The Chevalley group $G_2(2)$ of order 12096 and the octonionic root system of $E_7$

Mehmet Koca

Department of Physics, College of Science, Sultan Qaboos University, PO Box 36, Al-Khod 123, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

Ramazan Koc

Department of Physics, Faculty of Engineering University of Gaziantep, 27310 Gaziantep, Turkey

Nazife Ö. Koca

Higher College of Technology, Al-Khuwair, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

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The octonionic root system of the exceptional Lie algebra $E_8$ has been constructed from the quaternionic roots of $F_4$ using the Cayley-Dickson doubling procedure where the roots of $E_7$ correspond to the imaginary octonions. It is proven that the automorphism group of the octonionic root system of $E_7$ is the adjoint Chevalley group $G_2(2)$ of order 12096. One of the four maximal subgroups of $G_2(2)$ of order 192 preserves the quaternion subalgebra of the $E_7$ root system. The other three maximal subgroups of orders 432, 192 and 336 are the automorphism groups of the root systems of the maximal Lie algebras $E_6 \times U(1), SU(2) \times SO(12)$ and $SU(8)$ respectively. The 7-dimensional manifolds built with the use of these discrete groups could be of potential interest for the compactification of the M-theory in 11-dimension.

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INTRODUCTION

The Chevalley groups are the automorphism groups of the Lie algebras defined over the finite fields $\mathbb{F}_2$. The group $G_2(2)$ is the automorphism group of the Lie algebra $g_2$ defined over the finite field $F_2$ which is one of the finite subgroups of the Lie group $G_2$. Here we prove that it is the automorphism group of the octonionic root system of the exceptional Lie group $E_7$.

The exceptional Lie groups are fascinating symmetries arising as groups of invariants of many physical models suggested for fundamental interactions. In the sequel of grand unified theories(GUT’s) after $SU(5) \approx E_6$, $SO(10) \approx E_6$ the exceptional group $E_6$ has been suggested as the largest GUT for a single family of quarks and leptons. The 11-dimensional supergravity theory admits an invariance of the non-compact version of $E_7[E_7(-7)]$ with a compact subgroup $SU(8)$ as a global symmetry. The largest exceptional group $E_8$, originally proposed as a grand unified theory allowing a three family interaction of $E_6$, has naturally appeared in the heterotic string theory as the $E_8 \times E_8$ gauge symmetry.

The infinite tower of the spin representations of $SO(9)$, the little group of the 11-dimensional M-theory, seems to be unified in the representations of the exceptional group $F_4$. Moreover, it has been recently shown that the root system of $F_4$ can be represented with discrete quaternions whose automorphism group is the direct product of two binary octahedral groups of order $48 \times 48 = 2304$. The smallest exceptional group $G_2$, the automorphism group of octonion algebra, turned out to be the best candidate as a holonomy group of the 7-dimensional manifold for the compactification of M-theory. For a “topological M-theory” one may need a crystallographic structure in 7-dimensions. In this context the root lattices of the Lie algebras of rank-7 may play some role, such as those of $SU(8)$, $E_7$ and the other root lattices of rank-7 Lie algebras. The $SU(8)$ is a maximal subgroup of $E_7$ therefore it is tempting to study the $E_7$ root lattice. Here a miraculous happens! The root system of $E_7$ can be described by the imaginary discrete octonions. The Weyl group $W(E_7)$ is isomorphic to a finite subgroup of $O(7)$ which is the direct product $Z_2 \times SO(7)$ where the latter group is the adjoint Chevalley group of order $2^7 \cdot 3^4 \cdot 5 \cdot 7$. However, the Weyl group $W(E_7)$ does not preserve the octonion algebra. When one imposes the invariance of the octonion algebra on the transformations of the $E_7$ roots one obtains a finite subgroup of $G_2$, as expected, the adjoint Chevalley group $G_2(2)$ of order 12096. A $G_2$ holonomy group of the 7-dimensional manifold admitting the discrete symmetry $G_2(2)$ may turn out to be useful for $E_7(-7)$ is related to the 11-dimensional supergravity theory.

In what follows we discuss the mathematical structure of the adjoint Chevalley group $G_2(2)$ using the 126 non-zero octonionic roots of $E_7$ without referring to its matrix representation. In section 2 we construct the octonionic roots of $E_8$ using the two sets of quaternionic roots of $F_4$ which
follows the magic square structure where imaginary octonions represent the roots of $E_7$. First we build up a maximal subgroup of $G_2(2)$ of order 192 which preserves the quaternionic decomposition of the octonionic roots of $E_7$. It is a finite subgroup of $SO(4)$. Section 3 is devoted to a discussion on the embeddings of the group of order 192 in the $G_2(2)$. In section 4 we study the maximal subgroups of $G_2(2)$ and their relevance to the root systems of the maximal Lie algebras of $E_7$. Finally, in section 5, we discuss the use of our method in physical applications and elaborate the various geometrical structures.

**OCTONIONIC ROOT SYSTEM OF $E_8$**

In the reference [13] we have shown that the octonionic root system of $E_8$ can be constructed by doubling two sets of quaternionic root system of $F_4$ [10] via Cayley-Dickson procedure. Symbolically we can write,

$$(F_4, F_4) = E_8$$

where the short roots of $F_4$ match with the short roots of the second set of $F_4$ roots and the long roots match with the zero roots. Actually (1) follows from the magic square given by Table 1. The quaternionic scaled roots of $F_4$ can be given as follows:

$$F_4 : T \oplus \frac{T'}{\sqrt{2}}$$

where $T \oplus T'$ are the set of elements of the binary octahedral group, compactly written as

$$T = V_0 \oplus V_+ \oplus V_-$$

$$T' = V_1 \oplus V_2 \oplus V_3.$$  

More explicitly, the set of quaternions $V_0, V_+, V_-, V_1, V_2, V_3$ read

$$V_0 = \{\pm 1, \pm e_1, \pm e_2, \pm e_3\}$$

$$V_+ = \left\{\frac{1}{2} \pm 1 \pm e_1 \pm e_2 \pm e_3 \right\}, \text{even number of (+)signs}$$

$$V_- = V_+^* = \left\{\frac{1}{2} \pm 1 \pm e_1 \pm e_2 \pm e_3 \right\}, \text{even number of (-)signs}$$

($V_+^*$ is the quaternionic conjugate of $V_+$)

$$V_1 = \left\{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\pm 1 \pm e_1), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\pm e_2 \pm e_3)\right\}$$

$$V_2 = \left\{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\pm 1 \pm e_2), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\pm e_3 \pm e_1)\right\}$$

$$V_3 = \left\{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\pm 1 \pm e_3), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\pm e_1 \pm e_2)\right\}$$

where $e_i (i = 1, 2, 3)$ are the imaginary quaternionic units.

