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UNIQUENESS OF THE MOST SYMMETRIC NON-SINGULAR PLANE SEXTICS

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0. Introduction

Let C be a compact Riemann surface of genus $g \geq 2$. The order of the holomorphic automorphism group $\mathrm{Aut}(C)$ takes the value $84(g-1), 48(g-1), 40(g-1), 36(g-1), 30(g-1)$ or less by Hurwitz' theorem ([5, Chap. 6] or [1, Chap. 5]). A homogeneous polynomial $f \in \mathbf{C}[x, y, z]$ with $n = \deg f \geq 1$ defines an algebraic curve $C(f)$ in the projective plane $\mathbf{P}^2$ over the complex number field $\mathbf{C}$. As is well known $C(f)$ is a compact Riemann surface of genus $(n-1)(n-2)/2$ if $C(f)$ is non-singular. Particularly a non-singular plane quartic(resp. sextic) has genus $g = 3$(resp. $g = 10$). Let $\mathrm{Aut}(f)$ be the subgroup of the projectivities $PGL(3, \mathbf{C})$ of $\mathbf{P}^2$ consisting of all projectivities (A) defined by $A \in GL(3, \mathbf{C})$ such that f_A is proportional to f. Here $f_A(x, y, z) = f((x, y, z)({}^tA^{-1}))$ by definition. Clearly $\mathrm{Aut}(f)$ coincides with the projective automorphism group of $C(f)$, if f is irreducible. It is also known that a holomorphic automorphism of a non-singular curve $C(f)$ of degree $n \geq 4$ is induced by a projectivity $(A) \in PGL(3, \mathbf{C})$ [9, Theorem 5.3.17(3)]. Therefore $\mathrm{Aut}(C(f))$=$\mathrm{Aut}(f)$ if $C(f)$ is non-singular of degree $n \geq 4$. By abuse of terminology we say that a homogeneous polynomial f is non-singular or singular accoding as $C(f)$ is.

As is well known, the Klein quartic $f_4 = x^3y + y^3z + z^3x$ is the most symmetric in the sense that $|\mathrm{Aut}(f_4)| = 84 \times (3-1)$. It is also known that if $|\mathrm{Aut}(f)| = 168$ for a non-singular plane quartic f, then f is projectively equivalent to f_4. A.Wiman has shown that for the following non-singular sextic

$$f_6 = 27z^6 - 135z^4xy - 45z^2x^2y^2 + 9z(x^5 + y^5) + 10x^3y^3,$$

$\mathrm{Aut}(f_6)$ is isomorphic to the simple group $A_6 \simeq PSL(2, 3^2)$[11], as a result $|\mathrm{Aut}(f_6)| = 40(g-1) = 360$. We call f_6 the Wiman sextic. He has also shown that the group $\mathrm{Aut}(f_6)$ acts transitively on the set of 72 flexes of $C(f_6)$. We can show even that no three flexes are collinear [6]. Our main results are

Theorem. *Let f be a non-singular plane sextic defined over* $\mathbf{C}$. *Then*
(1) $|\mathrm{Aut}(f)| \leq 360$.
(2) $|\mathrm{Aut}(f)| = 360$ *if and only if f is projectively equivalent to the Wiman sextic* f_6.

(1) will be proved in §1 according to [4], while (2) will be shown in §2. We can show that the most symmetric non-singular plane curve of degree 3, 5 or 7 is projectively equivalent to the Fermat curve [7].

We recall a well known fact: Let R_A:$\mathbf{C}[x, y, z] \longrightarrow \mathbf{C}[x, y, z]$ be a mapping defined by $R_A f = f_A$ for $A \in GL(3, \mathbf{C})$ and $f \in \mathbf{C}[x, y, z]$. Then R_A is a ring-automorphim of the polynomial ring $\mathbf{C}[x, y, z]$. Since $(f_A)_B = f_{BA}$ for $A, B \in GL(3, \mathbf{C})$, the assignment $A \longrightarrow R_A$ is a group homomorphims of $GL(3, \mathbf{C})$ into $\mathrm{Aut}(\mathbf{C}[x, y, z])$.

We write $a \sim b$ when two quantities a and b such as polynomials or matrices are proportional. E_3 stands for the 3×3 unite matrix, and e_i for the i-th column vector of $E_3 (1 \leq i \leq 3)$.

1. The maximum order of the automorphism group of non-singular plane sextics

Let f be a non-singular plane sextic. In this section we will show that the order of the projective automorphism group $\mathrm{Aut}(f)$ can take the value neither 84×9 nor 48×9 (Theorem (1)). Otherwise, for some f $\mathrm{Aut}(f)$ has a subgroup of order 3^3 by Sylow's theorem. Thus it suffices to show the following theorem.

Theorem 1.1. *Let f be a non-singular plane sextic. If $27 \,|\, |\mathrm{Aut}(f)|$, then $|\mathrm{Aut}(f)| < 360$.*

Our approach is elementary, but involves much computation. There exist eactly five groups of order 27 up to group isomorphism [3, 4.4]. They are three abelian groups and two non-abelian groups: (1) $\mathbf{Z}_{27}$ (2) $\mathbf{Z}_9 \times \mathbf{Z}_3$ (3) $\mathbf{Z}_3 \times \mathbf{Z}_3 \times \mathbf{Z}_3$ (4) $a^9 = 1$, $b^3 = 1$, $b^{-1}ab = a^4$ (5) $a^3 = 1$, $b^3 = 1$, $c^3 = 1$, $ab = bac$, $ca = ac$, $cb = bc$. The group (5) is isomorphic to the matrix group

$$E(3^3) = \left\{ M(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \alpha & \gamma \\ 0 & 1 & \beta \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} ; \quad \alpha, \ \beta, \ \gamma \in \mathbf{F}_3 \right\}.$$

We find projective representaions of these groups in the projective plane $\mathbf{P}^2$ defined over $\mathbf{C}$, and find a non-singular invariant sextic f, if any. We can manage to estimate the order of the projective automorphism group $\mathrm{Aut}(f)$.

Lemma 1.2. *Let ε be a primitive 9-th root of $1 \in \mathbf{C}$. If G_9 is a subgroup of $PGL(3, \mathbf{C})$, isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}_9$, then G_9 is conjugate to one of the following three groups in $PGL(3, \mathbf{C})$:*
(1) $\langle(\mathrm{diag}[1, \varepsilon, \varepsilon])\rangle$ (2) $\langle(\mathrm{diag}[1, \varepsilon, \varepsilon^2])\rangle$ (3) $\langle(\mathrm{diag}[1, \varepsilon, \varepsilon^3])\rangle$.

Proof. By our assumption G_9 is generated by a projective transformation (A), where $A \in GL(3, \mathbf{C})$ satisfies $A^9 = E_3$ and $\operatorname{ord}((A)) = 9$, namely $G_9 = \langle (A) \rangle$. Therefore it is conjugate to $\langle (\operatorname{diag}[1, \varepsilon^i, \varepsilon^j]) \rangle$ for some $0 \le i \le j \le 8$ with $(i, j) \neq (0,0), (0,3), (0,6), (3,3), (3,6), (6,6)$. If $(i, j) = (0, j)$ with $j \not\equiv 0 \bmod 3$ or $i = j \not\equiv 0 \bmod 3$, then G_9 is conjugate to (1). If $1 \le i < j \le 8$ with $(i, j) \not\equiv (0,0) \bmod 3$, then G_9 is conjugate to (2) or (3) according as $(i, j) \in \{(1,2), (1,5), (1,8), (2,4), (2,7), (4,5), (4,8), (5,7), (7,8)\}$ or $(i, j) \in \{(1,3), (1,4), (1,6), (1,7), (2,3), (2,5), (2,6), (2,8), (3,4), (3,5), (3,7), (3,8), (4,6), (4,7), (5,6), (5,8), (6,7), (6,8)\}$. □

Lemma 1.3. *Let $\lambda_j \in \mathbf{C}(1 \le j \le n)$ be mutually distinct, and let $f_{j,A} = \lambda_j f_j$ for some $A \in GL(3, \mathbf{C})$ and $f_j \in \mathbf{C}[x, y, z]$. If $f = f_1 + \cdots + f_n \neq 0$ satisfies $f_A = \lambda f$ for some $\lambda \in \mathbf{C}$, then $\lambda = \lambda_i$ for some i, and $f_j = 0$ for $j \neq i$.*

Proof. We have $\lambda^k f = \lambda_1{}^k f_1 + \cdots + \lambda_n{}^k f_n$ for $0 \le k < n$. Multiplying the inverse of the Vandermonde matrix, we get $f_j = c_j f (1 \le j \le n)$ for some $c_j \in \mathbf{C}$. Thus $c_j(\lambda_j - \lambda) f = 0$. Since f is assumed not to be the zero polynomial, the lemma follows. □

Proposition 1.4. *Let f be a plane sextic. If* $\operatorname{Aut}(f)$ *has a subgroup G_9 isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}_9$, then $C(f)$ has a singular point.*

Proof. Let $A_1 = \operatorname{diag}[1, \varepsilon, \varepsilon]$, $A_2 = \operatorname{diag}[1, \varepsilon, \varepsilon^2]$ and $A_3 = \operatorname{diag}[1, \varepsilon, \varepsilon^3]$. By Lemma 1.2 we may assume that $f_{A_j{}^{-1}} = \lambda_j f$ for some $\lambda_j \in \mathbf{C}(1 \le j \le 3)$. Since $A_j^9 = E_3$, it follows that $\lambda_j{}^9 = 1$. In addition any monomial m satisfies $m_{A_j{}^{-1}} = \varepsilon^i m$ for some i. Suppose that a homogeneous polynomial $f'(x, y, z)$ of degree $d \ge 2$. Then $(1,0,0)$ is a singular point of $C(f')$ if and only if f' contains none of three monomials x^d, $x^{d-1}y$ and $x^{d-1}z$. In the following table we summarize the values i such that $m_{A_j{}^{-1}} = \varepsilon^i m$ for each $j = 1, 2, 3$ and for special 9 monomials. The proposition is immediate from the table.

	x^6	x^5y	x^5z	y^6	y^5x	y^5z	z^6	z^5x	z^5y
(1)	0	1	1	6	5	6	6	5	6
(2)	0	1	2	6	5	7	3	1	2
(3)	0	1	3	6	5	8	0	6	7

