

## DECOMPOSABLE INVOLUTION CENTRALIZERS INVOLVING EXCEPTIONAL LIE TYPE SIMPLE GROUPS

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### 1. Introduction

There have been investigations (Janko (1966), Janko and Thompson (1966), Yamaki (1972)) of finite groups  $G$  which contain a central involution  $t$  whose centralizer (in  $G$ ) has the form  $C(t) = \langle t \rangle \times F$ , where  $F$  is isomorphic to a non-abelian simple group. Here it is shown such a group cannot be simple when  $F$  is isomorphic to an exceptional Lie type simple group of odd characteristic. Specifically the following theorem is proved.

**THEOREM 1.1.** *Let  $G$  be a finite group with a central involution  $t$  whose centralizer has form*

$$C(t) = \langle t \rangle \times F,$$

*where  $F$  is isomorphic to an exceptional Lie type simple group of odd characteristic. Then  $G$  has a subgroup of index 2 not containing  $t$ .*

Theorem 1.1 may be combined with the results of Curran to give:

**THEOREM 1.2.** *Let  $G$  be a finite group with a central involution  $t$  whose centralizer has the structure*

$$C(t) = \langle t \rangle \times F$$

*where  $F$  is isomorphic to any alternating simple group or any classical or exceptional Lie type simple group of odd characteristic. Then  $G$  has a subgroup of index 2 not containing  $t$  (and so  $G$  is not simple), except when  $F \cong A_5$  or  $F \cong \text{PSL}(2, 3^{2n+1})$  ( $n \geq 1$ ).*

Of course these are true exceptions, for the centralizer of an involution  $t$  in the Janko simple group of order 175,560 has the form  $C(t) \cong \langle t \rangle \times A_5$  (Janko (1966)); while in the simple Ree groups  $C(t)$  has the structure  $C(t) \cong \langle t \rangle \times \text{PSL}(2, 3^{2n+1})$  ( $n \geq 1$ ) (Janko and Thompson (1966)).

The notation follows that of Carter (1972) in which standard facts on the Chevalley groups may be found.

## 2. Straightforward cases

In this section Theorem 1.1 is proved when  $F$  is isomorphic to one of the following simple Lie groups:  $G_2(q)$ ,  $F_4(q)$ ,  $E_6(q)$ ,  $E_8(q)$ ,  ${}^3D_4(q^3)$ ,  ${}^2E_6(q^2)$  or  ${}^2G_2(3^{2n+1})$  ( $n \geq 1$ ). The proof of the theorem is straightforward in these cases, because when  $F \approx {}^2G_2(3^{3n+1})$  ( $n \geq 1$ ) a Sylow 2-subgroup of  $G$  is abelian and appeal to the theorem of Walter (1969) characterizing such groups yields the result; while in the remaining cases every involution in  $F$  is a square in  $F$  and the theorem follows easily from (2.1) and (2.2) below.

**PROOF OF THEOREM 1.1.** First consider the case when  $F \approx {}^2G_2(3^{2n+1})$  ( $n \geq 1$ ), the twisted Ree group of type  $G_2$  over the field  $\mathbf{F}_{3^{2n+1}}$  ( $n \geq 1$ ). This group has only one class of involutions and as noted above if  $x$  is any involution in  $F$ ,  $C_F(x) \approx \langle x \rangle \times \text{PSL}(2, 3^{2n+1})$ . Thus a Sylow 2-subgroup of  $G$  is elementary abelian of order 8, and so a Sylow 2-subgroup of  $G$  is elementary abelian of order 16.

Without loss of generality we may assume  $O(G) = 1$ , where  $O(G)$  is the maximal normal odd order subgroup in  $G$ . Then if  $O'(G)$  is the minimal normal subgroup of odd index in  $G$ ,  $C(t) \cap O'(G) \triangleleft C(t)$  and contains a Sylow 2-subgroup of  $G$ . Thus  $\langle t \rangle \times F \subseteq O'(G)$ . But both  $G$  and  $\langle t \rangle \times F$  have 2-order 16 so by a theorem of Walter (1969) characterizing groups with abelian Sylow 2-subgroups  $O'(G) = \langle t \rangle \times F$ . Therefore  $F \triangleleft G$  and  $G/F$  has order  $2k$ ,  $k$  odd. Thus by a theorem of Burnside  $G/F$  has a subgroup of index 2 not containing  $tF$  and the conclusion of Theorem 1.1 follows.