Here $T$ is the set of quaternionic elements of the binary tetrahedral group which represents the root system of $SO(8)$ and $T'$ represents the weights of the three 8-dimensional representations of $SO(8)$ or, equivalently, $T$ and $T'$ represent the long and short roots of $F_4$ respectively. The geometrical meaning of these vectors are also interesting [19]. Here each of the sets $V_0, V_+, V_-$ represent a hyperoctahedron in 4-dimensional Euclidean space. The set $T$ is

|       | $SU(3)$ | $SP(3)$ | $F_4$ |
|-------|---------|---------|-------|
| $SU(3)$ | $SU(3) \times SU(3)$ | $SU(6)$ | $E_6$ |
| $SP(3)$ | $SU(6)$ | $SO(12)$ | $E_7$ |
| $F_4$ | $E_6$ | $E_7$ | $E_8$ |

**TABLE I: Magic Square**
also known as a polytope \{3, 4, 3\} called 24-cell \[20\]. Its dual polytope is \(T^*\) where \(V_i(i = 1, 2, 3)\) are the duals of the octahedron in \(T\). Any two of the sets \(V_0, V_+, V_-\) form a hypercube in 4-dimensions. Using the Cayley-Dickson doubling procedure one can construct the octonionic roots of \(E_8\) as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
(T, 0) &= T, (0, T) = e_7T \\
\left(\frac{V_1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{V_1}{\sqrt{2}}\right) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(V_1 + e_7V_1) \\
\left(\frac{V_2}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{V_3}{\sqrt{2}}\right) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(V_2 + e_7V_3) \\
\left(\frac{V_4}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{V_2}{\sqrt{2}}\right) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(V_3 + e_7V_2)
\end{align*}
\]

where \(e_1, e_2\) and \(e_7\) are the basic imaginary units to construct the other units of octonions \(1, e_1, e_2, e_3 = e_1e_2, e_4 = e_7e_1, e_5 = e_7e_2, e_6 = e_7e_3\). They satisfy the algebra

\[
e_i e_j = -\delta_{ij} + \phi_{ijk} e_k, \quad (i, j, k = 1, 2, ..., 7)
\]

where \(\phi_{ijk}\) is totally anti-symmetric under the interchange of the indices \(i, j, k\) and take the values \(+1\) for the indices 123, 246, 435, 367, 651, 572, 741 \[21\]. The set of \(E_8\) roots in \(\mathbb{R}\) can also be compactly written as the sets of octonions

\[
\begin{align*}
&\pm \ 1, \frac{1}{2}(\pm 1 \pm e_a \pm e_b \pm e_c), \\
&\pm \ e_i (i = 1, 2, ..., 7), \frac{1}{2}(\pm e_d \pm e_f \pm e_g \pm e_h)
\end{align*}
\]

where the indices take \(abc = 123, 156, 147, 245, 267, 346, 357\) and \(dfgh = 1246, 1257, 1345, 1367, 2356, 2347, 4567\). When \(\pm 1\) represent the non-zero roots of \(SU(2)\) the imaginary roots in \(\mathbb{R}\) which are orthogonal to \(\pm 1\) represent the roots of \(E_7\). The decomposition of the roots in \([8]\) represents the branching of \(E_8\) under its maximal subalgebra \(SU(2) \times E_7\) where the 112 roots in \([17]\) are the weights \((\varphi, 56)\).

A subset of roots of \(F_4\) consisting of imaginary quaternions constitute the roots of subalgebra \(SP(3)\) with the short and long roots represented by

\[
SP(3) \ : \\
\text{long roots : } V''_0 = \{\pm e_1, \pm e_2, \pm e_3\}; \\
\text{short roots : } V'_1 = \left\{\frac{1}{2}(\pm e_2, \pm e_3)\right\}, V'_2 = \left\{\frac{1}{2}(\pm e_3, \pm e_1)\right\}, V'_3 = \left\{\frac{1}{2}(\pm e_1, \pm e_2)\right\}
\]

From the magic square one can also write the roots of \(E_7\) in the form \((SP(3), F_4)\) consisting of only imaginary octonions which can further be put in the form

\[
\begin{align*}
(V'_0, 0) &= V'_0, (0, T) = e_7T \\
\left(\frac{V'_1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{V'_1}{\sqrt{2}}\right) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(V'_1 + e_7V_1) \\
\left(\frac{V'_2}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{V'_3}{\sqrt{2}}\right) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(V'_2 + e_7V_3) \\
\left(\frac{V'_3}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{V'_2}{\sqrt{2}}\right) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(V'_3 + e_7V_2)
\end{align*}
\]

The roots in \([10]\) also follows from a Coxeter-Dynkin diagram of \(E_8\) where the simple roots represented by octonions depicted in Figure 1. As we stated in the introduction, the automorphism group of octonionic root system of \(E_7\) is the adjoint Chevalley group \(G_2(2)\), a maximal subgroup of the Chevalley group \(SO_7(2)\). Below we give a proof of this assertion and show how one can construct the explicit elements of \(G_2(2)\) without any reference to a computer calculation of the matrix representation.