□

Proposition 1.5. *No subgroup of $PGL(3, \mathbf{C})$ is isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}_3 \times \mathbf{Z}_3 \times \mathbf{Z}_3$.*

Proof. Assume that a subgroup G of $PGL(3, \mathbf{C})$ is isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}_3 \times \mathbf{Z}_3 \times \mathbf{Z}_3$. Then there exist A_1, A_2, $A_3 \in GL(3, \mathbf{C})$ such that $A_1^3 = A_2^3 = A_3^3 = E_3$, $A_i A_j \sim A_j A_i$ for any $1 \le i < j \le 3$, and $G = \langle (A_1), (A_2), (A_3) \rangle$. Let ω be a primitive 3rd root of

1. We may assume that G contains (W) of the form $(\mathrm{diag}[1,1,\omega])$ or $(\mathrm{diag}[1,\omega,\omega^2])$. We will show that the first case implies the second case. Since $WA_j \sim A_jW$, the (3,1), (3,2), (1,3) and (2,3) components of $A_j (j=1,2,3)$ vanish. So we can assume that $A_1 = \mathrm{diag}[\omega^m, \omega^n, \omega]$ for some $0 \le m, n < 3$, If $n = m$, then $n \ne 1$, and $A_2 = \mathrm{diag}[\omega^{m'}, \omega^{n'}, \omega]$ with $n' \ne m'$. Thus $(\mathrm{diag}[1,\omega,\omega^2]) \in G$. We will show that the assumption $(A) = (\mathrm{diag}[1,\omega,\omega^2]) \in G$ leads to a contradiction. Let $P_1 = (1,0,0)$, $P_2 = (0,1,0)$, and $P_3 = (0,0,1)$. Then G fixes 3-point set $K = \{P_1, P_2, P_3\}$, because (A) and (A_j) commute. Since some A_j is not diagonal, the homomorphism φ from G to the permutaion group of K cannot be trivial. Since $|G| = 27$, it cannot be surjective. Thus $|\varphi(G)| = 3$, and $|\mathrm{Ker}\varphi| = 9$. In other words evry projectivety $(\mathrm{diag}[1,\omega^i,\omega^j])$ belongs to G. Since G is commutative, any element of G is induced by a diagonal matrix of order 3. This implies that $|G| = 9$, a desired contradiction. □

We turn to the group $E(3^3)$. See the paragraph just below Theorem 1.1 for the definition of the group and its element $M(\alpha,\beta,\gamma)$.

Lemma 1.6. (1) *Let*

$$B_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \omega \end{bmatrix}, \quad B_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \omega & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \omega^2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The map ϕ defined by $\phi(M(\alpha,\beta,\gamma)) = (B_1^\alpha B_2^\beta B_3^{\gamma-\alpha\beta})$ is an isomorphism of $E(3^3)$ into $PGL(3,\mathbf{C})$.
(2) *If G is a subgroup of $PGL(3,\mathbf{C})$ and isomorphic to $E(3^3)$, then G is conjugate to $\phi(E(3^3))$.*

Proof. (1) Let $M_1 = M(1,0,0)$, $M_2 = M(0,1,0)$, $M_3 = M(0,0,1)$. Then $M(\alpha,\beta,\gamma) = M_1^\alpha M_2^\beta M_3^{\gamma-\alpha\beta}$. First we will prove that ϕ is a homomorphism by showing $\phi(M_jM(\alpha,\beta,\gamma)) = \phi(M_j)\phi(M(\alpha,\beta,\gamma))$. Clearly

$$\begin{aligned} M_1M(\alpha,\beta,\gamma) &= M(\alpha+1,\beta,\gamma+\beta) \\ M_2M(\alpha,\beta,\gamma) &= M(\alpha,\beta+1,\gamma) \\ M_3M(\alpha,\beta,\gamma) &= M(\alpha,\beta,\gamma+1). \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand , $B_j^3 = E_3$, $B_1B_2 = B_2B_1B_3$, $B_3B_1 = B_1B_3$, and $B_3B_2 = B_2B_3$. So ϕ is a homomorphism. Since B_2 and B_3 are diagonal, it is easy to see that ϕ is injective. Note that $\phi(E(3^3))$ does not depend on the choice of ω, a primitive 3rd root of 1.
(2) Let ϕ' be an isomorphim of $E(3^3)$ into $PGL(3,\mathbf{C})$, and $\phi'(M_j) = (B_j')$. We may assume $B_3' = B_3$ or $B_3' = B_2$. The latter case is impossible. Since $B_3'B_1' \sim B_1'B_3'$ and $B_3'B_2' \sim B_2'B_3'$, we may assume $B_1' = \mathrm{diag}[\omega_1,\omega_2,1]$, and (1,3), (2,3), (3,1) and (3,2) components of B_2' are equal to zero. It is not difficult to see that $B_1'B_2' \sim B_2'B_1'B_3'$ is

impossible. So let $B_3' = B_3$ and let e_i denote the i-th unit column vector so that $E_3 = [e_1, e_2, e_3]$. A matrix $B \in GL(3, \mathbf{C})$ satisfies $BB_3 \sim B_3B$ if and only if either B is diagonal or takes the form either $[e_2, e_3, e_1]\mathrm{diag}[a, b, c]$ or $[e_3, e_1, e_2]\mathrm{diag}[a, b, c]$. First assume that $B_2' = \mathrm{diag}[\omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3]$. We may assume $1 = \omega_1 = \omega_2 \neq \omega_3$ (if necessary, we replace ω by ω^2). Furthermore, we may assume $\omega_3 = \omega$(if necessary, we replace ω by ω^2) so that $B_2' = B_2$. Since (B_2') and (B_1') do not commute, B_1' cannot be diagonal. It turns out $B_1' = [e_3, e_1, e_2]\mathrm{diag}[a, b, c]$. By use of a diagonal matrix, we may assume that $a = b = c$, namely $B_1' = B_1$. Secondly assume that $B_1' = \mathrm{diag}[\omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3]$. We note that the map sending $M(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$ to $M(\beta, \alpha, \gamma)$ is an anti-isomorphism. Therefore ϕ' gives an isomorphism $\phi''(M(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)) = \phi'(M(\beta, \alpha, \gamma)^{-1})$. ϕ'' is an isomorphism whose type we have discussed. Namely, $\phi'(E(3^3))= \phi''(E(3^3))$ is conjugate to $\phi(E(3^3))$. Thirdly and finally assume that neither B_1' nor B_2' is diagonal. Let $B_2' = [e_2, e_3, e_1]$(without loss of generality we may take $a = b = c = 1$). Then we can show that if B_1' takes the form either $[e_2, e_3, e_1]\mathrm{diag}[a, b, c]$ or $[e_3, e_1, e_2]\mathrm{diag}[a, b, c]$ with $|\{a, b, c\}| = 2$, $ac = b^2\omega$ and $a^2 = bc\omega^2$, then $\phi'(M(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)) = (B_1'^{\alpha} B_2'^{\beta} B_3'^{\gamma-\alpha\beta})$ is an isomorphism(if $|\{a, b, c\}| = 1$ *or* 3, this ϕ' cannot be an isomorphism). Clearly $\phi'(E(3^3)) = \phi(E(3^3))$. The case $B_2' = [e_3, e_1, e_2]$ can be reduced to the case $B_2' = [e_2, e_3, e_1]$ by use of the matrix $[e_1, e_3, e_2]$. □

Let $f \in \mathbf{C}[x_1, x_2, x_3]$ be a homogeneous polynomial and let h be its Hessian $\mathrm{Hess}(f) = \det[f_{jk}]$, where $f_{jk} = (\partial^2/\partial x_j \partial x_k)f$.

Lemma 1.7. *Let $A = [a_{jk}] \in GL(3, \mathbf{C})$, and let f be a homogeneous polynomial in $\mathbf{C}[x_1, x_2, x_3]$ such that $f_{A^{-1}} = \lambda f$. Then $h_{A^{-1}} = \lambda^3(\det A^{-1})^2 h$, where $h = \mathrm{Hess}(f)$.*

Proof. Let $y_j = \sum_{k=1}^{3} a_{jk}x_k$. By our assumption $\lambda f(x_1, x_2, x_3) = f(y_1, y_2, y_3)$. Hence

$$\lambda f_j(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \sum_{\ell} f_\ell(y_1, y_2, y_3)a_{\ell j}$$
$$\lambda f_{jk}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \sum_{\ell} \sum_{\ell'} f_{\ell\ell'}(y_1, y_2, y_3)a_{\ell' k}a_{\ell j}.$$

The second equality yields $\lambda^3 h(x_1, x_2, x_3) = h_{A^{-1}}(x_1, x_2, x_3)(\det A)^2$. □

Lemma 1.8. *Let the marices B_j be as in* Lemma 1.6. *A non-singular sextic f is invariant under all (B_j) if and only if*

$$f \sim x^6 + y^6\alpha^2 + z^6\alpha + \kappa(x^3y^3 + y^3z^3\alpha^2 + z^3x^3\alpha),$$

where $\alpha^3 = 1$ with $(\kappa^2 - 4\alpha^2)(\kappa^3 - 3\alpha\kappa^2 + 4) \neq 0$.

Proof. First we will show that a non-singular sextic f invariant under all (B_j) takes the form as in the lemma. Note that $f_{B_3^{-1}} = \omega^j f$ and $f_{B_2^{-1}} = \omega^k f$ for some $j, k \in \{0, 1, 2\}$. One can easily see that unless $(j, k) = (0, 0)$, f is singular. So f takes the form $f = a_1x^6 + a_2y^6 + a_3z^6 + a_4x^3y^3 + a_5y^3z^3 + a_6z^3x^3$. Since $f_{B_1^{-1}} = a_3x^6 + a_1y^6 + a_2z^6 + a_6x^3y^3 + a_4y^3z^3 + a_5z^3x^3$ must be equal to λf, where $\lambda^3 = 1$(note that $B_1^3 = E_3$), we get $(a_1, a_2, a_3) = \lambda(a_3, a_1, a_2)$, and $(a_4, a_5, a_6) = \lambda(a_6, a_4, a_5)$. Therefore $a_2 = \lambda a_1$, $a_3 = \lambda^2 a_1$, $a_5 = \lambda a_4$, $a_6 = \lambda^2 a_4$. We note that $a_1 \neq 0$, because, otherwise, f is singular.