Now consider the remaining cases. Since  $t$  is central,  $C(t)$  contains a Sylow 2-subgroup of  $G$  of form  $S = \langle t \rangle \times M$  where  $M$  is a Sylow 2-subgroup of  $F$ . We show  $t$  is not fused (that is conjugate in  $G$ ) to any involution in  $M$  and use the following lemma of Thompson (1968).



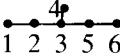
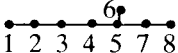

**LEMMA 2.1.** *Let  $M$  be a subgroup of index 2 in a Sylow 2-subgroup  $S$  of a finite group  $G$ . Let  $t$  be an involution in  $S \setminus M$  which is not fused to any element of  $M$ . Then  $G$  has a (normal) subgroup of index 2 not containing  $t$ .*

Now the structure of  $C(t)$  shows  $t$  cannot be fused with an involution which is a square in  $F$ . More generally if  $\langle L^2 \rangle$  denotes the group generated by the squares of elements of a subgroup  $L$  of  $G$ , the following holds:

**LEMMA 2.2.**  *$t$  is not fused to any involution  $x \in \langle C_F(x)^2 \rangle$ .*

**PROOF.** Suppose on the contrary  $x = \prod_{i=1}^m x_i^2$  where  $x_i \in C_F(x)$  ( $m$  a

positive integer) and  $t = x^a$ , some  $a \in G$ . Then  $t = \prod_{i=1}^m (x_i^a)^2$ . But  $x_i \in C_F(x) \subseteq C(x)$  so  $x_i^a \in C(x)^a = C(t)$ . Thus  $t \in \langle C(t)^2 \rangle \subseteq F$ , a contradiction. But in the remaining simple Lie groups above, every involution is a square and so the conclusion of Theorem 1.1 follows immediately from (2.1) and (2.2). In the table below we list these groups, together with the corresponding Dynkin diagram, a representative of each class of involutions and the order 4 element of which it is a square.

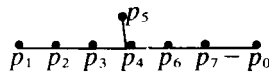
Group	Dynkin Diagram	Representatives	Order 4 elements
$G_2(q)$		$h_1$	$n_1$
$F_4(q)$		$h_2h_4$ $h_1h_3$	$n_2n_4$ $n_1n_3$
$E_6(q), {}^2E_6(q^2)$		$h_2h_5$ $h_1h_3h_6$	$n_2n_5$ $n_1n_3n_6$
$E_8(q)$		$h_2h_4h_6$ $h_6h_7$	$n_2n_4n_6$ $n_6n_7$
${}^3D_4(q^3)$		$h_2$	$n_2$

The representatives chosen are found from Iwahori (1970). The element  $h_i = h_i(-1)$  and the element  $n_i = x_{p_i}(1)x_{-p_i}(-1)x_{p_i}(1)$  is a generator of the subgroup  $N$  in the Chevalley group.  $n_i^2 = h_i$ , and for  $i \neq j$  we have  $n_i n_j = n_j n_i$  if and only if node  $i$  and node  $j$  are not connected in the Dynkin diagram.

### 3. The case $E_7(q)$

Finally consider the case when  $F \approx E_7(q)$ , the adjoint Chevalley group of type  $E_7$  over the finite field  $k = \mathbb{F}_q$  of  $q$  elements ( $q$  odd).

Let  $\Phi$  be the set of roots of a complex semi-simple Lie algebra of type  $E_7$  relative to a Cartan subalgebra. For a fixed ordering of  $\Phi$  let  $\Phi^+$  be the positive roots containing a fundamental system  $\Pi = \{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_7\}$ , with Dynkin diagram



where  $p_0$  is the highest root in  $\Phi^+$ ,  $p_0 = p_1 + 2p_2 + 3p_3 + 4p_4 + 2p_5 + 3p_6 + 2p_7$ .