We start with a theorem \[22\] which states that the automorphism of octonions that take the quaternions \(H\) to itself form a group \([p, q]\), isomorphic to \(SO(4) \approx \frac{SU(2) \times SU(2)}{Z_2} \). Here \(p\) and \(q\) are unit quaternions. In a different work \[23\]
we have studied some finite subgroups of $O(4)$ generated by the transformations

\[ [p, q] : r \rightarrow prq \]
\[ [p, q]^* : r \rightarrow p\bar{r}q \]  \hspace{1cm} (11)

where $[p, q]$ represents an $SO(4)$ transformation preserving the norm $r\bar{r} = \bar{r}r$ of the quaternion $r$. More explicitly, it has been shown in [22] that the group element $[p, q]$ acts on the Cayley-Dickson double quaternion as

\[ [p, q] : H + e_7H \rightarrow p\bar{H} + e_7pHq \]  \hspace{1cm} (12)

Now we use this theorem to prove that the transformations on the root system of $E_7$ in [19] preserving the quaternion subalgebra form a finite subgroup of $SO(4)$ of order 192. In reference [19] we have shown that the maximal finite subgroup of $SO(3)$ which preserves the set of quaternions $V_{0} = \{ \pm e_1, \pm e_2, \pm e_3 \}$ representing the long roots of $SP(3)$ as well as the vertices of an octahedron is the octahedral group written in the form $[t, \bar{t}] \oplus [t', \bar{t}']$ where $t \in T$ and $t' \in T'$. On the other hand $e_7T$ is left invariant under the transformations $[p, q] \oplus [p', q']$ , $(p, q \in T; p', q' \in T')$. Therefore the largest group preserving the structure $\{V'_0, 0\} = V'_0$, $(0, T) = e_7T$ is a finite subgroup of $SO(4)$ of order 576. We will see that actually we look for a subgroup of this group because it should also preserve the set of roots

\[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(V'_1 + e_7V_1), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(V'_2 + e_7V_3), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(V'_3 + e_7V_2) \]  \hspace{1cm} (13)

as well as keeping the form of (12) invariant.

A multiplication table shown in Table 2 for the elements of the binary octahedral group [19] will be useful to follow the further discussions. Equation (12) states that the transformation $p\bar{H}q$ fixes the scalar part of the quaternion $H$. Therefore the transformation in (12) acting on the root system of $E_8$ in [6] will yield the same result when (12) acts on the roots of $E_7$ in (10). Now we check the transformation (12) acting on the roots in (13) and seek the form of $[p, q]$ which preserves (13). More explicitly, we look for the invariance

\[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(pV'_1\bar{p} + e_7pV_1q) \oplus \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(pV'_2\bar{p} + e_7pV_3q) \oplus \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(pV'_3\bar{p} + e_7pV_2q) \]

\[ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(V'_1 + e_7V_1) \oplus \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(V'_2 + e_7V_3) \oplus \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(V'_3 + e_7V_2). \]  \hspace{1cm} (14)

We should check all pairs in $[V_0 \oplus V_+ \oplus V_-, V_0 \oplus V_+ \oplus V_-]$ and see that only the set of elements $[V'_0, V_0]$, $[V_+, V_0]$ ; $[V_-, V_0]$ satisfy the relation (14). Just to see why $[V_+, V_+]$, for example, does not work let us apply it on the set of
and conjugacy classes whose elements can be written as symmetric group \( S \).

We go back to the equation (6) and note that the binary tetrahedral group \( T \) plays an important role in the above analysis for it represents the root system of \( SO(8) \). Any one element of the quaternionic elements

\[
\sqrt[2]{2}(V'_1 + e_7V_1) :
\]

\[
[V', V_+] : \frac{1}{\sqrt[2]}(V'_1 + e_7V_1) \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt[2]}(V'_1V_0 + e_7V_1V'_1).
\]

Using Table 2 we obtain that

\[
\frac{1}{\sqrt[2]}(V'_1 + e_7V_1) \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt[2]}(V'_2 + e_7V_1)
\]

which does not belong to the set of roots of \( E_7 \). Similar considerations eliminate all the subsets of elements in \( [T, T] \) but leaves only \( [T, V_0] \). Note that \( [V_+ , V_0]^3 = [V_0, V_0] \) and it permutes the three sets of roots of \( E_7 \) in (13).

We conclude that the subset of elements \( [V_1, V_1] \) does the job:

\[
[V_1, V_1] : \frac{1}{\sqrt[2]}(V'_1 + e_7V_1) \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt[2]}(V'_1 + e_7V_1) \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt[2]}(V'_2 + e_7V_2)
\]

\[
[V'_1 + e_7V_1] \leftrightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt[2]}(V'_3 + e_7V_2)
\]

(15)

We can check easily that the set of elements \( [V_2, V_1] \) and \( [V_3, V_1] \) also satisfy the requirements. Note that \( [V'_i, V_1] = [V_0, V_0] \), \( i = 1, 2, 3 \); any one of these set of elements, while preserving one set of roots of \( E_7 \), exchange the other two.

We conclude that the subset of elements of the group \( [p, q] \oplus [p', q'] \), \( (p, q \in T; p', q' \in T') \) which preserve the root system of \( E_7 \) is the group of elements \( [T, V_0] \oplus [T', V_1] \) of order 192 with 17 conjugacy classes. It is interesting to note that \( [V_0, V_0] \) is an invariant subgroup of order 32 of the group \( [T, V_0] \oplus [T', V_1] \). Actually it is the direct product of the quaternion group with itself consisting of elements \( V_0 = \{ \pm 1, \pm e_1, \pm e_2, \pm e_3 \} \). The set of elements \( [T, V_0] \oplus [T', V_1] \) now can be written as the union of cosets of \( [V_0, V_0] \) where the coset representatives can be obtained from, say, \( [V_+, V_0] \) and \( [V_1, V_1] \). When \( V_0, V_0 \) is taken as a unit element then \( [V_+, V_0] \) and \( [V_1, V_1] \) generate a group isomorphic to the symmetric group \( S_3 \). Symbolically, the group of interest can be written as the semi-direct product of the group \( [V_0, V_0] \) with \( S_3 \) which is a maximal subgroup of order 576 of the direct product of two binary octahedral group.

