n$.

6. To determine the normalized canonical basis $k_1(x), \dots, k_n(x)$, from a non-normalized canonical basis $h_1(x), \dots, h_n(x)$, one first defines $k_a(x) = z_a h_a(x)$, $a = 1, \dots, n$, with z_1, \dots, z_n , arbitrary real coefficients, and then solves the non-linear system in the z_a 's obtained by substituting the polynomials $k_a(x)$, $a = 1, \dots, n$, in Eq. (6), that is, by solving the system $\|k_a\|_c = 1$, $a = 1, \dots, n$.

In the case of groups of type D_n , even n , one can use the same algorithm presented above, with the following slight modifications at steps 4, 5 and 6. Step 4: In addition to Eq. (4), one has to consider also Eq. (5) that yields a system of non-linear equations in the indeterminates z_i 's. Step 5: Instead of n , there are $n + 1$ variables z_i , that remain undetermined. If one is not interested to find the normalized canonical basis, one can give to these $n + 1$ variables any convenient real values, otherwise, one can normalize the polynomials so found using Eq. (6), as written in step 6. Step 6: If one has to determine a normalized canonical basis from a non-normalized canonical basis $h_a(x)$, $a = 1, \dots, n$, one defines $k_a(x)$, $a = 1, \dots, n$, $a \neq \frac{n}{2}, \frac{n}{2} + 1$, as written in step 6, and defines $k_{\frac{n}{2}}(x) = c_1 h_{\frac{n}{2}}(x) + c_2 h_{\frac{n}{2}+1}(x)$ and $k_{\frac{n}{2}+1}(x) = c_3 h_{\frac{n}{2}}(x) + c_4 h_{\frac{n}{2}+1}(x)$, with c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4 arbitrary real coefficients. One then inserts $k_{\frac{n}{2}}(x)$ and $k_{\frac{n}{2}+1}(x)$ in Eq. (5), determining one of the c_i 's, and normalizes all $k_a(x)$, $a = 1, \dots, n$, as explained in step 6. After all this, one of the variables c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4 , remains still undetermined, and one can give it any convenient real value.

To get concretely the results the author used the commercial computer algebra system *Mathematica*.

The explicit form of the canonical bases, as well as those of the normalized canonical bases, for the irreducible finite reflection groups of type E_6 , E_7 and E_8 , are specified in the next three sections, respectively. As the explicit expressions of the canonical basic polynomials $h_a(x)$, $a = 1, \dots, n$,

are very large, it will be specified just the basis transformations to get them from a known basis of invariant polynomials, and not written their explicit expressions in full.

3. Canonical basis of invariant polynomials for E_6

In Ref. [9] Mehta described how to obtain a basis of invariant polynomials for E_6 . Consider $x = (x_1, \dots, x_6)$ and the 27 linear forms $\ell_1(x), \dots, \ell_{27}(x)$, listed in (4.2) of Ref. [9], copied here under:

$$\begin{aligned}
& 2\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}x_6, \quad \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}(\pm\sqrt{3}x_5 - x_6), \\
& \pm x_3 \pm x_4 - \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}x_6, \quad \pm x_1 \pm x_2 - \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}x_6, \\
& \pm x_2 \pm x_4 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}(\sqrt{3}x_5 + x_6), \quad \pm x_1 \pm x_3 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}(\sqrt{3}x_5 + x_6), \\
& \pm x_2 \pm x_3 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}(\sqrt{3}x_5 - x_6), \quad \pm x_1 \pm x_4 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}(\sqrt{3}x_5 - x_6).
\end{aligned}$$

A basis of algebraically independent homogeneous polynomials for the orthogonal irreducible group of type E_6 is obtained in the following way:

$$p_a(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{27} (\ell_k(x))^{d_a}, \quad a = 1, \dots, 6, \quad (7)$$

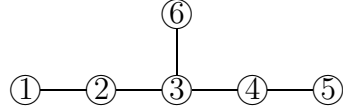
where $(d_1, \dots, d_6) = (2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12)$ are the degrees of the basic invariant polynomials of E_6 .