Let $f = x^6 + y^6\alpha^2 + z^6\alpha + \kappa(x^3y^3 + y^3z^3\alpha^2 + z^3x^3\alpha)$, where $\alpha^3 = 1$. Obviously f is invariant under all (B_j). We will discuss when $C(f)$ has a singular point. Simple computation yields

$$\begin{aligned} f_x &= 3x^2(2x^3 + \kappa y^3 + \kappa\alpha z^3) \\ f_y &= 3y^2(\kappa x^3 + 2\alpha^2 y^3 + \alpha^2\kappa z^3) \\ f_z &= 3z^2(\alpha\kappa x^3 + \alpha^2\kappa y^3 + 2\alpha z^3). \end{aligned}$$

If (a, b, c) is a common zero of the three linear forms in x^3, y^3, z^3 above, then the determinant of the coefficient matrix vanishes, namely $\kappa^3 - 3\alpha\kappa^2 + 4 = 0$. Conversely, if this determinant vanishes, then $C(f)$ has clearly a singular point. If the determinant does not vanish and $C(f)$ has a singular point (a, b, c), then one of a, b, c is equal to zero and $4\alpha^2 - \kappa^2 = 0$. It is clear that $C(f)$ has a singular point if $4\alpha^2 - \kappa^2 = 0$. Thus $C(f)$ has a singular point if and only if $(\kappa^3 - 3\alpha\kappa^2 + 4)(4\alpha^2 - \kappa^2) = 0$. □

Lemma 1.9. $|\mathrm{Aut}(f)| < 360$, *where f is a non-singular sextic given in* Lemma 1.8.

Proof. The Hessian $h = \mathrm{Hess}(f)$ takes the form $54h_1h_2$, where $h_1 = xyz$ and

$$\begin{aligned} h_2 = {} & 20\alpha\kappa^2(x^9 + y^9 + z^9) + (-5\alpha\kappa^3 + 20\alpha^2\kappa^2 + 100\kappa)(x^6y^3 + y^6z^3 + z^6x^3) \\ & +(-5\alpha^2\kappa^3 + 20\kappa^2 + 100\alpha\kappa)(x^3y^6 + y^3z^6 + z^3x^6) + (35\kappa^3 - 75\alpha\kappa^2 + 500)x^3y^3z^3. \end{aligned}$$

We consider a set of lines $L = \{\ell;\ \ell \textit{ is a line such that } \ell | h\}$. By Lemma 1.7 $\mathrm{Aut}(f)$ acts on L as $(A)\ell = \{(A)P; P \in \ell\}$. Denoting the line $x = 0$ by ℓ_x, let $G_x = \{(A) \in \mathrm{Aut}(f); (A)\ell_x = \ell_x\}$. Obviously $|\mathrm{Aut}(f)\ell_x| \leq |L| \leq 12$. By the way we remark that $|L| = 12$ for $f' = x^6 + y^6 + z^6 - 10(x^3y^3 + y^3z^3 + z^3x^3)$(Indeed, the 3×3 matrix B whose row vectors are $[1, 1, 1]$, $[1, \omega, \omega^2]$ and $[1, \omega^2, \omega]$, ω being a primitive the third root of 1, satisfies $f'_{B^{-1}} = -27f'$). Assume $(A) \in G_x$. Without loss of generality A takes the form

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ a & b & c \\ a' & b' & c' \end{bmatrix} \in GL(3, \mathbf{C}).$$

Putting $Y = by + cz$ and $Z = b'y + c'z$, we get $f_{A^{-1}} = p_0x^6 + x^5p_1(Y, Z) + x^4p_2(Y, Z) + x^3p_3(Y, Z) + x^2p_4(Y, Z) + xp_5(Y, Z) + p_6(Y, Z)$. Since this polynomial is proportional to f, $p_5(Y, Z) = 6a\alpha^2Y^5 + 3\kappa\alpha^2(a'Y^3Z^2 + aY^2Z^3) + 6a'\alpha Z^5$ must vanish, namely $a = a' = 0$. Now $f_{A^{-1}} = x^6 + \kappa x^3(Y^3 + Z^3\alpha) + Y^6\alpha^2 + \kappa Y^3Z^3\alpha^2 + Z^6\alpha$. Assuming first $\kappa \neq 0$, we will show that $|G_x| = 18$ to the effect that $|\mathrm{Aut}(f)| \leq 18 \times 12 = 216$. By simple computaion $Y^3 + Z^3\alpha = y^3(b^3 + b'^3\alpha) + 3y^2z(b^2c + b'^2c'\alpha) + 3yz^2(bc^2 + b'c'^2\alpha) + z^3(c^3 + c'^3\alpha)$.

Since this must be equal to the polynomial $y^3 + z^3\alpha$, it follows that $b^2c + b'^2c'\alpha = 0$, and $bc^2 + b'c'^2\alpha = 0$. Multiplying c and b to each equality and then by subtraction, we get $b'c'(cb' - bc') = 0$, namely $b'c' = 0$, because A is non-singular. If $b' = 0$, then $c = 0$, $b^3 = 1$, $c'^3 = 1$. It can be immediately seen that with these values (A) really belongs to G_x. If $c' = 0$, then $b = 0$, $b'^3 = \alpha^2$, $c^3 = \alpha$. It can be also verified that with these values (A) belongs to G_x. Thus, if $\kappa \neq 0$, then $|G_x| = 2 \times 9$. If $\kappa = 0$, then $h = \mathrm{const}x^4y^4z^4$, in particular, $L = \{x, y, z\}$. One can see easily that G_x consisits of 2×6^2 points. Since $\mathrm{Aut}(f)$ acts transitively on L, we have $|\mathrm{Aut}(f)| = |L| \times |G_x| = 216$ (see [10, p. 171] or [8] for the automorphism group of the Fermat curves). □

2. Uniqueness of sextics with $|\mathrm{Aut}(f)|$=360

In the previous section we have shown that $|\mathrm{Aut}(f)| \leq 360$ for a non-singular plane sextic f. It is, therefore, reasonable to call a non-singular plane sextic f satisfying $|\mathrm{Aut}(f)| = 360$, the most symmetric. The Wiman sextic

$$f_6 = 27z^6 - 135z^4xy - 45z^2x^2y^2 + 9z(x^5 + y^5) + 10x^3y^3$$

is known to be the most symmetric [11]. The aim of this section is to prove the

Theorem 2.1. *The most symmetric sextics are projectively equivalent to the Wiman sextic.*

As a byproduct another proof of $|\mathrm{Aut}(f_6)| = 360$ will be given (see Proposition 2.22).

There are five groups of order 8 up to isomorhism ([3, chap. 4]):

1) $\mathbf{Z}_8$
2) $\mathbf{Z}_2 \times \mathbf{Z}_4$
3) $\mathbf{Z}_2 \times \mathbf{Z}_2 \times \mathbf{Z}_2$
4) Q_8, which is generated by a and b satisfying $a^4 = 1$, $b^2 = a^2$, and $ba = a^{-1}b$
5) D_8, which is generated by a and b satisfying $a^4 = 1$, $b^2 = 1$, and $ba = a^{-1}b$.

In a series of lemmas we will show that if f is the most symmetric sextic, then the Sylow 2-subgroup of $\mathrm{Aut}(f)$ is isomorphic to D_8.

Lemma 2.2. *A subgroup G_8 of $PGL(3, \mathbf{C})$ is isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}_8$, if and only if G_8 is conjugate to one of the following groups*:

(1) $\langle(\mathrm{diag}[1, 1, \varepsilon])\rangle$ (2) $\langle(\mathrm{diag}[1, \varepsilon, \varepsilon^2])\rangle$
(3) $\langle(\mathrm{diag}[1, \varepsilon, \varepsilon^3])\rangle$ (4) $\langle(\mathrm{diag}[1, \varepsilon, \varepsilon^4])\rangle$.

Proof. Suppose that G_8 and $\mathbf{Z}_8$ are isomorphic. Then there exists an $A \in GL(3, \mathbf{C})$ such that $G_8 = \langle(A)\rangle$. Since (A) is of finite order, A is diagonalizable; $T^{-1}AT \sim \mathrm{diag}[1, \varepsilon^i, \varepsilon^j](0 \leq i < j \leq 7)$, where ε is a primitive 8-th root of 1. Clearly $(i, j) \notin \{(0,2), (0,4), (0,6), (2,4), (2,6), (4,6)\}$. If $i = 0$, then G_8 is conjugate to (1). If $(i, j) \in \{(1,2), (1,7), (2,5), (3,5), (3,6), (6,7)\}$, then G_8 is conjugate to (2). If $(i, j) \in \{(1,3), (1,6), (2,3), (2,7), (5,6), (5,7)\}$, then G_8 is conjugate to (3). Finally if $(i, j) \in \{(1,4), (1,5), (3,4), (3,7), (4,5), (4,7)\}$, then G_8 is conjugate to (4). □

Lemma 2.3. *The projective automorphism group* Aut(f) *of a non-singular sextic f has a subgroup isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}_8$, if and only if f is projectively equivalent to a sextic of the form $f' = x^6 + Bx^2y^2z^2 + y^5z + yz^5$ with $B^3 + 27 \neq 0$.*

Proof. Assume that Aut(f) has a subgroup isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}_8$. Let A denote one of the follwoing four matrices; $\mathrm{diag}[1, 1, \varepsilon]$, $\mathrm{diag}[1, \varepsilon, \varepsilon^2]$, $\mathrm{diag}[1, \varepsilon, \varepsilon^3]$, $\mathrm{diag}[1, \varepsilon, \varepsilon^4]$, where ε is a primitive 8-th root of 1. By Lemma 2.2 f is projectively equivalent to a sextic f' such that $f'_{A^{-1}} = \varepsilon^j f'$ for some $0 \leq j < 8$. One can easily see that such an f' is singular except for the case $(A, j) = (\mathrm{diag}[1, \varepsilon, \varepsilon^3], 0)$(see the proof of Proposition 1.4). In this exceptional case f' is a linear combination of monomials $x^6, x^2y^2z^2, y^5z, yz^5$. Since f' is assumed to be non-singular, it takes the form $x^6 + Bx^2y^2z^2 + (y^5z + yz^5)$ up to projective equivalence. Suppose that $C(f')$ has a singular point (a, b, c). It is immediate that $abc \neq 0$. It is a common zero of $f_1 = 3x^4 + By^2z^2$, $f_2 = 2Bx^2yz + 5y^4 + z^4$ and $f_3 = 2Bx^2yz + y^4 + 5z^4$. Being on $C(f_2)$ and $C(f_3)$, (a, b, c) satisfies $Ba^2c + 3b^3 = 0$ and $Ba^2b + 3c^3 = 0$, hence $B^2a^4 = 9b^2c^2$. Since $B^2 f_1(a, b, c) = 0$, we get $(27 + B^3)b^2c^2 = 0$, namely $B^3 + 27 = 0$. Conversely, if $B^3 + 27 = 0$, then $(\sqrt{-3/B}, 1, 1)$ is a singular point of $C(f')$. □

We cite two theorems concerning a flex of a plane curve.