It is also interesting to note that the group \( [T, T] \oplus [T', T'] \) has another maximal subgroup of order 192 with 13 conjugacy classes whose elements can be written as

\[
[V_0, V_0] \oplus [V_+, V_-] \oplus [V_-, V_+] \oplus [V_1, V_1] \oplus [V_2, V_2] \oplus [V_3, V_3]
\]

(16)

This group does not preserve the root system of \( E_7 \), however, it preserves the quaternion algebra in the set of imaginary octonions \( \pm e_i (i = 1, 2, \ldots, 7) \). This is also an interesting group which turns out to be maximal in another finite subgroup of \( G_3(2) \) of order 1344. The group in (16) can also be written as the semi-direct product of \( [V_0, V_0] \) and \( S_3 \), however, two groups are not isomorphic because the symmetric group \( S_3 \) here is generated by \( [V_+, V_-] \) and \( [V_1, V_1] \) instead of \( [V_+ , V_0] \) and \( [V_1, V_1] \) as in the previous case.

### 63 Embeddings of the Quaternion Preserving Group in the Chevalley Group

We go back to the equation (6) and note that the binary tetrahedral group \( T = V_0 + V_+ + V_- \) played an important role in the above analysis for it represents the root system of \( SO(8) \). Any one element of the quaternionic elements
of the hypercube $V_+ + V_- = \frac{1}{2} \{ \pm 1 \pm e_1 \pm e_2 \pm e_3 \}$ satisfies the relation $p^3 = \pm 1$. Actually we have 112 octonionic elements of this type in the roots of $E_8$.

We have proven in an earlier paper \textsuperscript{22,28} that the transformation

$$b \rightarrow ab\bar{a}$$

(17)

where $a^3 = \pm 1$ is an associative product of octonions which preserve the octonion algebra. More explicitly, when $e_i (i = 1, 2, ..., 7)$ represent the imaginary octonions the transformation

$$e'_i = ae_i\bar{a}, (a^3 = \pm 1)$$

(18)

preserves the octonion algebra

$$e'_ie'_j = (e_ie_j)' = a(e_ie_j)\bar{a}.$$ (19)

To work with octonionionic root systems makes life difficult because of nonassociativity. However, the following theorem \textsuperscript{22} proves to be useful. Let $p$ be any root of those 112 roots and $q$ be any root of $E_8$. Consider the transformations on $q$:

$$\pm p : q_1 \equiv q, q_2 \equiv (p)q(\bar{p}), q_3 \equiv (p)\bar{q}(p).$$

It was proven in \textsuperscript{22} that $q_1, q_2, q_3$ form an associative triad $(q_1q_2)q_3 = q_1(q_2q_3)$ satisfying the relations

$$q_1p \text{ for } q_i\bar{p} = 0, (42 \text{ triads})$$

$$q_1q_2q_3 = \begin{cases} -1 \text{ for } q_i\bar{p} = -1/2 & 18 \text{ triads} \\ 1 \text{ for } q_i\bar{p} = 1/2 & 18 \text{ triads} \end{cases}$$

(20)

Actually this decomposition of $E_8$ roots is the same as its branching under $SU(2) \times E_7$ where the non-zero roots decompose as $240 = 126 + 2 + (2, 56)$. The first 42 triads are the 126 non-zero roots of $E_7$ and $\pm \bar{p}$ are those of $SU(2)$. The remaining $36 \times 3 = 108$ roots with $\pm 1, \pm p$ constitute the 112 roots of the coset space. In general one can show that 24triads, out of 42 triads, corresponding to the roots of $E_6$ are imaginary octonions and the remaining 18 triads are those with non-zero scalar parts. The 9 triads of those octonionic roots which satisfy the relation $q_i\bar{p} = -1/2$ are imaginary octonions and their negatives satisfy the relation $q_i\bar{p} = 1/2$. When $\pm 1$ represent the roots of $SU(2)$ then all the roots of $E_7$ are pure imaginary as depicted in Figure 1. For a given octonion $p$ with non-zero real part one can classify the imaginary roots of $E_7$ as follows:

(i) 72 imaginary octonions which are grouped in 24 triads satisfying the relation $q_i\bar{p} = 0$

(ii) 27 imaginary roots classified in 9 associative triads whose products satisfy the relation $q_1q_2q_3 = -1$ are the quaternionic units. They represent the weights of the 27 dimensional representation of $E_6$.

(iii) The remaining 9 triads are the conjugates of those in (ii) and represent the weights of the representation $27$ of $E_6$.

In the next section we will prove that the root system of $E_8$ in \textsuperscript{6} and equivalently those of $E_7$ in \textsuperscript{110} can be constructed 63 different ways preserving the octonion algebra so that the automorphism group of the octonionic root system of $E_7$ is the group $G_2(2)$ of order $192 \times 63 = 12096$.

We recall that we have 18 associative triads with non-zero scalar part, each being orthogonal to $\bar{p}$. To distinguish the imaginary octonions for which we keep the notation $q_i$ we denote the roots with non-zero scalar part by $r_i$ satisfying the relation $r_i\bar{p} = 0$ where $r_i^3 = \pm 1, (i = 1, 2, 3)$. They are permuted as follows:

$$r_1, r_2 = pr_1\bar{p}, r_3 = \bar{p}r_1p.$$ (21)

The scalar product $r_i\bar{p} = 0$ can be written as

$$r_ip + \bar{p}r_1 = r_1\bar{p} + \bar{p}r_1 = 0.$$ (21)

We can use \textsuperscript{22} to show that $r_1r_2 = r_2r_3 = r_3r_1 = p$ with conjugates $\bar{r}_2\bar{r}_1 = \bar{r}_3\bar{r}_2 = \bar{r}_1\bar{r}_2 = \bar{p}$. One can easily show that the octonions $r_1, r_2$ and $r_3$ are mutually orthogonal to each other:

$$r_1r_2 = r_2r_3 = r_3r_1 = 0 \rightarrow r_1\bar{r}_2 + r_2\bar{r}_1 = r_2\bar{r}_3 + r_3\bar{r}_2 = r_3\bar{r}_1 + r_1\bar{r}_3 = 0$$ (22)

which also implies that $r_1\bar{r}_2, r_2\bar{r}_3, r_3\bar{r}_1$ are imaginary octonions.
The orthogonality of \( r_1, r_2 \) and \( r_3 \) can be proven as follows. Consider the scalar product

\[
r_1 r_2 = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \overline{r_1} (p r_2 \overline{p}) + (p \overline{r_1} \overline{p}) r_1 \right].
\]  