From the basic invariant polynomials (7), it is possible to calculate the 36 reflecting hyperplanes, that are also given in Eq. (4.1) of Ref. [9], whose gradients specify the root directions. The method to do this derives from a classical result of Coxeter, Theorem 6.2 of Ref. [2]. One first calculates the jacobian matrix $j(x)$, whose elements are $j_{ai}(x) = \frac{\partial p_a(x)}{\partial x_i}$, $a, i = 1, \dots, n$. The determinant $\det(j(x))$ is proportional to the product of the $N = \sum_{a=1}^n (d_a - 1)$ linear forms $L_r(x)$, $r = 1, \dots, N$, which determine the equations $L_r(x) = 0$ of the reflecting hyperplanes, and whose gradients $\nabla L_r(x)$ are proportional to the roots. In Ref. [9] Mehta did not use this method to find the equations of the reflecting hyperplanes but instead he calculated both the equations of

the reflecting hyperplanes and the explicit expressions of the basic invariant polynomials from the linear forms $\ell_1(x), \dots, \ell_{27}(x)$, once he proved that they form an invariant set. A possible set of simple roots is the following one:

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_1 &= e_2 - e_3 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e_5 + \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} e_6, & \alpha_2 &= e_3 - e_4 - \sqrt{2} e_5, & \alpha_3 &= 2 e_4, \\ \alpha_4 &= e_3 - e_4 + \sqrt{2} e_5, & \alpha_5 &= e_2 - e_3 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e_5 - \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} e_6, & \alpha_6 &= e_1 - e_2 - e_3 - e_4,\end{aligned}$$

where the e_i , $i = 1, \dots, 6$, are the canonical unit vectors of \mathbb{R}^6 . The simple roots just specified take place in the following Coxeter-Dynkin diagram:



where the numbers in the circles correspond to the simple root indices. The reflections corresponding to the simple roots $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_6$ generate the group of type E_6 for which the polynomials in Eq. (7) are invariant.

The basic invariant polynomials given by Eq. (7) may not be the best ones for computations, as they contain rational and irrational numbers for coefficients, and $p_1(x)$ is not as in Eq. (1), so one might prefer to consider some multiples of them, at least to get rid of the numeric common divisors and denominators. A possible choice is to take as basic invariant polynomials the following ones (the argument x of the polynomials $p_a(x)$, $q_a(x)$, $a = 1, \dots, n$, and of all polynomials appearing in the rest of this section, is understood):

$$q_1 = \frac{1}{12} p_1, \quad q_2 = \frac{3}{20} \sqrt{2} p_2, \quad q_3 = \frac{1}{2} p_3, \quad q_4 = 9 p_4, \quad q_5 = \frac{9}{7} \sqrt{2} p_5, \quad q_6 = 36 p_6.$$

A basis transformation to get a canonical basis h_1, \dots, h_6 is the following one:

$$\begin{aligned}h_1 &= q_1, & h_2 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} q_2, & h_3 &= \sqrt{3} (-8 q_1^3 + q_3), \\ h_4 &= \frac{\sqrt{3}}{5} (1120 q_1^4 - 224 q_1 q_3 + 3 q_4), & h_5 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} (-80 q_1^2 q_2 + q_5), \\ h_6 &= \frac{1}{405} (-169845984 q_1^6 - 18714080 q_1 q_2^2 + 50516928 q_1^3 q_3 - 657888 q_3^2 - 1108536 q_1^2 q_4 + 21171 q_6).\end{aligned}$$

The normalized canonical basis k_1, \dots, k_6 , satisfying Eq. (6), is obtained with the following multiples of the polynomials h_1, \dots, h_6 :

$$\begin{aligned} k_1 &= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}} h_1, & k_2 &= \frac{1}{48\sqrt{2}} h_2, & k_3 &= \frac{1}{576\sqrt{5}} h_3, \\ k_4 &= \frac{1}{13824\sqrt{70}} h_4, & k_5 &= \frac{1}{46080\sqrt{2}} h_5, & k_6 &= \frac{1}{4423680\sqrt{543389}} h_6. \end{aligned}$$

4. Canonical basis of invariant polynomials for E_7

In Ref. [9] Mehta described how to obtain a basis of invariant polynomials for E_7 . Consider $x = (x_1, \dots, x_7)$ and the 56 linear forms $\ell_1(x), \dots, \ell_{56}(x)$, listed in (4.4) of Ref. [9], copied here under:

$$\pm x_i \pm x_j \pm x_k,$$

where the indices (i, j, k) can take the following 7 sets of values: $(i, j, k) = (1, 2, 7), (1, 3, 6), (1, 4, 5), (2, 3, 5), (2, 4, 6), (3, 4, 7), (5, 6, 7)$.