Let  $W = \langle w_r \mid r \in \Phi \rangle$  be the Weyl group of  $\Phi$ , and  $w_0 \in W$  be the symmetry which interchanges  $p_3$  and  $p_6$ ,  $p_2$  and  $p_7$ ,  $p_1$  and  $-p_0$ , and fixes  $p_4$  and  $p_5$ .

Let  $E = \langle x_r(t) | r \in \Phi, t \in k \rangle$  be the associated adjoint Chevalley group over the field  $k$ , which contains the subgroup  $H = \langle h_r(t) | r \in \Phi, t \in \dot{k} \rangle$ , where  $\dot{k} = \langle \kappa \rangle$  is the multiplicative group of  $k$ . The universal Chevalley group of type  $E_7$  has centre  $\langle h_1(-1)h_3(-1)h_5(-1) \rangle$  of order 2, so the adjoint group  $E$  is generated by the elements  $x_r(t)$  ( $r \in \Phi, t \in k$ ) satisfying the usual relations for the universal group with the additional relation  $h_1(-1)h_3(-1)h_5(-1) = 1$ .

Let  $K$  be the algebraic closure of  $k$ , and for the extension field  $\mathbb{F}_{q^2}$  of  $k$  in  $K$ , let  $\dot{\mathbb{F}}_{q^2} = \langle \rho \rangle$ . Put  $i = \rho^{(q^2-1)/4}$  and  $\sqrt{\kappa} = \rho^{(q+1)/2}$ . Denote by  $\bar{E} = \langle x_r(t) | r \in \Phi, t \in K \rangle$  the connected linear group over  $K$  containing  $E$  as a subgroup in the natural way, and  $\bar{H} = \langle h_r(t) | r \in \Phi, t \in \dot{K} \rangle$ .

The mapping  $x_r(t) \rightarrow x_r(t^q)$  ( $r \in \Phi, t \in K$ ) on the generators of  $\bar{E}$  extends to the Frobenius automorphism  $\sigma$  of  $\bar{E}$ . For a subset  $X$  of  $\bar{E}$  invariant under  $\sigma$ , let  $X_\sigma$  denote the fixed points of  $\sigma$  in  $X$ . Then  $E^* = \bar{E}_\sigma$  is the group of  $k$ -rational points in  $\bar{E}$ . One knows  $|E^* : E| = 2$ ,  $E^* = E.H^*$  and  $E \cap H^* = H$ , where  $H^* = \bar{H}_\sigma$ . In fact  $E^* = \langle h_1(\sqrt{\kappa})h_3(\sqrt{\kappa})h_5(\sqrt{\kappa}) \rangle.E$ .

The proof of Theorem 1.1 requires the classes of involutions and their centralizers in  $E$ . First, from the results of Iwahori (1970), we give the classes and their centralizers in  $\bar{E}$ .

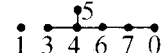
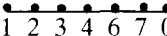
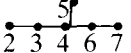
LEMMA 3.1. (i) *There are three classes of involutions in  $\bar{E}$  having the following representatives in  $H^*$ :*

$$z = h_1(-1)$$

$$u_1 = h_1(i)h_2(-1)h_3(-i)h_5(i)$$

$$u_2 = h_1(i)h_3(-i)h_4(-1)h_5(i)h_7(-1).$$

(ii) *If  $C^0$  is the connected component of the identity for the centralizer  $C$  of any of the above involutions then  $C/C^0$  is finite abelian. Coset representatives of  $C^0$  in  $C$  are certain  $n_w \in N = N_E(H)$ ,  $w \in W$ , where the  $n_w$  can be chosen to have the same order as  $w$ . Further  $C_0 = \bar{H}.X$  where  $X$  is a connected semi-simple algebraic group and  $X \triangleleft C^0$ . The following table lists for  $z, u_1$  and  $u_2$  the simple components of  $X$ , the corresponding set of fundamental roots, the order of  $C/C^0$  and the coset representatives in  $N$ .*