Theorem 2.4 ([2, p. 70]). *A point P on an irreducible plane curve $C(f)$ is a simple point if and only if the local ring $\mathcal{O}_P(f)$ is a discrete valuation ring. In this case, if $L = ax + by + cz$ is a line through P different from the tangent to $C(f)$ at P, then the image ℓ of L in $\mathcal{O}_P(f)$ is a uniformizing parameter for $\mathcal{O}_P(f)$.*

Theorem 2.5 ([2, p. 116]). *Let h be the Hessian of an irreducible f.*

(1) *P lies both on $C(h)$ and $C(f)$, if and only if P is a flex or a multiple point of f.*
(2) *The intersection number $I(P, h \cap f)$ is equal to* 1 *if and only if P is an ordinary*

flex. (*Note that if P is a simple point of $C(f)$ and $C(\ell)$ is the tangent at P to $C(f)$, then $I(P, h \cap f) = \mathrm{ord}_P^f(h)$* [2, p. 81], *which is equal to $I(P, \ell \cap f) - 2 = \mathrm{ord}_P^f(\ell) - 2$* [2, Proof on p. 116].)

The following lemma shows that a Sylow 2-subgroup of $\mathrm{Aut}(f)$ of the most symmetric sextic f cannot be isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}_8$.

Lemma 2.6. *If $f' = x^6 + Bx^2y^2z^2 + y^5z + yz^5$ with $B^3 + 27 \neq 0$, then $|\mathrm{Aut}(f')| < 360$.*

Proof. Since $f'(x, 1, z) = x^6 + Bx^2z^2 + z + z^5$, $P = (0, 1, 0)$ is a flex of $C(f')$. The tangent to $C(f')$ at P is $C(z)$. Since $\mathrm{ord}_P^{f'}$ is a discrete valuation of the local ring $\mathcal{O}_P(f')$, and x is a uniformizing parameter of the ring, namely $\mathrm{ord}_P^{f'}(x) = 1$, we get $\mathrm{ord}_P^{f'}(z) = 6$. Simple calculation yields the Hessian $h' = \mathrm{Hess}(f')$, which takes the form $-360B^2x^8y^2z^2 - 750x^4\{y^8 + z^8 + (10500 + 40B^3)y^4z^4\} - 160b^2x^2(y^7z^3 + y^3z^7) - 50B(y^{10}z^2 + y^2z^{10}) + 700By^6z^6$. So $I(P, h' \cap f') = \mathrm{ord}_P^{f'}(h') = 4$. This value can be obtained as $\mathrm{ord}_P^{f'}(z) - 2$ by Theorem 2.5 (2). Let $G_P = \{(A) \in \mathrm{Aut}(f'); (A)P = P\}$. Since $(A) \in G_P$ fixes P as well as the tangent $C(z)$, we may assume that

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 & c \\ a' & b' & c' \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The condition $f'_{A^{-1}} \sim f'$ implies that $a' = c' = 0$, because $5(b'y)^4(a' + c'z)z$ must vanish in $f'_{A^{-1}}$. Such an (A) belongs to G_P if and only if $b'^4 = 1$, $a^6 = b'$, and $Ba^2b' = B$. Thus $|G_P|$ is equal to 8 or 24 according as $B \neq 0$ or $B = 0$. In the case $B \neq 0$, we evaluate the order of the group $\mathrm{Aut}(f')$ as follows:

$$4\left(\frac{|\mathrm{Aut}(f')|}{|G_P|}\right) = I(P, h' \cap f')\left(\frac{|\mathrm{Aut}(f')|}{|G_P|}\right) \leq \sum_Q I(Q, h' \cap f') = 12 \times 6.$$

Thus $|\mathrm{Aut}(f')| \leq 144$.

Suppose $B = 0$. In this case $h' = -750x^4(y^8 - 14y^4z^4 + z^8)$, and h' contains 9 linear factors; x with multiplicity four, and $\sqrt{-1}^j(7 \pm 4\sqrt{3})y - z (0 \leq j \leq 3)$ with multiplicity one. Let $G_x = \{(A) \in \mathrm{Aut}(f'); (A)\ell_x = \ell_x\}$, where ℓ_x stands for the line $C(x)$. By Lemma 1.7 $G_x = \mathrm{Aut}(f')$. We shall show that $|G_x| = 144$. Assume that $(A) \in G_x$. (A) fixes both $C(f)$ and $C(x)$. Note that each tangent to $C(f)$ at the intersection $\in C(f) \cap C(x)$ passes through $(1, 0, 0)$. So (A) fixes $(1, 0, 0)$ as well. Thus A takes the form

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & b & c \\ 0 & b' & c' \end{bmatrix}$$

up to constant multiplication. Putting $Y = by + cz$, $Z = b'y + c'z$, we write $f'_{A^{-1}}$ as $Y^5Z+YZ^5+x^6$. Now (A) belongs to G_x if and only if $y^5z+yz^5 = Y^5Z+YZ^5$. The right-hand side takes the form $y^6(b^5b'+bb'^5)+\cdots+z^6(c^5c'+cc'^5)$. Therefore $bb'(b^4+b'^4) = 0$, and $cc'(c^4 + c'^4) = 0$. If $b = 0$, then it follows immediately that $c' = 0$, and $c^5b' = cb'^5 = 1$. The number of such an (A) is equal to 24. Similarly the case $b' = 0$ gives another 24 elements of G_x. The case $cc' = 0$ does not give new $(A) \in G_x$. We turn to the case $bb'cc' \neq 0$. In this case $b^4 + b'^4 = c^4 + c'^4 = 0$. Since the coefficient of y^4z^2 vanishes, $b^2c^2 + b'^2c'^2 = 0$. Under these conditions the coefficients of y^2z^4, y^3z^3 vanish. The coefficients of y^5z and yz^5 yield the condition $1 = -4b^4(bc' - b'c)$ and $1 = 4c^4(bc' - b'c)$ respectively. In particular $c^4 = -b^4$. Therefore if $bb'cc' \neq 0$, then $(A) \in G_x$ if and only if $b^4 + b'^4 = 0$, $c^4 + c'^4 = 0$, $b^4 + c^4 = 0$, $b^2c^2 + b'^2c'^2 = 0$, and $4b^4(-bc' + b'c) = 1$. Thus $b' = \sqrt{-1}^j(1 + \sqrt{-1})b/\sqrt{2}$, $c' = \sqrt{-1}^k(1 + \sqrt{-1})c/\sqrt{2}$ with $0 \leq j, k \leq 3$ and $j + k \equiv 0 \mod 2$, $c = \sqrt{-1}^\ell(1 - \sqrt{-1})b/\sqrt{2}$ with $0 \leq \ell \leq 3$ such that $4b^6(\sqrt{-1}^j - \sqrt{-1}^k)\sqrt{-1}^\ell = 1$. It is easy to see that each j gives one admissible value of k, that ℓ can be arbitrary, and that b can take six values for an addmissible (j, k, ℓ). Consequently there exist $4 \times 4 \times 6$ $(A) \in G_x$ such that $bb'cc' \neq 0$. Hence $|G_x| = 24 + 24 + 96 = 144$. This completes the proof of Lemma 2.6. □

Lemma 2.7. *A subgroup G_8 of $PGL(3, \mathbf{C})$ is isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}_2 \times \mathbf{Z}_4$, if and only if G_8 is conjugate to one of the following two groups*:
(1) $\langle(\mathrm{diag}[-1, 1, 1]), (\mathrm{diag}[1, \sqrt{-1}, \sqrt{-1}])\rangle$
(2) $\langle(\mathrm{diag}[-1, 1, 1]), (\mathrm{diag}[1, \sqrt{-1}, \sqrt{-1}^2])\rangle$.

Proof. Assume that G_8 is isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}_2 \times \mathbf{Z}_4$. Then there exist commuting (A), and (B) in $PGL(3, \mathbf{C})$ of order 2 and 4 respectively. We may assume that $A^2 = E_3$ and B takes the form either $\mathrm{diag}[1, 1, \sqrt{-1}]$ or $\mathrm{diag}[1, \sqrt{-1}, \sqrt{-1}^2]$. First suppose that $B = \mathrm{diag}[1, 1, \sqrt{-1}]$. Since $AB \sim BA$, (1,3),(2,3),(3,1) and (3,2) components of A vanish. We may assume that (3,3) component of A is equal to 1. Since A is diagonalizable, we may assume that $A = \mathrm{diag}[-1, 1, 1]$. Secondly assume that $B = \mathrm{diag}[1, \sqrt{-1}, \sqrt{-1}^2]$. Since $AB \sim BA$, and A is involutive, it follows that A is diagonal; $A = \mathrm{diag}[a, b, 1]$. If $a = b$, then $a = -1$. There exists a $T \in GL(3, \mathbf{C})$ such that $T^{-1}AT \sim \mathrm{diag}[-1, 1, 1]$ and $T^{-1}BT \sim \mathrm{diag}[1, \sqrt{-1}^3, \sqrt{-1}^2]$, hence $T^{-1}B^3T \sim \mathrm{diag}[1, \sqrt{-1}, \sqrt{-1}^2]$. The case $a \neq b$ can be dealt with similarly. □

Lemma 2.8. *If a plane sextic is invariant under the group* (1) *or* (2) *in* Lemma 2.7, *then it is singular.*

