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## INDEX OF THE EXPONENTIAL MAP OF A CENTER-FREE COMPLEX SIMPLE LIE GROUP

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### 0. Introduction

Let  $\mathfrak{G}$  be a connected Lie group with Lie algebra  $G$ . In general, the exponential map  $\exp: G \rightarrow \mathfrak{G}$  is not surjective. As in Goto [4], for an element  $g \in \mathfrak{G}$ , we shall define the index (of the exponential map)  $\text{ind}(g)$  to be the smallest positive integer  $q$  such that  $g^q \in \exp G$ , if it exists, otherwise,  $\text{ind}(g) = \infty$ . The index  $\text{ind}(\mathfrak{G})$  of the Lie group  $\mathfrak{G}$  is defined to be the least common multiple of all  $\text{ind}(g)$  ( $g \in \mathfrak{G}$ ).

In Lai [6], the author proved the following theorem:

**Theorem.** *Let  $\mathfrak{G}$  be a connected (real or complex) semisimple Lie group with finite center. Then  $\text{ind}(\mathfrak{G})$  is finite.*

More generally, M. Goto proved the following theorem:

**Theorem** (Goto [3]). *Let  $K$  be an algebraically closed field (of characteristic 0 or prime), and let  $\mathfrak{G}$  be an algebraic group over  $K$ . Then there exists a natural number  $q$  such that for any  $g \in \mathfrak{G}$ , we can find a connected abelian subgroup of  $\mathfrak{G}$  containing  $g^q$ .*

In case  $K = \mathbb{C}$ , this implies that  $\text{ind}(\mathfrak{G})$  is finite for any algebraic group  $\mathfrak{G}$  over the field of complex numbers.

**Theorem** (Goto [4]). *Let  $\mathfrak{G}$  be a semi-algebraic group over  $\mathbb{R}$  (the field of real numbers). Then  $\text{ind}(\mathfrak{G})$  is finite.*

In Lai [6], the author also computed  $\text{ind}(\mathfrak{G})$  for some connected complex simple Lie groups  $\mathfrak{G}$ . In the case where  $\mathfrak{G}$  has trivial center, which most interests us in the present paper, the results in [6] can be summarized as follows. Note that  $\mathfrak{G}$  can be identified with the adjoint group  $\text{Ad}(G)$  of (all inner automorphisms of) its Lie algebra  $G$ .

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(1)  $G$  is of type  $A_{n-1}$ . Then  $\exp: G \rightarrow \text{Ad}(G)$  is surjective. Because:  $\text{Ad}(G) \cong \text{Ad}(\mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{C})) \cong \text{SL}(n, \mathbb{C})/\text{center} \cong \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{C})/\text{center} \cong \text{PGL}(n, \mathbb{C})$ ; and in the following commutative diagram,  $\pi$  (the canonical projection) and  $\text{Exp}$  (the exponential map of matrices) are surjective.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathfrak{gl}(n, \mathbb{C}) & \xrightarrow{\text{Exp}} & \text{GL}(n, \mathbb{C}) \\ \downarrow d\pi & & \downarrow \pi \\ \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{C}) & \xrightarrow{\exp} & \text{PGL}(n, \mathbb{C}) \end{array}$$

(2) When  $G$  is of type  $B, C$ , or  $D$ . We first considered the corresponding classical groups (the symplectic group  $\text{Sp}(n, \mathbb{C})$  and the special orthogonal group  $\text{SO}(n, \mathbb{C})$ ), and proved that the square of any element in each case lies inside the image of the exponential map. Then, in each case, we found some element in  $\text{Ad}(G)$  of index exactly equal to 2.

(3)  $G$  is of type  $G_2$ . We proved that  $\text{ind}(g) \in \{1, 2, 3\}$  for any  $g \in \text{Ad}(G)$ , and constructed elements of index equal to 2 and 3 respectively.

(4)  $G$  is of type  $F_4$ . We used a computer to compute all the determinants of the coefficient matrices of any four (linearly independent) positive roots (expressed in terms of simple root system) and we found that  $\text{ind}(g) \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . Again, we constructed elements of index 3 and 4 respectively.