Representatives	Components	Root Structure	$ C/C^0 $	$n_w$
$z$	$A_1, D_6$		1	1
$u_1$	$A_7$		2	$n_{w_0}$
$u_2$	$E_6$		2	$n_{w_0}$

PROOF. If  $\Gamma_\pi$  is the  $\mathbf{Z}$ -lattice spanned by  $\Pi$ ,  $\bar{H}$  may be identified with  $\text{Hom}(\Gamma_\pi, \bar{K})$ . Then (ii) follows from proposition 1 in Iwahori (1970) with  $X = \langle X, (t) | r \in \Phi_\chi, t \in K \rangle$  where the involution  $h \in \bar{H}$  corresponds to  $\chi \in \text{Hom}(\Gamma_\pi, \bar{K})$  and  $\Phi_\chi = \{r \in \Phi | \chi(r) = 1\}$ . The involutions  $z, u_1, u_2$  correspond to  $\chi_{\lambda_2}(2), \chi_{\lambda_3}(2), \chi_{\lambda_1}(1)$  respectively in Iwahori (1970) and the classes for  $\bar{E}$  (giving (i)) and the  $\Phi_\chi$  for each of these involutions are given on pages F23, F24 of that paper.

LEMMA 3.2. (i) *There are 5 classes of involutions in  $E^*$  with representatives  $z, u_i, u_i^a$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) where  $n_{w_0} = a^\sigma \cdot a^{-1}$  ( $a \in \bar{E}$ ).*

(ii) *There are 3 classes of involutions in  $E$  with representatives:*

$$z, u_i \quad (i = 1, 2) \quad \text{when } q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}.$$

$$z, u_i^a \quad (i = 1, 2) \quad \text{when } q \equiv -1 \pmod{4}.$$

PROOF. By a lemma of Steinberg (10.1 in Steinberg (1968)) if  $n_w \in \bar{E}$ ,  $n_w = x^\sigma x^{-1}$  for some  $x \in \bar{E}$ . Then proposition 6 in Iwahori (1970) shows that for any involution  $h \in H^*$  the map

$$C_{\bar{E}}(h) / C_{\bar{E}}^0(h) \rightarrow (h^{\bar{E}} \cap E^*) / E^*,$$

(the  $E^*$  class of  $h$  lying in the  $\bar{E}$  class of  $h$ ), defined by:  $n_w \rightarrow (h^*)^{E^*}$  (the  $E^*$  class of  $h^*$ ), is a bijection. (i) now follows from (3.1) taking  $n_{w_0} = a^\sigma a^{-1}$  ( $a \in \bar{E}$ ) and (ii) is contained in Iwahori (1970) on pages F26, F27.

In order to treat the cases  $q \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{4}$  uniformly we observe (for  $i = 1, 2$ ),

$$C_{E^*}(u_i^a) = C_{\bar{E}}(u_i^a, \sigma) \cong_{a^{-1}} C_{\bar{E}}(u_i, \sigma^{a^{-1}}) = C_{\bar{E}_\theta}(u_i)$$

where  $\bar{E}_\theta$  is the group of fixed points of  $\theta = \sigma^{a^{-1}} = \sigma n_{w_0}$  in  $\bar{E}$ . So when  $q \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$  it is convenient to let  $E(-1) = E^{a^{-1}}$ , of index 2 in  $\bar{E}_\theta$ , and consider the centralizer of  $u_i$  in  $E(-1)$ , since  $C_{\bar{E}}(u_i^a) \cong_{a^{-1}} C_{E(-1)}(u_i)$ . Because  $\theta = \sigma n_{w_0}$  these centralizers involve twisted Lie groups. We also put  $H(-1) = H^{a^{-1}}$ ,  $H^*(-1) = H^{*a^{-1}}$ ,  $E(1) = E$ ,  $H(1) = H$ ,  $H^*(1) = H^*$  and assume  $q \equiv \varepsilon \pmod{4}$ , ( $\varepsilon \pm 1$ ) in the following.

LEMMA 3.3. (i)  $C_E(z) = H.L(z)$  where  $L(z)$  is a central product of Lie groups of type  $A_1$  and  $D_6$ . Further  $z$  is the only central class in  $E$  and  $z$  is a square in  $E$ .