Proof. Let $A = \mathrm{diag}[-1, 1, 1]$, $B_1 = \mathrm{diag}[1, 1, \sqrt{-1}]$, $B_2 = \mathrm{diag}[1, \sqrt{-1}, \sqrt{-1}^2]$, and let B denote either B_1 or B_2. As in the proof of Proposition 1.4 we can show easily that a sextic f satisfying $f_{B^{-1}} \sim f$ and $f_{A^{-1}} \sim f$ is singular. Indeed, if f contains x^6, then $f_{B^{-1}} = f$, hence three monomials z^6, z^5x, z^5y or three monomials y^6,

y^5x, y^5z do not appear in f according as $B = B_1$ or $B = B_2$. Suppose the monomial x^6 does not appear in f. If f contains x^5y, then $f_{A^{-1}} = -f$ and $f_{B^{-1}} \sim f$ so that three monomials z^6, z^5x, z^5y do not appear in f, namely $(0, 0, 1)$ is a singular point of $C(f)$. If f contains x^5z, then $f_{A^{-1}} = -f$ and $f_{B^{-1}} \sim f$ so that three monomials z^6, z^5x, z^5y do not appear in f. Finally if f contains none of three monomials x^6, x^5y, and x^5z, then $(1, 0, 0)$ is a singualr point of $C(f)$. □

Lemma 2.9. *No subgroup of $PGL(3, \mathbf{C})$ is isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}_2 \times \mathbf{Z}_2 \times \mathbf{Z}_2$.*

Proof. Let (A) and (B) be mutually distinct commuting involutions. We may assume that $A = \mathrm{diag}[-1, 1, 1]$, and $B = \mathrm{diag}[1, -1, 1]$. Assume that an involution (C) commutes with both of them. Then C is diagonal, hence $(C) \in \langle (A), (B) \rangle$. Namely, mutually distinct three commuting involutions in $PGL(3, \mathbf{C})$ generate a subgroup of order 4. □

Lemma 2.10. *A subgroup G_8 of $PGL(3, \mathbf{C})$ is isomorphic to Q_8, if and only if G_8 is conjugate to $\langle (\mathrm{diag}[1, \sqrt{-1}, \sqrt{-1}^3]), ([e_1, e_3, e_2]\mathrm{diag}[1, \sqrt{-1}, \sqrt{-1}]) \rangle$, where e_i is the i-th column vector of the unit matrix E_3.*

Proof. G_8 is isomorphic to Q_8, if and only if it is generated by some (A) of order 4 and (B) such that $(B)^2 = (A)^2$ and $(B)(A) = (A)^{-1}(B)$. Suppose that G_8 is isomorphic to Q_8. Since (A) has order 4, we may assume that A takes the form either $\mathrm{diag}[1, 1, \sqrt{-1}]$ or $\mathrm{diag}[1, \sqrt{-1}, \sqrt{-1}^3]$, for subgroups $\langle (\mathrm{diag}[1, \sqrt{-1}^j, \sqrt{-1}^k]) \rangle (0 < j < k < 4)$ are mutually conjugate. If $A = \mathrm{diag}[1, 1, \sqrt{-1}]$, we can show easily that no $B \in GL(3, \mathbf{C})$ satisfies $ABA \sim B$. If $A = \mathrm{diag}[1, \sqrt{-1}, \sqrt{-1}^3]$, then, up to constant multiplication, $B = [e_1, e_3, e_2]\mathrm{diag}[1, b, c]$ with $bc = -1$ alone satisfies $B^2 \sim A^2$ and $ABA \sim B$. Transforming B by a diagonal matrix we get the lemma. □

Lemma 2.11. *Any Q_8-invariant sextic is singular.*

Proof. Let $A = \mathrm{diag}[1, \sqrt{-1}, \sqrt{-1}^3]$ and $B = [e_1, e_3, e_2]\mathrm{diag}[1, \sqrt{-1}, \sqrt{-1}]$, and f is a sextic. Suppose $f_{A^{-1}} = \sqrt{-1}^j f$ for some $0 \le j \le 3$. f is a linear combination of monomials m in x, y, z satisfying $m_{A^{-1}} = \sqrt{-1}^j m$. If $j = 2$, then f contains none of x^6, x^5y, and x^5z so that $(1, 0, 0)$ is a singular point of $C(f)$. If $j \in \{1, 3\}$, then x divides f. Finally if $j = 0$, then f is a linear combination of eight monomials: $x^6, x^2y^4, x^2y^2z^2, x^2z^4, x^4yz, y^5z, y^3z^3, yz^5$. Since we also require that $f_{B^{-1}} \sim f$, f is either a linear combination of the leading four monomials or a linear combination of the remaining four monomials. In either case f is reducible. □

We have so far shown that a Sylow 2-subgroup of $\mathrm{Aut}(f)$ of the most symmetric sextic f is isomorphic to D_8. We turn to the study of a Sylow 5-subgroup of $\mathrm{Aut}(f)$

of the most symmetric sextic f.

Lemma 2.12. *A subgroup* G_5 *of* $PGL(3,\mathbf{C})$ *is isomorphic to* $\mathbf{Z}_5$ *if and only if* G_5 *is conjugate to either* $G_{5,1} = \langle(\mathrm{diag}[1,1,\varepsilon]\rangle$ *or* $G_{5,2} = \langle(\mathrm{diag}[1,\varepsilon,\varepsilon^2])\rangle$, *where* ε *is a primitive 5-th root of* 1.

Proof. We can argue as in the proof of Lemma 2.2. □

Proposition 2.13. *Let* f *be a non-singular sextic. If* $\mathrm{Aut}(f)$ *contains a subgroup conjugate to* $G_{5,1}$ *in* Lemma 2.12, *then* $|\mathrm{Aut}(f)| < 360$.

Proof. Let a sextic f satisfy $f_{A^{-1}} = \varepsilon^j f$, where $A = \mathrm{diag}[1,1,\varepsilon]$. It turns out that unless $j = 0$, f is singular. In the case $j = 0$, f is a linear combination of monomials $x^{6-k}y^k$ $(0 \le k \le 6)$, xz^5 and yz^5. By change of variables $x' = ax+by$ and $y' = cx+dy$, we may assume that

$$f = C_0x^6 + C_1x^5y + C_2x^4y^2 + C_3x^3y^3 + C_4x^2y^4 + C_5xy^5 + C_6y^6 + xz^5,$$

where $C_6 = 1$, because if $C_6 = 0$, then f is reducible. So $P = (0,0,1)$ is a flex of $C(f)$, $C(x)$ is the tangent there to $C(f)$, y is a uniformizing parameter of $\mathcal{O}_P(f)$, and $\mathrm{ord}_P^f(x) = 6$. Let $h = \mathrm{Hess}(f)$. By Theorem 2.5 (2) $I(P, h \cap f) = \mathrm{ord}_P^f(x) - 2 = 4$. Using Bezout's theorem we get $4|\mathrm{Aut}(f)P| \le \sum_Q I(Q, h \cap f) = 72$. Let $G_P = \{(B) \in \mathrm{Aut}(f); (B)P = P\}$. If $|G_P| < 20$, then $|\mathrm{Aut}(f)| = |\mathrm{Aut}(f)P||G_P| < 360$. We will try to show that $|G_P| < 20$. Let $(B) \in G_P$. Then the first, the second and the third row of B takes the form $[a,0,0]$, $[b,1,0]$, and $[a',b',c]$. Since $f_{B^{-1}} \sim f$, $a' = b' = 0$. Now $f_{B^{-1}}$ is of the following form:

$$\begin{aligned} f_{B^{-1}} = {} & x^6(C_0a^6 + C_1a^5b + C_2a^4b^2 + C_3a^3b^3 + C_4a^2b^4 + C_5ab^5 + C_6b^6) \\ & +x^5y(C_1a^5 + 2C_2a^4b + 3C_3a^3b^2 + 4C_4a^2b^3 + 5C_5ab^4 + 6b^5) \\ & +x^4y^2(C_2a^4 + 3C_3a^3b + 6C_4a^2b^2 + 10C_5ab^3 + 15b^4) \\ & +x^3y^3(C_3a^3 + 4C_4a^2b + 10C_5ab^2 + 20b^3) \\ & +x^2y^4(C_4a^2 + 5C_5ab + 15b^2) \\ & +xy^5(C_5a + 6b) + y^6 + xz^5ac^5. \end{aligned}$$

This polynomial is proportional to f, hence, equal to f. Therefore $ac^5 = 1$, and $b = C_5(1-a)/6$. Substituting b in the coefficients of x^2y^4, we get $(a^2-1)(C_4 - 5{C_5}^2/12) = 0$. If $C_4 \ne 5{C_5}^2/12$, then $a^2 = 1$, hence $|G_P| \le 10$. Suppose $C_4 = 5{C_5}^2/12$. Comparing the coefficients of x^3y^3, we get $(a^3-1)(C_3 - 5{C_5}^3/54) = 0$. Suppose $C_3 = 5{C_5}^3/54$(otherwise, $|G_P| \le 15$). Now

$$f = \left(x\frac{C_5}{6} + y\right)^6 + x^6\left(1 - \frac{{C_5}^6}{6^6}\right) + x^5y\left(C_1 - \frac{{C_5}^5}{6^4}\right) + x^4y^2\left(C_2 - \frac{{C_5}^4}{2\cdot 6^3}\right) + xz^5.$$

By change of variables $x' = x$, $y' = xC_5/6 + y$, and $z' = z$, we get a projectively equivalent sextic, which will be denoted by f again: $f = D_0x^6 + D_1x^5y + D_2x^4y^2 + y^6 + xz^5$. If $(B) \in G_P$, then $B = \mathrm{diag}[a, 1, c]$, where

$$D_0a^6 = D_0, \quad D_1a^5 = D_1, \quad D_2a^4 = D_2, \quad \text{and} \quad ac^5 = 1.$$

If $D_1D_2 \neq 0$, then $a = 1$, hence $|G_P| = 5$. If $D_1 = 0$ and $D_2 \neq 0$, then $D_0 \neq 0$, hence $a^2 = 1$ so that $|G_P| = 10$. Finally suppose that $D_1 \neq 0$, $D_2 = 0$ and that f is non-singular, namely $6^6D_0^5 \neq 5^5D_1^6$. Then the line $C(z)$ intersects $C(f)$ at distinct six points. Besides $h = \mathrm{Hess}(f) = 250z^3h'$, where $h' = -3y^4z^5 + 24(3D_0x + 2D_1y)x^4y^4 - 2{D_1}^2x^9$. Note that h' has no linear factors. Indeed, none of linear factors $z - \alpha x - \beta y$, $x - \alpha y$, and $y - \beta x$ divides h'. Let $G_z = \{(B) \in \mathrm{Aut}(f);\ (B) \text{ fixes the line } C(z)\}$. Since $\mathrm{Aut}(f) \subset \mathrm{Aut}(h)$ by Lemma 1.7, $(B) \in \mathrm{Aut}(f)$ fixes a line $C(z)$ and hence the point P (see the proof of Lemma 2.6). In particular $G_z = \mathrm{Aut}(f) = G_P$, and B takes the form $\mathrm{diag}[a, 1, c]$, where $a^5 = 1$ and $ac^5 = 1$. In particular $|\mathrm{Aut}(f)| = |G_P| \leq 5 \times 5$. □

Lemma 2.14. *Let f be a non-singular sextic. The automorphism group of f contains a subgroup conjugate to $G_{5,2}$, if and only if f is projectively equivalent to one of the following forms*:

(1) $x^6 + C_1x^3yz^2 + C_2y^2z^4 + C_3x^2y^3z + x(y^5 + z^5)$

(2) $z^6 + Bz^4xy + Cz^2x^2y^2 + Dz(x^5 + y^5) + Ex^3y^3$

If f is the sextic (1), *then* $|\mathrm{Aut}(f)| < 360$.