(5) When  $G$  is of type  $E$ , we couldn't find a workable method to find  $\text{ind}(\text{Ad}(G))$ . We only gave some lower bounds.

For details, see [6].

Let  $m_1\alpha_1 + \cdots + m_l\alpha_l$  be the highest root of  $G$  with respect to a fixed Cartan subalgebra  $H$  expressed in terms of a simple root system  $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_l\}$ . Then  $I(G) = \{1, m_1, \dots, m_l\}$  is a set of positive integers depending only on the type of  $G$ ; for example,  $I(A_l) = \{1\}$ ,  $I(B_l) = I(C_l) = I(D_l) = \{1, 2\}$ ,  $I(G_2) = \{1, 2, 3\}$ ,  $I(F_4) = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . The above results suggest that  $\text{ind}(\text{Ad}(G))$  may have some relationship to  $I(G)$ . The main purpose of this paper is to prove the following theorem.

**Theorem.** *Let  $G$  be a complex simple Lie algebra,  $\text{Ad}(G)$  the adjoint group of  $G$  and  $m_1\alpha_1 + \cdots + m_l\alpha_l$  the highest root expressed in terms of a simple root system  $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_l\}$ . Then  $\{\text{ind}(g); g \in \text{Ad}(G)\}$  equals  $I(G) = \{1, m_1, \dots, m_l\}$ .*

To prove the theorem, we use a method from Borel-Siebenthal's [1] classification of maximal subalgebras of maximal rank in a compact simple Lie algebra.

The author would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor M. Goto for his help and many useful suggestions. I would also like to thank Prof. A. Borel who pointed out some mistakes in my earlier argument.

## 1. Review and notation

Let  $G$  be a complex semisimple Lie algebra with a (fixed) Cartan subalgebra  $H$ . Let  $\Delta$  be the root system of  $G$  with respect to  $H$ ,  $\Pi = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_l\}$  a fundamental root system of  $\Delta$ , and  $-\alpha_0 = m_1\alpha_1 + \dots + m_l\alpha_l$  the highest root.

Let  $B$  be the Killing form on  $G$ . Then for each  $\alpha \in \Delta$ , we can find  $h_\alpha \in H$  with  $B(h, h_\alpha) = \alpha(h)$  for all  $h \in H$ , and  $e_\alpha \in G$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} G &= H + \sum_{\alpha \in \Delta} \mathbb{C}e_\alpha, \\ [h, e_\alpha] &= \alpha(h)e_\alpha, [e_\alpha, e_\beta] = N_{\alpha, \beta}e_{\alpha+\beta} && \text{if } \alpha + \beta \neq 0 \text{ is in } \Delta, \\ [e_\alpha, e_{-\alpha}] &= -h_\alpha, [e_\alpha, e_\beta] = 0 && \text{if } 0 \neq \alpha + \beta \notin \Delta. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $H_0 \subset H$  be the real vector space spanned by  $h_\alpha (\alpha \in \Delta)$ , then  $\beta|_{H_0}$  is real for any  $\beta \in \Delta$ . Since  $\Pi = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_l\}$  is linearly independent, we can choose  $h_1, \dots, h_l \in H_0$  such that  $\alpha_i(h_j) = \delta_{ij}$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq l$ . The lattice  $\Omega = \mathbb{Z}2\pi i h_1 + \dots + \mathbb{Z}2\pi i h_l \subset iH_0$  ( $i = \sqrt{-1}$ ) is the kernel of  $\exp|_H: H \rightarrow \text{Ad}(G)$ . For simplicity, we identify  $\Delta$  with a subset of  $iH_0$  by the map  $\alpha \mapsto \frac{1}{2\pi i}h_\alpha$ , and introduce an

inner product in  $iH_0$  by  $(h, h') = \frac{-1}{(2\pi)^2}B(h, h')$ . Then  $(\alpha, h) = \alpha(h)/2\pi i$  for  $\alpha \in \Delta$ ,  $h \in iH_0$ .