(ii).  $C_{E(\varepsilon)}(u_i) = \langle h_1 \rangle L(u_i)$ , where  $L(u_i)$  is of type  $A_7(q)$  ( $\varepsilon = 1$ ) or  ${}^2A_7(q_2)$  ( $\varepsilon = -1$ ), and  $h_1 \in H(\varepsilon)$ .

(iii)  $C_{E(\varepsilon)}(u_2) = \langle h_2 \rangle L(u_2)$ , where  $L(u_2)$  is of type  $E_6(q)$  ( $\varepsilon = 1$ ) or  ${}^2E_6(q^2)$  ( $\varepsilon = -1$ ), and  $h_2 \in H(\varepsilon)$ .

(iv) For  $i = 1, 2$   $u_i \in \langle C_{E(\epsilon)}(u_i)^2 \rangle$  if and only if  $q \equiv \epsilon \pmod{8}$ .

PROOF. (i) From (3.1) it follows that  $C_E(z) = H.L(z)$ , where  $L(z) = \langle X_{\pm p_i}(t) \mid 0 \leq i \leq 7, i \neq 2; t \in k \rangle$ .

Let  $L_1 = \langle X_{\pm p_i}(t) \mid t \in k \rangle$  and  $L_2 = \langle X_{\pm p_i}(t) \mid i = 0, 3 \leq i \leq 7; t \in k \rangle$ , then  $L(z) = L_1.L_2$  where  $L_1$  is of type  $A_1$  and  $L_2$  is of type  $D_6$ . In fact  $Z(L_1) = \langle h_1(-1) \rangle$  so  $L_1 \approx \text{SL}(2, q)$ , and

$$Z(L_2) = \langle h_0(-1)h_5(-1)h_6(-1) \rangle \times \langle h_3(-1)h_5(-1) \rangle = \langle h_1(-1) \rangle$$

so  $L_2$  is a homomorphic image of  $\text{Spin}(12, q)$  which is not  $\Omega(12, q)$ . Clearly  $[L_1, L_2] = 1$  and  $L_1 \cap L_2 = \langle h_1(-1) \rangle$  so  $L(z)$  is the central product of  $L_1$  and  $L_2$ . Further  $L(z)$  is of index 2 in  $C_E(z)$ , because clearly  $C_E(z) = \langle h_2(\kappa) \rangle.L(z)$  and  $h_2(\kappa)^2 \in L(z)$ .

Also  $z$  is obviously a square in  $E$  ( $z = n_1^2$ ) and a calculation of  $|E : C_E(z)|$  shows  $z$  is central in  $E$ .

(ii) For  $i = 1, 2$ ,  $C_{E(\epsilon)}^0(u_i) = E(\epsilon) \cap C_E^0(u_i)$ . So from (3.1)  $C_{E(\epsilon)}^0(u_i)$  is of index 2 in  $C_{E(\epsilon)}(u_i)$  with coset representative  $n_w$ , and  $C_{E(\epsilon)}^0(u_i) = H(\epsilon).L(u_i)$ , with  $L(u_i) \triangleleft C_{E(\epsilon)}(u_i)$ .

Now  $L(u_1) = \langle X_{\pm p_i} \mid 0 \leq i \leq 7, i \neq 5 \rangle$  is of type  $A_7(q)$  ( $\epsilon = 1$ ) or of type  ${}^2A_7(q^2)$  ( $\epsilon = -1$ ). If  $d = (q - \epsilon, 8)$  and  $\gamma = \rho^{(q^2-1)/d}$  then

$$\begin{aligned} Z(L(u_1)) &= \langle h_1(\gamma)h_2(\gamma^2)h_3(\gamma^3)h_4(\gamma^4)h_6(\gamma^5)h_7(\gamma^6)h_0(\gamma^7) \rangle \\ &= \langle h_1(\gamma^2)h_2(\gamma^4)h_3(\gamma^6)h_5(\gamma^2) \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Thus when  $q \equiv \epsilon \pmod{8}$ ,  $Z(L(u_1)) = \langle u_1 \rangle$ , and when  $q \equiv 4 + \epsilon \pmod{8}$ ,  $Z(L(u_1)) = 1$ . So in the latter case  $L(u_1) \approx \text{PSL}(8, q)$  ( $\epsilon = 1$ ) or  $L(u_1) \approx \text{PSU}(8, q)$  ( $\epsilon = -1$ ).