(23)

Let us assume without loss of generality that \( \overline{p} = 1 - p \), \( r_1 = 1 - r_1 \). Substituting \( \overline{p} = 1 - p \) and \( r_1 = 1 - r_1 \) in (23) and using (24) as well as the Moufang identities (25)

\[
(pq)(rp) = p(qr)p 
\]

(24)

\[
p(qr)q = [(pq)r]q 
\]

(25)

\[
(qr)q = q[r(qp)]
\]

(26)

one can show that \( r_1 r_2 = 0 \). Similar considerations for the other octonions will prove that the four octonions \( r_1, r_2, r_3 \) and \( \overline{p} \) are mutually orthogonal to each other so that \( \pm r_1, \pm r_2, \pm r_3 \) and \( \pm \overline{p} \) form the vertices of a hyperoctahedron. Similarly their conjugates forming an orthogonal quartered with their negatives represent the vertices of another hyperoctahedron. The imaginary octonions \( r_1 \overline{r}_2, r_2 \overline{r}_3, r_3 \overline{r}_1 \) are cyclically rotated to each other in the manner \( p(r_1 \overline{r}_2) \overline{p} = r_2 \overline{r}_3 \) (cyclic permutations of 1, 2, 3) and satisfying the relation \( (r_1 \overline{r}_2) \overline{p} = \frac{1}{2} \) where the conjugate \( r_2 \overline{r}_1 \) satisfies the relation \( (r_2 \overline{r}_1) \overline{p} = -\frac{1}{2} \). If we denote by the imaginary octonions \( E_1 = r_3 \overline{r}_2, E_2 = r_1 \overline{r}_3 \) and \( E_3 = r_2 \overline{r}_1 \). It is easy to prove the following identities:

\[
\begin{aligned}
\overline{p} &= \frac{1}{2} (1 - E_1 - E_2 - E_3) \\
r_1 &= \frac{1}{2} (1 + E_1 + E_2 - E_3) \\
r_2 &= \frac{1}{2} (1 - E_1 + E_2 + E_3) \\
r_3 &= \frac{1}{2} (1 + E_1 - E_2 + E_3)
\end{aligned}
\]

(27)

Therefore the set of 24 octonions

\[
\left\{ \pm 1, \pm E_1, \pm E_2, \pm E_3, \frac{1}{2} (\pm 1 \pm E_1 \pm E_2 \pm E_3) \right\}
\]

(28)

are the quaternions forming the binary tetrahedral group and representing the roots of \( SO(8) \). Once this set of octonions are given we can construct the root system of \( F_4 \) and form the roots of \( E_8 \) similar to the equation (5).

It is obvious that for a given \( p(\overline{p}) \) one can construct the elements of the binary tetrahedral group, in other words, \( SO(8) \) root system 9 different ways as we have argued in the previous section. Since we have 112 roots of this type and a choice of \( p \) includes always \( \pm p \) and \( \pm \overline{p} \) that reduces such a choice to \( \frac{112}{4} = 28 \). This number further reduces to \( \frac{28}{4} = 7 \) because \( \overline{p}, r_2, r_2, r_3 \) come always in quartets. It is not only \( p(\overline{p}) \) rotates \( r_1, r_2, r_3 \) in the cyclic order but any one of them rotates the other three cyclically. One can show, for example, that

\[
r_1 \overline{p} r_1 = r_2 r_1 r_2 \overline{r}_1 = r_3, r_1 r_3 \overline{r}_1 = \overline{p}.
\]

(29)

The others satisfy similar relations. Therefore the choice of elements of a binary tetrahedral group or equivalently \( F_4 \) root system out of octonions is \( 9 \times 7 = 63 \). Since the group preserving the quaternion structure is of order 192 the overall group which preserves the octonionic root system of \( E_7 \) is a group of order \( 192 \times 63 = 12096 \). It has to be a subgroup of \( G_2 \) and the group is certainly the Chevalley group \( G_2(2) \) (2).

MAXIMAL SUBGROUPS OF \( G_2(2) \) AND THE MAXIMAL LIE ALGEBRAS OF \( E_7 \)

There are four regular maximal Lie algebras of \( E_7 \):

\( E_6 \times U(1), SU(2) \times SO(12), SU(8), SU(3) \times SU(6) \); and there are four maximal subgroups of the Chevalley group \( G_2(2) \). It is interesting to see whether any relations between these groups and the octonionic root systems of these Lie algebras exist (See M. Koca and F. Karsch in reference (2)). There is a one-to-one correspondence between them but with one exception. When one imposes the invariance of the octonion algebra on the root system of \( SU(3) \times SU(6) \) one obtains a group which is not maximal in the Chevalley group \( G_2(2) \). Yet the maximal subgroup \([T, V_0] \oplus [T', V_1]\) of
order 192(17) preserves the quaternion algebra of the magic square structure \((\text{SP}_3, F_4)\). The other maximal subgroups of \(G_2(2)\) which are of orders 432(14), 192(14) and 336(9) have one-to-one correspondences with the groups which preserve the octonionic root systems of \(E_6 \times U(1)\), \(SU(2) \times SO(12)\) and \(SU(8)\) respectively. In this section we will discuss the constructions of these three maximal subgroups of \(G_2(2)\) as the automorphism groups of the corresponding octonionic root systems. Their character tables and the subgroup structures can be found in reference [27].