A basis of algebraically independent homogeneous polynomials for the orthogonal irreducible group of type E_7 is obtained in the following way:

$$p_a(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{56} (\ell_k(x))^{d_a}, \quad a = 1, \dots, 7, \quad (8)$$

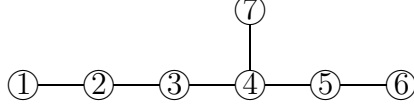
where $(d_1, \dots, d_7) = (2, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 18)$ are the degrees of the basic invariant polynomials of E_7 . (All the degrees are even, so it would be sufficient in Eq. (8) to sum over the 28 linear forms that start with the plus sign).

From the basic invariant polynomials (8), it is possible to calculate the 63 reflecting hyperplanes, that are also given in Eq. (4.3) of Ref. [9], whose gradients specify the root directions. (The method to do this was described in Section 3). A possible set of simple roots is the following one:

$$\alpha_1 = 2e_7, \quad \alpha_2 = e_2 - e_3 - e_6 - e_7, \quad \alpha_3 = 2e_6,$$

$$\alpha_4 = e_3 - e_4 - e_5 - e_6, \quad \alpha_5 = 2e_4, \quad \alpha_6 = e_1 - e_2 - e_3 - e_4, \quad \alpha_7 = 2e_5,$$

where the e_i , $i = 1, \dots, 7$, are the canonical unit vectors of \mathbb{R}^7 . The simple roots just specified take place in the following Coxeter-Dynkin diagram:



where the numbers in the circles correspond to the simple root indices. The reflections corresponding to the simple roots $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_7$ generate the group of type E_7 for which the polynomials in Eq. (8) are invariant.

We start from the basic invariant polynomials given by the following multiples of those in Eq. (8):

$$q_i = \frac{1}{24} p_i, \quad i = 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, \quad q_j = \frac{1}{8} p_j, \quad j = 3, 6.$$

The explicit expressions of the basic invariant polynomials $q_1(x), \dots, q_7(x)$, together with the computer code used to get them, are available online in the supplemental material of Ref. [14].

A basis transformation to get a canonical basis h_1, \dots, h_7 is the following one:

$$\begin{aligned} h_1 &= q_1, & h_2 &= \frac{1}{2} (-15 q_1^3 + 11 q_2), & h_3 &= \frac{1}{20} (2835 q_1^4 - 3276 q_1 q_2 + 247 q_3), \\ h_4 &= \frac{1}{2} (-9 q_1 (18 q_1^4 - 30 q_1 q_2 + 5 q_3) + 23 q_4), \\ h_5 &= \frac{1}{10} (11 (280 q_1^6 - 1288 q_1^3 q_2 - 490 q_2^2 + 761 q_1^2 q_3 - 970 q_1 q_4) + 1735 q_5), \\ h_6 &= \frac{1}{319} \left(819 (33 (4490 q_1^7 - 8666 q_1^4 q_2 + 4900 q_1 q_2^2 - 300 q_1^3 q_3 - 465 q_2 q_3 + 2525 q_1^2 q_4) + \right. \\ &\quad \left. - 36115 q_1 q_5) + 1610605 q_6 \right), \\ h_7 &= \frac{1}{15682040} \left(-2431 (5085078551185 q_1^9 - 11402026037640 q_1^6 q_2 + 7472423123536 q_1^3 q_2^2 + \right. \\ &\quad - 201739938400 q_2^3 - 540102070990 q_1^5 q_3 - 748116822184 q_1^2 q_2 q_3 + \\ &\quad - 46311340011 q_1 q_3^2 + 40 (152224768729 q_1^4 - 6555491354 q_1 q_2 + 1476892164 q_3) q_4) + \\ &\quad \left. + 742560 (12033352910 q_1^3 - 517191829 q_2) q_5 - 703975240263600 q_1^2 q_6 + 64758924763060 q_7 \right). \end{aligned}$$