Proof. Let $A = \mathrm{diag}[1, \varepsilon, \varepsilon^2]$. Then each of the two sextics (1) and (2), say f, satisfies $f_{A^{-1}} \sim f$. Assume that $(A) \in \mathrm{Aut}(f)$ for a sextic f, namely $f_{A^{-1}} = \varepsilon^j f (j = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4)$. If $j = 3$ or $j = 4$, f is singular. According as $j \in \{0, 2\}$ or $j = 1$, f takes the form (1) or (2) up to projective equivalence. Assuming that f takes the form (1), we shall show that $|\mathrm{Aut}(f)| < 360$. $P = (0, 1, 0)$ is a flex of f, and $C(x)$ is the tangent there. So z is a uniformizing parameter of $\mathcal{O}_P(f)$. Since $\mathrm{ord}_P^f(x) \geq 4$, we can estimate the intersection number: $I(P, h \cap f) = \mathrm{ord}_P^f(x) - 2 \geq 2$, where h is the Hessian of f. Let $G_P = \{(B) \in \mathrm{Aut}(f); (B)P = P\}$. If $(B) \in G_P$, then the first, the second and the third row of B takes the form $[1, 0, 0]$, $[a, b, c]$, and $[a', 0, c']$ repectively, because (B) fixes the line $C(x)$(i.e. $[1, 0, 0]B \sim [1, 0, 0]$) and $(B)P = P$. Since $f_{B^{-1}} \sim f$ and $C_2 \neq 0$, we get $c = 0$, $a = 0$, $a' = 0$, $b^5 = 1$ and $c' = b^2$. Thus $|G_P| = 5$. By Bezout's theorem $2|\mathrm{Aut}(f)|/|G_P| = 2|\mathrm{Aut}(f)P| \leq \sum_Q I(Q, h \cap f) \leq 72$, that is, $|\mathrm{Aut}(f)| \leq 180$. □

By Lemma 2.14 the most symmetric sextic is projectively equivalent to the following sextic :

$$f = z^6 + Bz^4xy + Cz^2x^2y^2 + Dz(x^5 + y^5) + Ex^3y^3.$$

Let $I = [e_2, e_1, e_3]$, where $E_3 = [e_1, e_2, e_3]$ is the unit matrix. Clearly $f_I = f$. If f is the most symmetric sextic, then any Sylow 2-subgroup of $\mathrm{Aut}(f)$ is isomorphic to the group D_8. By Sylow's theorem the involution (I) belongs to a Sylow 2-subgroup of $\mathrm{Aut}(f)$.

Lemma 2.15. (1) *If g is an involution of D_8, then there exists an involution $g' \in D_8 \setminus \{g\}$ such $gg' = g'g$.*
(2) *Let g and g' be mutually distinct commuting involutions of D_8. Then one of the following cases takes place.*
1) *There exists an element $c \in D_8$ of order 4 such that $c^2 = g$, $g'cg' = c^{-1}$.*
2) *There exists an element $c \in D_8$ of order 4 such that $c^2 = g'$, $gcg = c^{-1}$.*
3) *There exists an element $c \in D_8$ of order 4 such that $c^2 = gg'$, $gcg = c^{-1}$.*

Proof. Let a, b be generators of D_8 such that $a^4 = 1$, $b^2 = 1$ and $ba = a^{-1}b$. So a generates a cyclic group H of order 4, and $D_8 = H + bH$. An element $g \in D_8$ is an involution if and only if $g \in \{a^2\} \cup bH$. (1) If $g = a^2$, then we can take $g' = ba^2$. If $g = ba^j$, we can take $g' = ba^{j+2}$. (2) If $g = a^2$, then $g' \in bH$. So we can take $c = a$. If $g' = a^2$, then we can take $c = a$. Finally if $g, g' \in bH$, then $gg' = a^2$. So we can take $c = a$. □

Lemma 2.16. *Assume that $f = z^6 + Bz^4xy + Cz^2x^2y^2 + Dz(x^5+y^5) + Ex^3y^3$ is non-singular. If there exists an involution $(A) \in \mathrm{Aut}(f) \setminus \{(I)\}$ such that $(A)(I) = (I)(A)$, then A takes the form*

$$\begin{bmatrix} \alpha & \beta & \gamma \\ \beta & \alpha & \gamma \\ \lambda & \lambda & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{where} \quad \alpha + \beta + 1 = 0, \ \alpha\beta + 1 = 0, \ \gamma\lambda = 2,$$

and

$$(\star) \qquad \gamma^2 B = 12 - \gamma^5 D, \ \gamma^4 C = 48 + \gamma^5 D, \ \gamma^6 E = 64 - 2\gamma^5 D.$$

Conversely, if $(\star)$ holds for some $\gamma \neq 0$, then the above matrix A gives an involution $(A) \in \mathrm{Aut}(f) \setminus \{(I)\}$ such that $(A)(I) = (I)(A)$.

Proof. Suppose that $\mathrm{Aut}(f)$ contains an involution $(A) \neq (I)$ commuting with (I). Let $A = [a, b, c]$, where $a = [a_j]$, $b = [b_j]$ and $c = [c_j]$ are column vectors. We claim that $c_3 \neq 0$. Otherwise the condition $AI \sim IA$ yields $b_1 = \delta a_2$, $b_2 = \delta a_1$, $b_3 = \delta a_3$, and $c_2 = \delta c_1$. Since $A^2 \sim E_3$, we get $\delta = 1$, $a_1 + a_2 = 0$, and $c_1 a_3 = 2{a_1}^2$. However, $(A) \notin \mathrm{Aut}(f)$, because $f_{A^{-1}} = \sum z^j C_j$ with $C_1 = 10{a_1}^7 a_3 D(x+y)(x-y)^4 \not\sim D(x^5 + y^5)$. Note that $D \neq 0$ because of non-singularity of f. Thus we may assume that $c_3 = 1$. The condition $AI \sim IA$ implies that $a_2 = b_1$, $a_1 = b_2$, $a_3 = b_3$ and $c_2 = c_1$. We claim that $c_1 \neq 0$. If $c_1 = 0$, then the condition $(A) \in \mathrm{Aut}(f)$ yields

$a_3 = 0$ and $a_1 b_1 = 0$. Besides, by the condition $A^2 \sim E_3$, we get $A \sim E_3$ or $A \sim I$. Similarly $a_3 \neq 0$. For the sake of simplicity of notation we put $\alpha = a_1$, $\beta = b_1$, $\gamma = c_1$, and $\lambda = a_3$. Since $A^2 \sim E_3$, $\alpha + \beta + 1 = 0$, $2\alpha\beta + \gamma\lambda = 0$, and $\gamma\lambda \notin \{0, -1/2\}$. Under these conditions $A^2 = (2\gamma\lambda + 1)E_3$. Let $W = \mathrm{diag}[1, 1, 1/\gamma]$, $A' = W^{-1}AW$, and $f_{W^{-1}} = \gamma^{-6} f'$. $(A') \in \mathrm{Aut}(f')$, because $f'_{A'} = (f_{W^{-1}})_{A'} = f_{A'W^{-1}} = f_{W^{-1}A} = (f_A)_{W^{-1}} = (\mathrm{const} f)_{W^{-1}} = \mathrm{const} f_{W^{-1}} = \mathrm{const} f'$. By the next lemma $(A') \in \mathrm{Aut}(f')$ implies $(\star)$. Conversely suppose $(\star)$ holds. Let $f_{W^{-1}} = \gamma^6 f'$. By the next lemma there exists an involution $(A') \in \mathrm{Aut}(f') \setminus \{(I)\}$ such that $(A')(I) = (I)(A')$. Since $f'_W \sim f$, $A = WA'W^{-1}$ gives an involution $(A) \in \mathrm{Aut}(f) \setminus \{(I)\}$. □

Lemma 2.17. *Let f be as in* Lemma 2.16, *and let*

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & 1 \\ b & a & 1 \\ d & d & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{where} \quad a + b + 1 = 0, \quad 2ab + d = 0, \quad d \notin \left\{0, -\frac{1}{2}\right\}.$$

Then $f_{A^{-1}} \sim f$ if and only if

$$d = 2, \quad B = 12 - D, \quad C = 48 + D, \quad E = 64 - 2D.$$

Proof. We note that coefficents of $f_{A^{-1}}$ can be written without using a and b. In fact we get the following formula.