**Octonionic root system of \(E_6 \times U(1)\) and the group of order 432(14)**

Since \(U(1)\) factor is represented by zero root we are essentially looking at the roots of \(E_6\) in \(E_7\). Either using the simple roots of \(E_6\) in Figure 1 or those of \(E_7\) already given in equation [8] we may decompose the roots of \(E_7\) to those roots orthogonal to the vector \(\frac{1}{2}(1 - e_1 - e_2 - e_3)\) which constitute the 72 roots of \(E_6\) and the ones having a scalar product \(\pm \frac{1}{2}\) with it will be the weights of the representations \(27 + 27^*\). In an explicit form they read:

Non-zero roots of \(E_6\) :
\[
\pm e_4, \pm e_5, \pm e_6, \pm \frac{1}{2}(\pm e_4 \pm e_5 \pm e_6 \pm e_7), \pm \frac{1}{2}(e_2 - e_3 \pm e_4 \pm e_7), \pm \frac{1}{2}(e_2 - e_3 \pm e_5 \pm e_6), \\
\pm \frac{1}{2}(e_3 - e_1 \pm e_6 \pm e_7), \pm \frac{1}{2}(e_3 - e_1 \pm e_4 \pm e_5), \\
\pm \frac{1}{2}(e_1 - e_2 \pm e_5 \pm e_7), \pm \frac{1}{2}(e_1 - e_2 \pm e_4 \pm e_6)
\]
\[(30)\]

The number in the bracket is the number of conjugacy classes and is used to distinguish the groups having the same order.

Weights of \(27 + 27^*\) of \(E_6\) :
\[
\pm e_1, \pm e_2, \pm e_3, \\
\pm \frac{1}{2}(e_2 + e_3 \pm e_4 \pm e_7), \pm \frac{1}{2}(e_2 + e_3 \pm e_5 \pm e_6), \\
\pm \frac{1}{2}(e_4 + e_1 \pm e_6 \pm e_7), \pm \frac{1}{2}(e_3 + e_1 \pm e_4 \pm e_5), \\
\pm \frac{1}{2}(e_1 + e_2 \pm e_5 \pm e_7), \pm \frac{1}{2}(e_1 + e_2 \pm e_4 \pm e_6)
\]
\[(31)\]

Now we are in a position to determine the subgroup of the group of order 192(17) which preserves this decomposition.

The magic square indicates that the root system of \(E_6\) can be obtained by Cayley-Dickson procedure as the pair \((SU(3), F_4)\) which is clear from \([30]\) where the roots of \((SU3)\) are represented by the short roots \(\pm \frac{1}{2}(e_2 - e_3)\), \(\pm \frac{1}{2}(e_3 - e_1)\), \(\pm \frac{1}{2}(e_1 - e_2)\).

It can be shown that the subgroup of the group of order 192(17) preserving this system of roots where the imaginary unit \(e_7\) is left invariant is the group generated by the elements,
\[
[t, V_0], \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(e_2 - e_3), V_1\right]
\]
\[(32)\]

Here \(t\) is given by \(t = \frac{1}{2}(1 + e_1 + e_2 + e_3)\). More explicitly we can write the elements of the group of interest as follows
\[
[t, V_0] \subset [V_+, V_0], [t, V_0] \subset [V_-, V_0], [1, V_0] \subset [V_0, V_0]; \\
\left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(e_2 - e_3), V_1\right] \subset [V_1, V_1], \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(e_3 - e_1), V_1\right] \subset [V_2, V_1], \\
\left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(e_1 - e_2), V_1\right] \subset [V_3, V_1].
\]
\[(33)\]

\[(34)\]

\[(35)\]

Each set contains 8 elements hence the group is of order 48. We recall that in the decomposition of the root system of \(E_7\) in \([30]\) and \([31]\) under \(E_6\) the quaternions \(\pm t(\pm \bar{t})\) and thereby the quaternionic imaginary units \(e_1, e_2, e_3\) are used. This implies that the sum \(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(e_1 + e_2 + e_3)\) is left invariant under the transformations \(qtq^{-1}\) where \(q\) is any octonion. This proves that the group of concern is a finite subgroup of \(SU(3)\) acting in the 6-dimensional Euclidean subspace. The discussions through the relations \([17], [20]\) show that one can construct the root system of \(E_6\) in \([30]\), consequently those weights in \([31]\), 9 different ways implying that the group of order preserving the root system of \(E_6\) in \([30]\) is a finite subgroup of \(SU(3)\) of order \(48 \times 9 = 432\) with 14 conjugacy classes. The \(6 \times 6\) irreducible matrix representation of this group as well as its character table can be found in reference [27].
The octonionic root system of $SU(2) \times SO(12)$ and the group of order 192(14)

Existence of an automorphism group of order 192 is obvious since the $SU(2)$ roots are any imaginary octonion $\pm q$ which must be left invariant under any transformation. Since we have $126/2 = 63$ choice for the $SU(2)$ roots the group of invariance is $12096/63 = 192$. The structure of this group is totally different than the previous group of order 192(17) as we will discuss below.

The magic square tells us that the root system of $SO(12)$ can be obtained by pairing two sets of quaternionic roots of $SP(3)$ a la Cayley-Dickson procedure ($SP(3), SP(3)$). When we take the quaternionic roots of $SP(3)$ given in (14) we obtain the root system of $SO(12)$ and $SU(2)$ as follows:

$SO(12)$ roots :

$$\pm e_1, \pm e_2, \pm e_3, e_7(\pm e_1, \pm e_2, \pm e_3) = \pm e_4, \pm e_5, \pm e_6$$

$$\frac{1}{2}(\pm e_2 \pm e_3) + \frac{1}{2}(-e_2 \pm e_3) = \frac{1}{2}(\pm e_2 \pm e_3 \pm e_5 \pm e_6)$$

$$\frac{1}{2}(\pm e_3 \pm e_1) + \frac{1}{2}(e_1 \pm e_2) = \frac{1}{2}(\pm e_1 \pm e_3 \pm e_4 \pm e_5)$$

$$\frac{1}{2}(\pm e_1 \pm e_2) + \frac{1}{2}(\pm e_3 \pm e_4) = \frac{1}{2}(\pm e_1 \pm e_2 \pm e_4 \pm e_6)$$

$$
(35)
$$

$SU(2)$ roots : $\pm e_7$.