In fact if  $\lambda = \rho^{q-\epsilon}$  (so  $\lambda^q = \lambda = \kappa$  ( $\epsilon = 1$ ) and  $\lambda^q = \lambda^{-1}$  ( $\epsilon = -1$ )) it is easily seen that

$$H(\epsilon).L(u_1) = \langle h_1 \rangle.L(u_1)$$

where  $h_1 = h_1(\lambda)h_2(\lambda^2)h_3(\lambda^3)h_4(-\lambda^2)h_5(\lambda)$ .

Note: if  $\sqrt{\lambda} = \rho^{(q-\epsilon)/2}$ , and  $g_1 = h_1(\sqrt{\lambda})h_2(\lambda)h_3(\sqrt{\lambda})h_4(-\lambda)h_5(\sqrt{\lambda})$  then  $g_1 \in H^*(\epsilon) - H(\epsilon)$  and  $g_1^2 = h_1$ . Since  $h_1^2 \in L(u_1)$  and  $h_1^{n_w} = h_1^{-1} \equiv h_1 \pmod{L(u_1)}$ ,  $C_{E(\epsilon)}(u_1)/L(u_1) \approx Z_2 \times Z_2$ , the 4-group.

Hence  $L(u_1) = L(u_1)' \subseteq C_{E(\epsilon)}(u_1) \subseteq \langle C_{E(\epsilon)}(u_1)^2 \rangle \subseteq L(u_1)$ .

(iii)  $L(u_2) = \langle X_{\pm p_i} \mid 2 \leq i \leq 7 \rangle$  is of type  $E_6(q)$  ( $\epsilon = 1$ ) or of type  ${}^2E_6(q^2)$  ( $\epsilon = -1$ ), with a centre of order  $(3, q - \epsilon)$ . In fact

$$H(\epsilon).L(u_2) = \langle h_2 \rangle.L(u_2)$$

where  $h_2 = h_1(\lambda)h_3(\lambda^3)h_4(\lambda^2)h_5(\lambda)h_7(\lambda^2)$ . Since  $h_2^{(q-\epsilon)/2} = 1$  and  $h_2^{n_w} = h_2^{-1}$ ,  $C_{E(\epsilon)}(u_2)/L(u_2)$  is dihedral.

Thus  $\langle C_{E(\varepsilon)}(u_2)^2 \rangle = C_{E(\varepsilon)}(u_2)'$  is of index 2 in  $H(\varepsilon)L(u_2)$ .

(iv) Since  $h_i^{(q-\varepsilon)/4} = u_i, u_i \in \langle C_{E(\varepsilon)}(u_i)^2 \rangle$  if and only if  $q \equiv \varepsilon \pmod{8}$ , and in fact when  $q \equiv \varepsilon \pmod{8}, u_i = (h_i^{(q-\varepsilon)/8})^2$  is actually a square in  $E$ .

A calculation of  $|E(\varepsilon): C_{E(\varepsilon)}(u_i)|$  shows the  $u_i$  are not central ( $i = 1, 2$ ) in  $E(\varepsilon)$ .

We now give the proof of (1.1) when  $F \approx E_7(q)$ .

PROOF OF (1.1). We put  $F = E(\varepsilon)$  where as above  $q \equiv \varepsilon \pmod{4}, \varepsilon = \pm 1$ ; and relabel  $z^a$ , the representative of the central class in  $E(-1), z$ . Thus the classes in  $F$  have representatives  $z, u_1$  and  $u_2$ . We show  $t$  is not fused to any of these three involutions and the theorem then follows from (2.2). By (3.3) when  $q \equiv \varepsilon \pmod{8} z, u_1$  and  $u_2$  are all squares in  $F$  and the conclusion of the theorem follows from (2.1).