$$\begin{aligned}
f_{A^{-1}} = {} & z^5(x + y)\{6d + B(4d - 1) + C(2d - 2) + D(2d - 5) + E(-3)\} \\
& + z^4(x^2 + y^2)\{15d^2 + B(-9/2 + 6d)d + C(1 - 5d + d^2) + D(10 + 5d) \\
& \quad + E(3 - (3/2)d)\} \\
& + z^3(x^3 + y^3)\{20d^3 + B(-8d^2 + 4d^3) + C(3d - 4d^2) + D(-10 - 5d + 10d^2) \\
& \quad + E(-1 + 3d)\} \\
& + z^3(x^2y + xy^2)\{60d^3 + B(4d - 16d^2 + 12d^3) + C(-2 + 9d - 4d^2) \\
& \quad + D(25d - 10d^2) + E(-9 - 3d)\} \\
& + z^2(x^4 + y^4)\{15d^4 + B(-7d^3 + d^4) + C((3 + (1/4))d^2 - d^3) \\
& \quad + D(5 - (25/2)d^2) + E((-3/2)d + (3/4)d^2)\} \\
& + z^2(x^3y + xy^3)\{60d^4 + B(6d^2 - 16d^3 + 4d^4) + C(-5d + 5d^2) \\
& \quad + D(-20d - 10d^2) + E(3 - 3d - 3d^2)\} \\
& + z(x^4y + xy^4)\{30d^5 + B(4d^3 - 7d^4) + C(-4d^2 - (1/2)d^3) \\
& \quad + D((15/2)d + (15/4)d^2 - (15/2)d^3) + E(3d + (9/4)d^2)\} \\
& + z(x^3y^2 + x^2y^3)\{60d^5 + B(12d^3 - 6d^4) + C(2d - 4d^2 - d^3) \\
& \quad + D(-25/2)d^2 + 5d^3) + E(-3 - 3d - (3/2)d^2)\} \\
& + (x^6 + y^6)\{d^6 + B(-(1/2)d^5) + C((1/4)d^4)
\end{aligned}$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
&+ D(-1-(5/2)d-(5/4)d^2)d + E(-(1/8)d^3)\}\\
&+(x^5y+xy^5)\{6d^6+B(d^4-d^5)+C(-d^3-(1/2)d^4)\\
&\quad + D(-d+(5/2)d^3)+E((3/4)d^2+(3/4)d^3\}\\
&+(x^4y^2+x^2y^4)\{15d^6+B(4d^4+(1/2)d^5)+C(d^2-(1/4)d^4)\\
&\quad + D((5/2)d^2+(5/4)d^3)+E(-(3/2)d-3d^2-(15/8)d^3)\}\\
&+z^6\{1+B+C+2D+E\}\\
&+z^4xy\{30d^2+B(1-7d+12d^2)+C(4-6d+2d^2)+D(-30d)+E(9+3d)\}\\
&+z^2x^2y^2\{90d^4+B(12d^2-18d^3+6d^4)+C(1-6d+(15/2)d^2+2d^3)\\
&\quad + D(45d^2)+E(9+9d+(9/2)d^2)\}\\
&+z(x^5+y^5)\{6d^5+B(-3d^4)+C(3/2)d^3\\
&\quad + D(-1+(5/2)d+(35/4)d^2+(5/2)d^3)+E(-3/4)d^2\}\\
&+x^3y^3\{20d^6+B(6d^4+2d^5)+C(2d^2+2d^3+d^4)\\
&\quad + D(-5d^3)+E(1+3d+(9/2)d^2+(5/2)d^3\}.
\end{aligned}
$$

Since z^5x does not appear in f, we have $3E = 6d + B(4d-1) + C(2d-2) + D(2d-5)$. Since the coefficients of z^4x^2, z^3x^3, z^3x^2y vanish, and $d \neq -1/2$, we get a system of linear equations on B, C, and D as follows:

$$
\begin{aligned}
&B(-2d+1)+C(1)+D\left(\frac{1}{2}d-5\right)=6d,\\
&B\left(4d^2-6d+\frac{2}{3}\right)+C\left(-2d+\frac{4}{3}\right)+D\left(12d-\frac{50}{3}\right)=-20d^2+4d,\\
&B(12d^2-26d+6)+C(-6d+8)+D(-12d+30)=-60d^2+36d.
\end{aligned}
$$

The determinant of the coefficient matirx is equal to $50(4d+2)(-d+2)/3$. We claim that $d = 2$. Assume the contrary. Cramer's formula yields $B = 6d$, $C = 12d^2$, and $D = 0$. On the other hand $D \neq 0$, because f is assumed to be non-singular. Thus $d = 2$. The above system of linear equations on B, C, and D, together with the equality $3E = 6d + B(4d-1) + C(2d-2) + D(2d-5)$ yields equalities $B = 12 - D$, $C = 48 + D$, and $E = 64 - 2D$. By easy computaion we get $f_{A^{-1}} = 125f$. □

Suppose f is the most symmetric sextic. By Lemma 2.14 we may assume that f takes the form given in Lemma 2.16. By Lemma 2.16, we may further assume that $B = 12 - D$, $C = 48 + D$, $E = 64 - 2D$.

Lemma 2.18. *Let f be a sextic of the form $z^6 + Bz^4xy + Cz^2x^2y^2 + Dz(x^5+y^5) + Ex^3y^3$ with $B = 12 - D$, $C = 48 + D$, $E = 64 - 2D$. Let $M = \mathrm{diag}[1,1,m]$ $(m \neq 0)$. Then $f_{M^{-1}}$ is the Wiman sextic*

$$f_6 = 27z^6 - 135z^4xy - 45z^2x^2y^2 + 9z(x^5+y^5) + 10x^3y^3,$$

if and only if $[D, 1/m] = [(9 \pm 15\sqrt{15}\sqrt{-1})/2, (-3 \pm \sqrt{15}\sqrt{-1})/12]$. *In particular if* $D^2 - 9D + 864 = 0$, *then* f *is projectively equivalent to the Wiman sextic.*

Proof. It is evident that f satisfies the condition if and only if the following 4 equalities hold:
(1) $(12 - D)/m^2 = -135/27$
(2) $(48 + D)/m^4 = -45/27$
(3) $D/m^5 = 9/27$
(4) $(64 - 2D)/m^6 = 10/27$.
The equalities (2) and (3) imply $(48 + D)m/D = -5$, while (3) and (4) yield $(64 - 2D)/Dm = 10/9$. Thus $(48 + D)(64 - 2D) + 50D^2/9 = 0$, namely $D^2 - 9D + 864 = 0$. $m^{-1} = -(48 + D)/(5D)$ gives the value of m^{-1}. Conversely, since
$m^{-2} = -(1 \pm \sqrt{15}\sqrt{-1})/24$, $m^{-4} = (-7 \pm \sqrt{15}\sqrt{-1})/288$,
$12 - D = 15(1 \mp \sqrt{15}\sqrt{-1})/2$, and $48 + D = 15(7 \pm \sqrt{15}\sqrt{-1})/2$,
(1) and (2) hold, hence (3) and (4) as well. □

Lemma 2.19. *Let* f *be as in* Lemma 2.18, *and let*

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b & 1 \\ b & a & 1 \\ 2 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \textit{where } a + b + 1 = 0, \textit{ and } ab + 1 = 0,$$

$$B = \mathrm{diag}[\delta, \delta^4, 1], \quad \textit{where } \delta \textit{ is a primitive 5-th root of } 1.$$

Then $(AB^2) \in \mathrm{Aut}(f)$ *and* $\mathrm{ord}((AB^2)) = 3$.

Proof. Let G be the subgroup of $\mathrm{Aut}(f)$ generated by (A), (I) and (B). Let $P_1 = (1, 0, 0)$. It is a flex of $C(f)$. We can show that the orbit GP_1 consists of 2+5+5 points, hence $|G| = 12 \times 5$. So it is no wonder that there is an $(M) \in G$ of oder 3. By Lemma 2.17 $(A) \in \mathrm{Aut}(f)$. Clearly $(B) \in \mathrm{Aut}(f)$. We will show that c, $c\omega$, $c\omega^2$ are the characteristic roots of AB^2 for some constant c. Let $\sqrt{5}$ be a solution to $x^2 = 5$(we do not assume $\sqrt{5} > 0$). To get a solution to $x^4 + x^3 + x^2 + x + 1 = 0$, put $y = x + x^{-1}$. Then $y^2 + y - 1 = 0$. So $y = (-1 \pm \sqrt{5})/2$, and $x^2 - yx + 1 = 0$. Let $a = (-1 + \sqrt{5})/2$, and $b = (-1 - \sqrt{5})/2$. Let δ be a solution of $x^2 - ax + 1 = 0$. Then $\delta^2 = a\delta - 1$, $\delta^3 = -a\delta - a$, $\delta^4 = a - \delta$, and $\delta^5 = 1$. AB^2 now takes the form

$$AB^2 = \begin{bmatrix} a^2\delta - a & \delta + 1 & 1 \\ -\delta - b & -a^2(\delta + 1) & 1 \\ 2(a\delta - 1) & -2a(\delta + 1) & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

By careful computation we get $\det(AB^2 + \sqrt{5}\mu) = 5\sqrt{5}(\mu^3 - 1)$. As is well known, if $AB^2 v_j = -\sqrt{5}\omega^j v_j$ and $v_j \neq 0$, then $V = [v_0, v_1, v_2]$ diagonalizes AB^2; $V^{-1}AB^2V =$

$-\sqrt{5}\mathrm{diag}[1, \omega, \omega^2]$. For example we may take

$$v_0 = \begin{bmatrix} (3+\sqrt{5})\delta - 1 - \sqrt{5} \\ -(3+\sqrt{5})\delta \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} (3-\sqrt{5})\omega\delta + 2\omega + \sqrt{5} - 1 \\ (-3+\sqrt{5})\omega\delta + 2(\sqrt{5}-1)\omega + \sqrt{5} - 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Substituting ω^2 for ω in v_1, we get v_2. □

Lemma 2.20. *Let f be the sextic in* Lemma 2.18, *and let $V = [v_0, v_1, v_2] \in GL(3, \mathbf{C})$ be as in the proof of* Lemma 2.19. *Set $U = 2V$. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} f_{U^{-1}} = {} & 10240[x^6(-170 - 76\sqrt{5})(-27 + D) + (y^6 + z^6)(100 - 40\sqrt{5})D \\ & + x^3(y^3 + z^3)(-200 - 100\sqrt{5})D + y^3z^3(20 - 8\sqrt{5})(864 - 17D) \\ & + x(y^4z + yz^4)(-75 + 75\sqrt{5})D + x^4yz(75 + 33\sqrt{5})(108 + D) \\ & + x^2y^2z^2(5 + \sqrt{5})(1296 - 63D)]. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Let $\lambda = 2\delta$. Then $\lambda^2 - (-1 + \sqrt{5})\lambda + 4 = 0$. So the coefficients of $f_{U^{-1}}$ are $\mathbf{Z}$-linear combinations of $\sqrt{5}^j\omega^k\lambda^\ell$. Using computer, we get the reslut. □

REMARK. Let $f' = f_{U^{-1}}$. The involution $(B^{-1}IB) \in \mathrm{Aut}(f)$ gives rise to an involution $(J) = (U^{-1}B^{-1}IBU) \in \mathrm{Aut}(f')$, where $E_3 = [e_1, e_2, e_3]$, $I = [e_2, e_1, e_3]$ and $J = [e_1, e_3, e_2]$.