The remaining roots transform as the weights of the representation $(2, 2^\prime)$ under $SU(2) \times SO(12)$. Since the root $\pm e_7$ remains invariant under any transformation which preserves the decomposition of $E_7$ under $SU(2) \times SO(12)$ the group which we seek is a finite subgroup of $SU(3)$. We recall from the previous discussions that the quaternionic root system of $SP(3)$ is preserved by the octahedral group $[T, T] \oplus [T, T']$. However, we seek a subgroup of $[T, V_0] \oplus [T, V_1]$ which is also a subgroup of the octahedral group. Since we have $V_0$ and $V_1$ on the right of the pairs it should be $[V_0, V_0] \oplus [V_1, V_1]$. Actually we can write all the group elements explicitly,

$$[1, 1], [e_1, -e_1], \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1 + e_1), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1 - e_1), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1 + e_1)$$

$$[e_2, -e_2], [e_3, -e_3], \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(e_2 + e_3), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(e_2 - e_3), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(e_2 - e_3)$$

$$
(36)
$$

The elements in (36) form a cyclic group $Z_4$ and those in (37) are the right or left cosets of [37] with, say, $[e_2, -e_2]$ is a coset representative. Indeed the elements $[1, 1]$ and $[e_2, -e_2]$ form the group $Z_2$ which leaves the group $Z_4$ invariant under conjugation. Hence the group of order 8 in (36) has the structure $Z_4 : Z_2$ where $Z_4$ is an invariant subgroup. We may also allow $e_7 \to -e_7$ that amounts to extending the group $Z_4 : Z_2$ by the element $[1, 1]$. Since the element $[1, 1]$ commutes with the elements of $Z_4 : Z_2$ then we have a group of order 16 with the structure $Z_2 \times (Z_4 : Z_2)$. This is the group of automorphism of the root system in (36) when the quaternionic units are taken to be $e_1, e_2$ and $e_3$.

Now the question is how many different ways we decompose (35) allowing $e_7 \to \pm e_7$ only. In other words, what is the number of quaternionic units one can choose allowing $e_7 \to \pm e_7$. These units of quaternions can be chosen from the set of 112 roots orthogonal to $e_7$. They are

$$\frac{1}{2}(\pm 1 \pm e_1 \pm e_2 \pm e_3), \frac{1}{2}(\pm 1 \pm e_1 \pm e_5 \pm e_6), \frac{1}{2}(\pm 1 \pm e_2 \pm e_4 \pm e_5), \frac{1}{2}(\pm 1 \pm e_3 \pm e_4 \pm e_6).$$

$$
(38)
$$

One can prove that each set of 16 octonions in (38) will yield to 3 sets of quaternionic imaginary units not involving $e_7$. Therefore there are 12 different quaternionic units to build the group structure $Z_2^x(Z_4 : Z_2)$ and the number of overall elements of the group preserving the root system in (36) is $12 \times 16 = 192$. To give a nontrivial example let us choose $p = \frac{1}{2}(1 + e_2 + e_4 + e_5)$ with $\bar{p} = \frac{1}{2}(1 - e_2 - e_4 - e_5)$. The following set of octonions chosen from (38) have scalar products $q_i \bar{p} = 0$ where $q_i$ is one of those in (39). Under the rotation $pq\bar{p}$, for example, the quaternionic units

$$E_1 = \frac{1}{2}(e_2 + e_5 + e_5 - e_6), E_2 = \frac{1}{2}(e_1 - e_3 + e_4 + e_5), E_3 = \frac{1}{2}(-e_1 + e_2 + e_4 + e_6)$$

$$
(40)
$$
are permuted and one can construct \(35\) with the set of octonions \(SO(12)\) roots:

\[
\pm E_1, \pm E_2, \pm E_3, e_7(\pm E_1, \pm E_2, \pm E_3) = \pm E_4, \pm E_5, \pm E_6
\]

\[
\frac{1}{2}(\pm E_2 \pm E_3) + e_7 \frac{1}{2}(\pm E_2 \pm E_3) = \frac{1}{2}(\pm E_2 \pm E_3 \pm E_5 \pm E_6)
\]

\[
\frac{1}{2}(\pm E_3 \pm E_1) + e_7 \frac{1}{2}(\pm E_1 \pm E_2) = \frac{1}{2}(\pm E_1 \pm E_3 \pm E_4 \pm E_5)
\]

\[
\frac{1}{2}(\pm e E_1 \pm E_2) + e_7 \frac{1}{2}(\pm E_3 \pm E_1) = \frac{1}{2}(\pm E_1 \pm E_2 \pm E_4 \pm E_6)
\]

\(SU(2)\) roots: \(\pm e_7\)

This is certainly invariant under the quaternion preserving automorphism group of order 16 as discussed above where the imaginary quaternionic units \(e_1, e_2, e_3\) in \((36,37)\) are replaced by \(E_1, E_2, E_3\) in \((40)\). One can proceed in the same manner and construct 12 different sets of quaternionic units by which one constructs the group \(Z_2 \times (Z_4 : Z_2)\).

**Octonionic root system of \(SU(8)\) and the automorphism group of order 336(9)**

Using the Coxeter-Dynkin diagram of figure 1 we can write the octonionic roots of \(SU(8)\) as follows:

\[
\pm e_1, \pm e_2, \pm e_4, \pm e_6
\]

\[
\frac{1}{2}(\pm e_1 \pm e_2 + e_5 + e_7), \frac{1}{2}(\pm e_1 \pm e_4 + e_3 + e_5), \frac{1}{2}(\pm e_1 \pm e_6 + e_3 + e_7)
\]

\[
\frac{1}{2}(\pm e_2 \pm e_4 + e_3 - e_7), \frac{1}{2}(\pm e_2 \pm e_6 - e_3 + e_5), \frac{1}{2}(\pm e_4 \pm e_6 - e_5 + e_7).
\]

First of all, we note that the roots of \(E_7\) decompose under its maximal Lie algebra \(SU(8)\) as \(126 = 56 + 70\). Therefore those roots of \(E_7\) in \((30,31)\) not displayed in \((42)\) are the weights of the 70 dimensional representation of \(SU(8)\).