The normalized canonical basis k_1, \dots, k_7 , satisfying Eq. (6), is obtained with the following multiples of the polynomials h_1, \dots, h_7 :

$$k_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{14}} h_1, \quad k_2 = \frac{1}{24 \sqrt{2310}} h_2, \quad k_3 = \frac{1}{2016 \sqrt{741}} h_3,$$

$$\begin{aligned}
k_4 &= \frac{1}{40320 \sqrt{138}} h_4, & k_5 &= \frac{1}{483840 \sqrt{7634}} h_5, \\
k_6 &= \frac{1}{11612160 \sqrt{146565055}} h_6 & k_7 &= \frac{1}{92897280 \sqrt{5181830514230370}} h_7.
\end{aligned}$$

5. Canonical basis of invariant polynomials for E_8

In Ref. [9] Mehta described how to obtain a basis of invariant polynomials for E_8 . Consider $x = (x_1, \dots, x_8)$ and the 240 linear forms $\ell_1(x), \dots, \ell_{240}(x)$, listed at page 1097 of Ref. [9], copied here under:

$$\pm 2x_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, 8,$$

$$\pm x_i \pm x_j \pm x_k \pm x_l,$$

where the indices (i, j, k, l) can take the following 14 sets of values: $(i, j, k, l) = (1, 2, 3, 4), (1, 2, 5, 6), (1, 2, 7, 8), (1, 3, 5, 7), (1, 3, 6, 8), (1, 4, 6, 7), (1, 4, 5, 8), (2, 3, 5, 8), (2, 3, 6, 7), (2, 4, 5, 7), (2, 4, 6, 8), (3, 4, 5, 6), (3, 4, 7, 8), (5, 6, 7, 8)$. A basis of algebraically independent homogeneous polynomials for the orthogonal irreducible group of type E_8 is obtained in the following way:

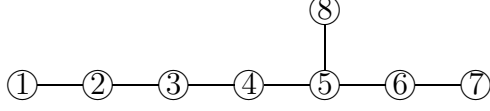
$$p_a(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{240} (\ell_k(x))^{d_a}, \quad a = 1, \dots, 8, \quad (9)$$

where $(d_1, \dots, d_8) = (2, 8, 12, 14, 18, 20, 24, 30)$ are the degrees of the basic invariant polynomials of E_8 . (All the degrees are even, so it would be sufficient in Eq. (9) to sum over the 120 linear forms that start with the plus sign).

From the basic invariant polynomials (9), it is possible to calculate the 120 reflecting hyperplanes, whose equations coincide with $\ell_j(x) = 0$, $j = 1, \dots, 240$, (counting twice each equation), whose gradients specify the root directions. (The method to do this was described in Section 3). A possible set of simple roots is the following one:

$$\begin{aligned}
\alpha_1 &= e_1 - e_2 - e_3 - e_4, & \alpha_2 &= 2e_4, & \alpha_3 &= e_3 - e_4 - e_5 - e_6, \\
\alpha_4 &= 2e_6, & \alpha_5 &= e_5 - e_6 - e_7 - e_8, & \alpha_6 &= 2e_8, & \alpha_7 &= e_2 - e_3 - e_5 - e_8, \\
\alpha_8 &= 2e_7,
\end{aligned}$$

where the e_i , $i = 1, \dots, 8$, are the canonical unit vectors of \mathbb{R}^8 . The simple roots just specified take place in the following Coxeter-Dynkin diagram:



where the numbers in the circles correspond to the simple root indices. The reflections corresponding to the simple roots $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_8$ generate the group of type E_8 for which the polynomials in Eq. (9) are invariant.

We start from the basic invariant polynomials given by the following multiples of those in Eq. (9):

$$q_1 = \frac{1}{120} p_1, \quad q_i = \frac{1}{48} p_i, \quad i = 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, \quad q_8 = \frac{1}{240} p_8.$$

The explicit expressions of the basic invariant polynomials $q_1(x), \dots, q_8(x)$, together with the computer code used to get them, are available online in the supplemental material of Ref. [14].