Let  $\text{Ad}(\Delta)$  denote the Weyl group of  $\Delta$ . Any element  $S$  of  $\text{Ad}(\Delta)$ , regarded as a linear transformation on  $iH_0$  can be extended to an inner automorphism of the Lie algebra  $G$ . Let  $T(\Omega)$  be the group of translations of the euclidean space  $iH_0$  induced by elements in  $\Omega$ . Then, if  $G$  is simple, the group  $\text{Ad}(\Delta) \cdot T(\Omega)$  acts transitively on the set of all cells, see Goto-Grosshans [5] Chapter 5. We summarize as follows:

Let  $G$  be a complex simple Lie algebra and  $C_0$  the fundamental cell:  $C_0 = \{h \in iH_0; (\alpha_1, h) > 0, \dots, (\alpha_l, h) > 0 \text{ and } (-\alpha_0, h) < 1\}$ . Let  $\bar{C}_0$  denote the closure of  $C_0$ . Then for any  $h$  in  $iH_0$ , we can find  $U \in \text{Ad}(\Delta) \cdot T(\Omega)$  such that  $h \in U\bar{C}_0$ .

In sections 2 and 3 below, we consider  $\text{ind}(g)$  for  $g \in \text{Ad}(G)$  where  $G$  is a complex simple Lie algebra.

## 2. Upper bound for $\text{ind}(g)$

**Theorem.** For any  $g \in \text{Ad}(G)$ ,  $\text{ind}(g) \leq m_i$  for some  $i = 1, \dots, l$ .

Any element  $g$  in  $\text{Ad}(G)$  has a decomposition  $g = g_0 \cdot \exp N$  into semisimple part  $g_0$  and unipotent part  $\exp N$  such that  $g_0 \cdot \exp N = \exp N \cdot g_0$ . Let  $G(1, \text{Ad } g_0)$  denote the 1-eigenspace of  $\text{Ad } g_0$  in  $G$ . Then  $G(1, \text{Ad } g_0)$  is a subalgebra of  $G$  and  $N \in G(1, \text{Ad } g_0)$ .

By Gantmacher [2],  $g_0$  is conjugate to some element in  $\exp H$ . Hence, to prove our theorem, it suffices to consider elements  $g$  whose semisimple part lies in  $\exp H$ , i.e.  $g = \exp h_0 \cdot \exp N$ ,  $h_0 \in H$ , such that  $N \in G(1, \text{Ad } \exp h_0)$ . Let

$\Delta(h_0) = \{\alpha \in \Delta; \text{Ad exp } h_0 \cdot e_\alpha = e_\alpha\} = \{\alpha \in \Delta; \alpha(h_0) \in 2\pi i\mathbb{Z}\}$ . Then  $G(1, \text{Ad exp } h_0) = H + \sum_{\alpha \in \Delta(h_0)} C e_\alpha$ , and  $\Delta(h_0)$  satisfies (i)  $-\alpha \in \Delta(h_0)$  whenever  $\alpha \in \Delta(h_0)$ , and (ii) if  $\alpha, \beta \in \Delta(h_0)$  and  $\alpha + \beta \in \Delta$ , then  $\alpha + \beta \in \Delta(h_0)$ . Hence  $\Delta(h_0)$  is a subsystem of  $\Delta$ , and we can choose a simple root system  $\Pi(h_0) = \{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_r\}$  of  $\Delta(h_0)$ .

**Lemma 1.** *To find an upper bound for  $\text{ind}(g)$  ( $g \in \text{Ad}(G)$ ), it suffices to consider elements with semisimple part  $\exp h_0$ , where  $h_0 \in iH_0$  and  $\Pi(h_0)$  has cardinality  $l = \text{rank } G$ .*

*Proof.* Assume that  $h_0 = x_1 h_1 + \dots + x_l h_l$  for some complex numbers  $x_i$ . For each  $j = 1, \dots, r$ , since  $(\exp \text{ad } h_0 - 1)e_{\beta_j} = 0$ , we have  $\beta_j(h_0) = 2\pi i k_j$  for some  $k_j \in \mathbb{Z}$ . If  $k_j$  are all zero, then for any  $N \in G(1, \text{Ad exp } h_0)$  we have  $[h_0, N] = 0$ , and  $\exp h_0 \cdot \exp N = \exp(h_0 + N)$ , i.e.  $\text{ind}(\exp h_0 \cdot \exp N) = 1$ . So we assume some  $k_j \neq 0$ , hereafter.