To determine the automorphism group of the set in \((42)\) we may follow the same method discussed above however here we choose a different way for \(SU(8)\) is not in the magic square.

In an earlier paper \(16\) we have constructed the 7-dimensional irreducible representation of the group \(PSL_2(7) : Z_2\) of order 336 and proved that this group preserves the octonionic root system of \(SU(8)\). Below we give three matrix generators of the Klein’s group \(PSL_2(7)\), a simple group with 6 conjugacy classes,

\[
A = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix}
-1 & -1 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 & 1 \\
1 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\
0 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\
0 & -1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\
1 & 0 & -1 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\
1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -1
\end{bmatrix};
B = \begin{bmatrix}
-1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\
0 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0
\end{bmatrix}
\]

\[
C = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix}
0 & 0 & 0 & -2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\
0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & -1 & -1 & 0 \\
0 & -1 & -1 & 0 & -1 & -1 & 0 \\
0 & -1 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\
0 & 1 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 1 & 0
\end{bmatrix}
\]

These matrices satisfy the relation

\[
A^4 = B^2 = C^7 = I.
\]

The matrices \(A\) and \(B\) generate the octahedral subgroup of order 24 of the Klein’s group.
The 56 octonionic roots can be decomposed into 7-sets of hyperoctahedra in 4-dimensions. The matrix $C$ permutes the seven sets of octahedra to each other. The octahedral group generated by $A$ and $B$ preserves one of the octahedra while transforming the other sets to each other. We display the 7-octahedra as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
\pm e_2 & \quad \pm e_1 \\
& \pm \frac{1}{2}(e_1 - e_5 + e_6 + e_7) \quad \pm \frac{1}{2}(e_2 + e_4 + e_6) \\
1: \quad & \pm \frac{1}{2}(e_1 - e_3 + e_6 - e_7) \\
& \pm \frac{1}{2}(e_1 + e_3 + e_4 + e_5) \\
2: \quad & \pm \frac{1}{2}(e_2 - e_3 + e_5 + e_6) \\
& \pm \frac{1}{2}(e_1 + e_3 + e_5 + e_7) \\
3: \quad & \pm \frac{1}{2}(-e_1 + e_2 + e_5 + e_7) \\
& \pm \frac{1}{2}(-e_1 + e_2 + e_5 + e_7) \\
4: \quad & \pm \frac{1}{2}(e_1 + e_2 + e_5 + e_7) \\
& \pm \frac{1}{2}(-e_1 + e_3 + e_4 + e_5) \\
5: \quad & \pm \frac{1}{2}(e_2 + e_3 + e_4 + e_7) \\
& \pm \frac{1}{2}(e_1 + e_3 + e_6 + e_7) \\
6: \quad & \pm \frac{1}{2}(e_2 + e_3 + e_4 + e_7) \\
& \pm \frac{1}{2}(e_2 + e_3 + e_4 + e_7) \\
7: \quad & \pm \frac{1}{2}(e_2 + e_3 - e_4 + e_7) \\
& \mp \frac{1}{2}(e_1 + e_2 + e_5 + e_7)
\end{align*}
\]

Note that each vector is orthogonal to the others in a given set of 8 vectors forming an octahedron in 4-dimensions. The matrix $C$ permutes the set of octahedra as $1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 4 \rightarrow 5 \rightarrow 6 \rightarrow 7 \rightarrow 1$. The matrices $A$ and $B$ leave the set of vectors in 1 invariant and transforms the other sets to each other as follows:

- $A : 2 \rightarrow 5 \rightarrow 6 \rightarrow 7 \rightarrow 2$; $3 \leftrightarrow 4$ and leaves 1 invariant.
- $B : 3 \leftrightarrow 5$; $4 \leftrightarrow 7$ and leaves each of the set 1,2,6 invariant.

When we decompose the weights of the 70 dimensional representation of $SU(8)$ under the octahedral group the vectors are partitioned as numbers of vectors $2, 6, 6, 8, 12, 12, 24$. The vector $\pm \frac{1}{2}(e_1 + e_2 + e_5 - e_7)$ is left invariant under the octahedral group which corresponds to its 2 dimensional irreducible representation. The group $PSL_2(7)$ can be further extended to the group $PSL_2 : Z_2$ of order 336 by adding a generator which can be obtained from the transformation $e_1 \rightarrow -e_1, e_2 \rightarrow e_2, e_4 \rightarrow e_4$. One can readily check that the this transformation leaves the root system of $SU(8)$ invariant.

CONCLUSION

We have constructed the root system of $E_8$ from the quaternionic roots of $F_4$ a la Cayley-Dickson doubling procedure that is a different realization of the magic square. The roots of $E_8$ are represented by the imaginary octonions which can be constructed by doubling the quaternionic roots of $SP(3)$ and $F_4$. The Weyl group of $E_7$ is isomorphic to the finite group $Z_2 \times SO_7(2)$ where $SO_7(2)$ is the adjoint Chevalley group over the finite field $F_2$. We have proven that the automorphism group of the octonionic root system of $E_7$ is the adjoint Chevalley group $G_2(2)$, a finite subgroup of the Lie group $G_2$ of order 12096. First we have determined one of its maximal subgroup of order 192 which preserves the quaternion subalgebra in the root system of $E_7$ and proven that this group can be embedded in the larger group 63 different ways. The other three maximal subgroups of orders 432, 192, 336 respectively corresponding to the automorphism groups of the octonionic root systems of the maximal Lie algebras $E_6$, $SU(2) \times SO(12)$, $SU(8)$ have been studied in some depth. The root system of $SU(8)$ has a fascinating geometrical structure where the roots can be decomposed as 7 hyperoctahedra in 4-dimensions which are permuted to each other by one of the generators of the Klein’s group $PSL_2(7)$.

Any one of these subgroups or the whole group $G_2(2)$ could be used to construct the manifolds which can be useful for the compactification of a theory in 11 dimensions.
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* Electronic address: kocam@squ.edu.om
† Electronic address: koc@gantep.edu.tr
‡ Electronic address: nazife@hotmail.com
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[28] It seems that this proof was given much earlier by M. Zorn.