A basis transformation to get a canonical basis $h_1(x), \dots, h_8(x)$ is the following one:

$$\begin{aligned} h_1 &= q_1, & h_2 &= -10 q_1^4 + q_2, & h_3 &= \frac{1}{7} (4235 q_1^6 - 495 q_1^2 q_2 + 13 q_3), \\ h_4 &= \frac{1}{11} (-17589 q_1^7 + 2145 q_1^3 q_2 - 91 q_1 q_3 + 8 q_4), \\ h_5 &= \frac{1}{7280} (17 q_1 (27922895 q_1^8 - 3333330 q_1^4 q_2 - 24453 q_2^2 + 227864 q_1^2 q_3 - 36144 q_1 q_4) + 7600 q_5), \\ h_6 &= \frac{1}{748} \left(-969 (429 q_1^2 (992005 q_1^8 - 115710 q_1^4 q_2 - 1271 q_2^2) + \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 728 (5059 q_1^4 + 10 q_2) q_3 - 647312 q_1^3 q_4) - 12549880 q_1 q_5 + 880796 q_6 \right), \\ h_7 &= \frac{1}{28647880800} \left(23 \left(4199 (20274537662080415 q_1^{12} - 2250467375658810 q_1^8 q_2 + \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. - 40769297380581 q_1^4 q_2^2 + 178341143921528 q_1^6 q_3 + 1420510398720 q_1^2 q_2 q_3 + \right. \\ &\quad \left. - 1640 (8061383 q_2^3 + 3080560 q_3^2)) - 46512 q_1 (3015480163976 q_1^4 + \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 10722788425 q_2) q_4 + 3837192062311440 q_1^3 q_5 - 443023026566400 q_1^2 q_6 \right) + 78547609202400 q_7 \Big), \\ h_8 &= \frac{1}{19626789759713136000000} \left(667 \left(323 (-11 q_1^3 (1094671830559801212459572195245 q_1^{12} + \right. \right. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& -124907605937936839186287677130 q_1^8 q_2 - 1777752453446126054618835543 q_1^4 q_2^2 + \\
& + 530575867656892216179020 q_2^3) - 1144 q_1 (92073813834207882297946571 q_1^8 + \\
& + 511036172390511143554680 q_1^4 q_2 - 449662651462146636150 q_2^2) q_3 + 40125576319460176480000 q_1^3 q_2^2 + \\
& + 48 (406458546004454701971207148 q_1^8 + 1088335288483913057060495 q_1^4 q_2 - 469314879303830560000 q_2^2 + \\
& + 9038224261602298802000 q_1^2 q_3) q_4 - 38325110052347105500800 q_1 q_4^2) + \\
& - 117040 (1497805112196088699388741 q_1^6 - 1376419171002564521550 q_1^2 q_2 + 9544045308237440000 q_3) q_5 + \\
& + 100900800 q_1 (207536086797307841747 q_1^4 - 259054452883944920 q_2) q_6) + \\
& - 121281139650829621358815920000 q_1^3 q_7 + 486032507227341717350400000 q_8) .
\end{aligned}$$

The normalized canonical basis k_1, \dots, k_8 , satisfying Eq. (6), is obtained with the following multiples of the polynomials h_1, \dots, h_8 :

$$\begin{aligned}
k_1 &= \frac{1}{4} h_1, & k_2 &= \frac{1}{1920 \sqrt{42}} h_2, & k_3 &= \frac{1}{92160 \sqrt{15015}} h_3, & k_4 &= \frac{1}{15482880 \sqrt{65}} h_4, \\
k_5 &= \frac{1}{1857945600 \sqrt{17765}} h_5, & k_6 &= \frac{1}{52022476800 \sqrt{4778475585}} h_6, \\
k_7 &= \frac{1}{41736889958400 \sqrt{342348352885}} h_7, \\
k_8 &= \frac{1}{14383174385664000 \sqrt{14557753942206761}} h_8.
\end{aligned}$$

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