Since  $\exp h_0 = \exp(h_0 + \Omega)$ , if we can find a positive integer  $d$  and integers  $n_1, \dots, n_l$  such that for  $h = dh_0 + \sum_{j=1}^l 2\pi i n_j h_j$ ,  $[h, dN] = 0$ , then the index of  $\exp h_0 \cdot \exp N$  divides  $d$ . For this, it suffices to choose  $d$  and  $n_j$  with  $\alpha(h) = 0$  for all  $\alpha \in \Delta(h_0)$ , or equivalently for all  $\alpha \in \Pi(h_0) = \{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_r\}$ . Therefore, the problem reduces to finding  $d$  so that  $\beta_i(\sum_{j=1}^l n_j h_j) = -dk_i$  has integral solutions  $n_1, \dots, n_l$ .

Choose  $\beta_{r+1}, \dots, \beta_l \in \Delta$  so that  $\{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_l\}$  is a maximal linearly independent subset of  $\Delta$ . We write  $\beta_i = \sum_{j=1}^l p_{ij} \alpha_j$  where  $p_{ij}$  are integers. Consider the following system of linear equations:

$$\begin{aligned} p_{i1}n_1 + \dots + p_{il}n_l &= -k_i & i &= 1, \dots, r; \\ p_{i1}n_1 + \dots + p_{il}n_l &= 0 & i &= r+1, \dots, l. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $(p_{ij})$  is a nonsingular integral matrix and  $k_i$  are integers, this has a (nontrivial) rational solution, say  $r_1, \dots, r_l$ .

Let  $h'_0 = 2\pi i(r_1 h_1 + \dots + r_l h_l) \in iH_0$ , then  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_l \in \Delta(h'_0)$ . Suppose we can find a positive integer  $d'$  and integers  $n'_1, \dots, n'_l$  such that  $\beta(d'h'_0 + \sum_{j=1}^l 2\pi i n'_j h_j) = 0$  for all  $\beta \in \Delta(h'_0)$ , then  $(n_1, \dots, n_l) = (n'_1, \dots, n'_l)$  is the solution for the following system of linear equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=1}^l p_{ij} n_j &= -d'k_i & i &= 1, \dots, r; \\ \sum_{j=1}^l p_{ij} n_j &= 0 & i &= r+1, \dots, l. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have  $n_j \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $\beta_i(\sum_{j=1}^l 2\pi i n_j h_j) = -2\pi i d'k_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, r$ ). Hence for  $h = d'h_0 + \sum_{j=1}^l 2\pi i n_j h_j$ , we have  $\beta_i(h) = 0$  ( $i = 1, \dots, r$ ) and so  $\beta(h) = 0$  for all  $\beta \in \Delta(h_0)$ .

We have proved that  $\text{ind}(\exp h_0 \cdot \exp N) \leq \text{ind}(\exp h'_0 \cdot \exp N)$ . Therefore, we may replace  $h_0$  by  $h'_0$  which satisfies Lemma 1 by our construction. ||

Given an  $n \times n$  nonsingular integral matrix  $A$ , the Smith canonical form of  $A$  is a diagonal matrix  $D = \text{diag}(d_1, \dots, d_n)$  such that there are  $Q_1, Q_2 \in GL(n, \mathbf{Z})$  with  $A = Q_1 D Q_2$  and  $d_i | d_{i+1}$  (the positive integers  $d_i$  are called the elementary divisors of  $A$ ). We shall denote the biggest one,  $d_n$ , by  $d(A)$ .

Given  $h_0 \in iH_0$  as in Lemma 1, the coefficient matrix  $P = (p_{ij})$  of  $\Pi(h_0)$  expressed in terms of a simple root system is a nonsingular  $l \times l$  matrix. From the proof of Lemma 1, we see that  $\text{ind}(\exp h_0 \cdot \exp N) \leq d(P)$ , so our problem is to find  $d(P)$ .