Thus assume  $q \equiv 4 + \varepsilon \pmod{8}$ . A maximal set of representatives of the classes of involutions in  $C(t) = \langle t \rangle \times F$  is the set  $\{t, z, u_i, tz, tu_i \mid i = 1, 2\}$ .

(a) Again  $z$  is a square in  $F$  by (3.3) so  $t \not\sim z$  by (2.2).

(b) Suppose  $tz \sim t$  in  $G$ , say  $(tz)^b = t$  some  $b \in G$ . As  $t \in C(tz), t^b \in C(t)$  and is thus conjugate to one of the involutions above. Suppose  $t^b \sim u_i$  or  $tu_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ). In fact we may assume  $t^b = u_i$  or  $tu_i$ . In either case

$$C(t, z)^b = C(t, tz)^b = C(t, u_i),$$

$$\text{hence } (C(t, z)^{(\infty)})^b = C(y, u_i)^{(\infty)},$$

where for a subgroup  $L$  of  $G, L^{(\infty)}$  is the last term in the derived series of  $L$ .

Now  $C(t, z) = \langle t \rangle \times C_F(z)$ , so  $C(t, z)^{(\infty)} = C_F(z)^{(\infty)} = L(z)$  and similarly  $C(t, u_i)^{(\infty)} = L(u_i)$ . This gives a contradiction since by (3.3)  $L(z)$  and  $L(u_i)$  are not isomorphic. Thus  $t^b \sim tz$  and again we may assume  $t^b = tz$  so  $tz \rightarrow t \rightarrow tz$  under  $b$ . Therefore  $\langle C(t, z), b \rangle$  is a subgroup of order  $2|C(t, z)|$ , contradicting the fact that  $C(t, z)$  contains a Sylow 2-subgroup of  $G$  (since  $z$  is central in  $F$ ). Thus  $tz \not\sim t$  in  $G$ .

(c) Suppose  $u_i$  is conjugate to  $t$  in  $G$  so  $u_i^{c_i} = t$ , some  $c_i \in G$ . Now  $u_1^{n_5} = u_1 h_5(-1)$  and  $u_2^{n_0 n_1} = u_2 h_0(-1) h_1(-1) = u_2 h_3(-1) h_6(-1)$ , where  $\cdot n_5, n_0 n_1, z_1 = h_5(-1), z_2 = h_3(-1) h_6(-1) \in F$ . Thus  $u_i \sim u_i z_i$  where  $z_i$  is central in  $F$  (since  $z_i$  is clearly a square in  $F$  for  $i = 1, 2$ ). Conjugating this relation by  $c_i$  and assuming for the moment  $z_i^{c_i} = z_i$ , we have  $t \sim z_i$  in  $G$ . However  $tz_i \sim tz$  in  $G$  and this contradicts the result of (b).

To justify the assumption, recall we are assuming  $u_i^{c_i} = t$ . Then as in (b), since  $L(z), L(u_1)$  and  $L(u_2)$  are not isomorphic by (3.3), we may suppose  $t^{c_i} = u_i$  or  $tu_i$ . In either case  $c_i$  centralizes  $C(t, u_i)$  and so induces an automorphism on  $C(t, u_i)^{(\infty)} = L(u_i)$ . But  $z_i \in L(u_i)$  and by a theorem of Steinberg (1968) every automorphism  $\psi$  of a Chevalley group is of form  $\psi = fgdi$  where  $f$  is a

field,  $g$ , a graph,  $d$  a diagonal and  $i$  an inner automorphism. As  $z_i$  is fixed by field, graph and diagonal automorphisms  $z_i^{f_i} = z_i^{f_i}$  some  $f_i \in L(u_i) \subseteq F$ . Replacing  $c_i$  by  $c_i' = c_i f_i^{-1}$  we have  $u_i^{c_i'} = t$  and  $z_i^{c_i'} = z_i$  as assumed.

Therefore  $t$  is not fused to any involution in  $F$  and the conclusion of the theorem follows from (2.1). This completes the proof of (1.1).

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