Now let  $S$  be in the Weyl group  $Ad(\Delta)$ . Then  $S$  can be extended to an automorphism of the Lie algebra  $G$ , which can be extended to an inner automorphism  $\sigma$  of the Lie group  $Ad(G)$ . Clearly  $\text{ind}(g) = \text{ind}(\sigma g)$  for any automorphism  $\sigma$  of  $Ad(G)$ . Therefore, to find an upper bound for  $\text{ind}(g)$  ( $g \in Ad(G)$ ), we may replace  $g$  (whose semisimple part is  $\exp h_0$ ) by an element whose semisimple part is  $\exp Sh_0$  ( $S \in Ad(\Delta)$ ).

On the other hand,  $\exp h_0 = \exp(h_0 + \Omega)$ , so we may replace  $h_0$  by  $T(\Omega)h_0$ .

Combining these and the proposition we stated at end of section 1, we get

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $-\alpha_0 = m_1\alpha_1 + \dots + m_l\alpha_l$  be the highest root. To find an upper bound for  $\text{ind}(g)$  ( $g \in Ad(G)$ ), it suffices to consider elements whose semisimple part has the form  $\exp h$  ( $h \in iH_0$ ) with  $(\alpha_1, h) \geq 0, \dots, (\alpha_l, h) \geq 0$  and  $(-\alpha_0, h) \leq 1$ .*

Let  $\tilde{\Pi} = \{\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_l\}$ , be the extended simple root system. To simplify our problem further, we need some discussions in the Borel-Siebert theory. The following two lemmas are known. For the sake of completeness, we include a proof here.

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $h \in \bar{C}_0$  be an element satisfying Lemma 1, then  $\Pi' = \tilde{\Pi} \cap \Delta(h)$  is a simple root system of  $\Delta(h)$  with respect to a suitable ordering.*

**Proof.** Given any positive root  $\beta = b_1\alpha_1 + \dots + b_l\alpha_l$ , it suffices to prove that  $\beta$  can be written as a linear combination of roots in  $\Pi'$  with integral coefficients, all non-negative or all non-positive.

(a)  $-\alpha_0 \notin \Delta(h)$ , i.e.  $(-\alpha_0, h) \notin \mathbf{Z}$ .

Since  $0 \leq (-\alpha_0, h) \leq 1$ , so  $0 < (-\alpha_0, h) < 1$ . Then the inequality  $0 \leq b_1(\alpha_1, h) + \dots + b_l(\alpha_l, h) = (\beta, h) \leq (-\alpha_0, h) < 1$  implies that  $(\beta, h) = 0$  because  $(\beta, h) \in \mathbf{Z}$ . Hence  $b_j(\alpha_j, h) = 0$  for all  $j$ ; i.e.  $(\alpha_j, h) = 0$  or  $\alpha_j \in \Delta(h)$  whenever  $b_j \neq 0$ . Therefore  $\beta$  is a linear combination of  $\alpha_j \in \Delta(h)$  with nonnegative coefficients.

(b)  $-\alpha_0 \in \Delta(h)$ , so  $(-\alpha_0, h) = 0$  or  $1$ .

If  $(-\alpha_0, h) = 0$ , then  $(\alpha_1, h) = \dots = (\alpha_l, h) = 0$  and  $h = 0$ , which is the trivial case we have excluded (Lemma 1). Hence  $(-\alpha_0, h) = 1$ , so  $(\beta, h) = 0$  or  $1$ .

If  $(\beta, h) = 0$ , the same argument as in (a) gives what we want.

If  $(\beta, h) = 1$ , then  $(-\alpha_0, h) = 1$  and

$$0 = (-\alpha_0 - \beta, h) = (m_1 - b_1)(\alpha_1, h) + \cdots + (m_l - b_l)(\alpha_l, h).$$

Since  $m_j \geq b_j$ ,  $(\alpha_j, h) \geq 0$ , we have  $\alpha_j \in \Delta(h)$  whenever  $m_j - b_j \neq 0$ . Hence  $\beta = -\alpha_0 - (m_1 - b_1)\alpha_1 - \cdots - (m_l - b_l)\alpha_l$  is a linear combination of roots in  $\Pi'$  with non-positive integral coefficients. ||

Therefore,  $\Pi(h) = \tilde{\Pi} \cap \Delta(h)$  is a simple root system of  $\Delta(h)$ . By Lemma 1, we consider elements  $h \in iH_0$  such that  $\Pi(h)$  has cardinality  $l$ . If  $\Pi(h) = \Pi$ , then  $\Delta(h) = \Delta$  and  $h \in \Omega$ , and in this case,  $\exp h \cdot \exp N = \exp N$ .

**Lemma 4.** *If  $\Pi(h) \neq \Pi$  has cardinality  $l$ , then  $h = 2\pi i h_j / m_j$  for some  $j$  such that  $m_j > 1$ .*

Proof. Since  $\Pi(h) = \Delta(h) \cap \tilde{\Pi}$ , we have  $\Pi(h) = \tilde{\Pi} - \{\alpha_j\}$  for some  $j > 0$ . Therefore  $0 < (\alpha_j, h) < 1$  and  $(-\alpha_0, h) = 1$  because  $(-\alpha_0, h) \geq m_j(\alpha_j, h)$ . For  $i > 0$ ,  $i \neq j$ , we have  $(\alpha_i, h) = 0$  or  $1$  and the inequality

$$m_i(\alpha_i, h) < m_i(\alpha_i, h) + m_j(\alpha_j, h) \leq (-\alpha_0, h) = 1$$

implies that  $(\alpha_i, h) = 0$  and  $m_j(\alpha_j, h) = (-\alpha_0, h) = 1$ . So  $h = 2\pi i h_j / m_j$ . ||

In the case  $m_j = 1$ , we have  $\Pi(2\pi i h_j / m_j) = \Pi$ .

Conclusion. Let  $G$  be a complex simple Lie algebra. To find an upper bound for  $\{\text{ind}(g); g \in \text{Ad}(G)\}$ , it suffices to consider elements  $g \in \text{Ad}(G)$  whose semisimple part has the form  $\exp 2\pi i h_j / m_j$  for some  $j$ , i.e.  $g = \exp 2\pi i h_j / m_j \cdot \exp N$ .

Clearly,  $g^{m_j} = \exp m_j N$  for such  $g$ . We have proved:

**Theorem.** *For any  $g \in \text{Ad}(G)$ , there exists  $i$  such that  $g^{m_i} \in \exp G$ . In other words,  $\text{ind}(g) \leq \max \{m_i; 1 \leq i \leq l\}$  for all  $g \in \text{Ad}(G)$ . This is the same as saying that  $\text{ind}(g) \in \{1, m_1, \dots, m_l\}$ .*

### 3. Existence of elements with index $m_j$ (in case $m_j > 1$ )

In [6], we have shown the existence of such elements in some cases. Here we shall give a unified short proof by using results in Steinberg [7].

We define an element  $x$  in a semisimple Lie algebra  $G$  to be regular if the centralizer  $z_G(x) = \{y \in G; [x, y] = 0\}$  of  $x$  (in  $G$ ) has minimal dimension. By a Borel subalgebra, we mean a maximal solvable subalgebra of  $G$ . If  $H$  is a Cartan subalgebra of  $G$  with root system  $\Delta$  and  $U = \sum_{\alpha > 0} \mathbb{C}e_\alpha$ , then  $B = H + U$  is a Borel subalgebra. Theorem 1 and its corollary in Steinberg [7] (pp. 110–112) have obviously the following Lie algebra analogues.

**Theorem.** *Let  $G$  be a semisimple Lie algebra with a Cartan subalgebra  $H$ , and  $B = H + U$  a Borel subalgebra containing  $H$ . Let  $x$  be a nilpotent element in  $G$ . Then the following conditions are equivalent:*

(a)  $x$  is regular.

- (b)  $x$  belongs to a unique Borel subalgebra.
- (c)  $x$  belongs to finitely many Borel subalgebras.
- (d) If  $U = \sum_{\alpha > 0} \mathbb{C}e_{\alpha}$  and  $x = \sum_{\alpha > 0} c_{\alpha}e_{\alpha}$  ( $c_{\alpha} \in \mathbb{C}$ ), then  $c_{\alpha} \neq 0$  for any simple root  $\alpha$ .

**Corollary.** If  $x \in U$  is regular, then  $z_G(x) \subset U$ . In particular,  $z_G(x)$  consists of nilpotent elements.

Retaining the notation above, consider  $h_0 = 2\pi i h_j / m_j$ . Then  $\Pi = \tilde{\Pi} - \{\alpha_j\}$  is a simple root system in  $\Delta(h_0)$  and  $G(1, \text{Ad exp } h_0) = H + \sum_{\alpha \in \Delta(h_0)} \mathbb{C}e_{\alpha}$ . Let  $N = \sum_{i=0, \dots, l: i \neq j} e_{\alpha_i}$ . Applying the above theorem, we see that  $N$  is a regular element in the semisimple subalgebra  $G(1, \text{Ad exp } h_0)$ , so the above corollary implies that any element of  $G(1, \text{Ad exp } h_0)$  which commutes with  $N$  must be nilpotent.

Let  $g = \exp h_0 \cdot \exp N$ . If  $g = \exp x$  for some  $x \in G$ , then  $x$  has a decomposition  $x = x_0 + N$ , where  $x_0$  is semisimple and  $[x_0, N] = 0$ . Clearly  $x \in G(1, \text{Ad } g) = G(1, \text{Ad exp } h_0)$ . Since  $N \in G(1, \text{Ad exp } h_0)$ , we have  $x_0 \in G(1, \text{Ad exp } h_0)$ . But  $[x_0, N] = 0$ , so the above argument implies that  $x_0$  is nilpotent. Thus  $x_0 = 0$  because  $x_0$  is also semisimple. This implies that  $\exp h_0 = \exp x_0 = 1$  which is absurd ( $m_j > 1$ ). Therefore  $g \notin \exp G$ .

Next, let  $\mathfrak{G}_1$  be the connected subgroup of  $\mathfrak{G} = \text{Ad } G$  corresponding to the subalgebra  $G_1 = G(1, \text{Ad } g)$ . Clearly,  $g \in \mathfrak{G}_1$  because  $\exp h_0, \exp N \in \exp G_1 \subset \mathfrak{G}_1$ . If  $g^p = \exp x$  for some  $x$  in  $G$ , then  $x$  lies in  $G_1$  because  $g^p \in \mathfrak{G}_1$ . (We have  $G_1 = \{x \in G; \exp x \in \mathfrak{G}_1\}$ ). But  $N$  is a regular nilpotent element in  $G_1$ , it cannot commute with any nonzero semisimple element in  $G_1$ . The same argument as above implies that the semisimple part of  $g^p$  must be 1, i.e.,  $\exp p h_0 = 1$  or  $p h_0 \in \Omega$ . This cannot happen if  $p < m_j$ .

Therefore  $\text{ind}(g) = m_j$ .

Q.E.D.

The results in sections 2 and 3 give the following:

**Theorem.** Let  $G$  be a complex simple Lie algebra and  $-\alpha_0 = m_1 \alpha_1 + \dots + m_l \alpha_l$  the highest root expressed in terms of a simple root system. Then

$$\{\text{ind}(g); g \in \text{Ad}(G)\} = \{1, m_1, \dots, m_l\},$$

which is the set of all positive integers  $\leq \max \{m_i; 1 \leq i \leq l\}$ .

**Corollary.**  $\text{ind}(\text{Ad}(G))$  is the least common multiple of  $\{m_1, \dots, m_l\}$ .

We can list our result in the table:

Type of $G$	$A$	$B$	$C$	$D$	$G_2$	$F_4$	$E_6$	$E_7$	$E_8$
$\max \{\text{ind}(g)\}$	1	2	2	2	3	4	3	4	6
$\text{ind}(\text{Ad}(G))$	1	2	2	2	6	12	6	12	60



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