The next lemma completes the proof of Theorem 2.1.

Lemma 2.21. *Let f be the most symmetric sextic of the form in* Lemma 2.18. *Then $D^2 - 9D + 864 = 0$.*

Proof. A Sylow 3-subgroup of $\mathrm{Aut}(f)$ cannot be isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}_9$ by Proposition 1.4. Therefore any Sylow 3-subgroup of $\mathrm{Aut}(f)$ is isomorphic to $\mathbf{Z}_3 \times \mathbf{Z}_3$ [3]. By Sylow's theorem there exists a Sylow 3-subgroup which contains $(X) = (AB^2)$ in Lemma 2.19. So there exists a $(Y) \in \mathrm{Aut}(f) \setminus \{\langle (X) \rangle\}$ of order 3 such $(X)(Y) = (Y)(X)$. Let $f_{U^{-1}} = 10240f'$, $(X') = (U^{-1}XU)$ (see Lemma 2.20 for the definition of U). We may assume that $X' = \mathrm{diag}[1, \omega, \omega^2]$. Then there exists a $(Y') \in \mathrm{Aut}(f') \setminus \{\langle (X') \rangle\}$ such that $X'Y' \sim Y'X'$, and $Y'^3 \sim E_3$. So without loss of generality $T = Y'$ takes the form either $\mathrm{diag}[1, 1, \omega]$ or $[e_2, e_3, e_1]\mathrm{diag}[a, b, 1]$. The former case is impossible, because $f'_{T^{-1}} \sim f'$ implies $f'_{T^{-1}} = f'$ despite the fact that $f'_{T^{-1}} \neq f'$(note that $D \neq 0$, for f must be non-singular). Assume the second case for T. According as the monomial $x^2y^2z^2$ appears in f' or not, we proceed as follows. $[x^jy^zk^\ell]$ denotes the coefficient of $x^iy^jz^\ell$ in f'. If $[x^2y^2z^2] = 0$, i.e. $D = 144/7$, then f' does not have an automorphism of the form (T). Indeed, the assumption $f'_{T^{-1}} = \mathrm{const} f'$ leads to a contradiciton as follows. Since $([x^6]x^6)_{T^{-1}} = \text{const}[z^6]z^6$, const $= [x^6]/[z^6] = (161 + 72\sqrt{5})/32$. By the two equalties $a^4b[xy^4z] = \text{const}[x^4yz]$, and $ab[x^4yz] = \text{const}[xyz^4]$, we get $a^3 = [x^4yz][x^4yz]/([xyz^4][xy^4z]) = 5(161+72\sqrt{5})/4^2$. On the other hand $a^6[y^6] = \text{const}[x^6]$ gives $a^6 = \text{const}[x^6]/[y^6] = (161+72\sqrt{5})^2/32^2$. Hence $a^6 \neq (a^3)^2$.

Suppose that $[x^2y^2z^2] \neq 0$. Then $f'_{T^{-1}} = a^2b^2f'$. Equivalently following nine equalities hold:

$$\begin{array}{lll} a^2b^2[x^6] = [y^6]a^6, & a^2b^2[x^3y^3] = [y^3z^3]a^3b^3, & a^2b^2[x^4yz] = [y^4zx]a^4b \\ a^2b^2[y^6] = [z^6]b^6, & a^2b^2[y^3z^3] = [z^3x^3]b^3, & a^2b^2[xy^4z] = [yz^4x]ab^4 \\ a^2b^2[z^6] = [x^6], & a^2b^2[z^3x^3] = [x^3y^3]a^3, & a^2b^2[xyz^4] = [yzx^4]ab. \end{array}$$

The second and the ninth equalities imply

$$0 = [x^3y^3][xyz^4] - [y^3z^3][x^4yz] = -6480(3+\sqrt{5})(D^2 - 9D + 864).$$

For the sake of completeness we will determine the values of a and b in the case $D^2 - 9D + 864 = 0$. By the second equality above we get $ab = [x^3y^3]/[y^3z^3]$. The eighth equality above yields $a = b^2$. So $b^3 = [x^3y^3]/[y^3z^3] = \{-100(2+\sqrt{5})D\}/\{(20 - 8\sqrt{5})(864 - 17D)\}$. Conversely if $a = b^2$ and $b^3 = \{-100(2+\sqrt{5})D\}/\{(20-8\sqrt{5})(864-17D)\}$ with $D^2-9D+864 = 0$, then above nine equalties hold. Clearly the sencond and the ninth equalities hold. Because $a^3 = b^6 = ([x^3y^3]/[y^3z^3])^2 = [x^6]/[y^6] = [x^6]/[z^6]$, the first and the seventh equalities hold. The third and the fifth ones hold too, because $ab = b^3 = [x^3y^3]/[y^3z^3] = [x^4yz]/[y^4zx] = [z^3x^3]/[y^3z^3]$. Since $[y^6] = [z^6]$, $[xy^4z] = [yz^4x]$, and $[x^3y^3] = [z^3x^3]$, the fourth, the sixth and the eighth ones hold. □

For the sake of completeness we will show the following proposition, which, together with Lemma 2.18, assures us that $|\text{Aut}(f_6)| = 360$.

Proposition 2.22. *Let f be a sextic of the form $z^6 + Bz^4xy + Cz^2x^2y^2 + Dz(x^5 + y^5) + Ex^3y^3$ with $B = 12 - D$, $C = 48 + D$, $E = 64 - 2D$, where $D^2 - 9D + 864 = 0$. Then $|\text{Aut}(f)| = 360$.*

Proof. By Lemma 2.14 $|\text{Aut}(f)|$ is a multiple of 5. By the proof of Lemma 2.21 $|\text{Aut}(f)|$ is a multiple of 9. In view of Theorem (1) in the introduction it suffices to show that $\text{Aut}(f)$ contains a subgroup isomorphic to D_8. Let $I = [e_2, e_1, e_3]$ and A be as in Lemma 2.19. Clearly $(I) \in \text{Aut}(f)$, and $(A) \in \text{Aut}(f)$ by Lemma 2.17. We will show that there exists an $(M) \in \text{Aut}(f)$ such that $(M)^2 = (I)$, and $(AM)^2 = (E_3)$(see Lemma 2.15 (2)). It is natural to diagonalize A and I. Taking $a = (-1+\sqrt{5})/2$, and $b = (-1-\sqrt{5})/2$, we define

$$U = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \qquad V = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & \sqrt{5}+1 & \sqrt{5}-1 \end{bmatrix},$$

and $W = UV$. Then $A'' = W^{-1}AW = \sqrt{5}\mathrm{diag}[1,1,-1]$, and $I'' = W^{-1}IW = \mathrm{diag}[-1,1,1]$. Put $f' = f_{U^{-1}}$, and $f'' = f'_{V^{-1}}$. We look for an $M'' \in GL(3,\mathbf{C})$ such that $M''^2 \sim I''$, $A''M''^2 \sim E_3$ and $(M'') \in \mathrm{Aut}(f'')$(see Lemma 2.15(2)). Since M'' and I'' commute due to the first condition, we may assume that the first, the second and the third rows of M'' take the form $[\sqrt{-1},0,0]$, $[0,a,b]$, and $[0,c,d]$ respectively. Either $a+d=0$ or $a+d \neq 0$, $c=d=0$ due to the condition $M''^2 \sim I''$. The second case is impossible, because M'' cannot be diagonal. Now the condition $A''M''^2 \sim E_3$ yields $a=d=0$ and $bc=1$. By careful computaion we get the explict form of f'':

$$
\begin{aligned}
f'' = {} & x^6(-E) \\
& +x^4[y^2\{3E+10(1+\sqrt{5})D+(6+2\sqrt{5})C\}+yz\{-6E-20D+8D\} \\
& \quad +z^2\{3E+10(1-\sqrt{5})D+(6-2\sqrt{5})C\}] \\
& +x^2[y^4\{-3E+20(1+\sqrt{5})D-2(6+2\sqrt{5})C-(56+24\sqrt{5})B\} \\
& \quad +y^3z\{12E+20(-4-2\sqrt{5})D+8(1+\sqrt{5})C-16(6+2\sqrt{5})B\} \\
& \quad +y^2z^2\{-18E+120D+0C-96B\} \\
& \quad +y^3z\{12E+20(-4+2\sqrt{5})D+8(1-\sqrt{5})C-16(6-2\sqrt{5})B\} \\
& \quad +z^4\{-3E+20(1-\sqrt{5})D-2(6-2\sqrt{5})C-(56-24\sqrt{5})B\}] \\
& +x^0[y^6\{E+2(1+\sqrt{5})D+(6+2\sqrt{5})C+(56+24\sqrt{5})B+16(36+16\sqrt{5})\} \\
& \quad +y^5z\{-6E-2(6+4\sqrt{5})D-8(2+\sqrt{5})C-16(1+\sqrt{5})B+192(7+3\sqrt{5})\} \\
& \quad +y^4z^2\{15E+10(3+\sqrt{5})D+10(1+\sqrt{5})C-40(1+\sqrt{5})B+480(3+\sqrt{5})\} \\
& \quad +y^3z^3\{-20E-40D+0C+0B+1280\} \\
& \quad +y^2z^4\{15E+10(3-\sqrt{5})D+10(1-\sqrt{5})C-40(1-\sqrt{5})B+480(3-\sqrt{5})\} \\
& \quad +yz^5\{-6E-2(6-4\sqrt{5})D-8(2-\sqrt{5})C-16(1-\sqrt{5})B+192(7-3\sqrt{5})\} \\
& \quad +z^6\{E+2(1-\sqrt{5})D+(6-2\sqrt{5})C+(56-24\sqrt{5})B+16(36-16\sqrt{5})\}].
\end{aligned}
$$

We will show that $(M'') \in \mathrm{Aut}(f'')$ for some b and c. The coeffients of x^4yz, x^2y^3z, x^2yz^3, y^5z, yz^5 and y^3z^3 in f'' vanish. Note that $E = 64-D \neq 0$, for $D^2-9D+864 = 0$. So such b and c exist if and only if $f''_{M''^{-1}} = -f''$. Let us denote by $[x^jy^kz^\ell]$ the coefficient of the monomial $x^jy^kz^\ell$ in f''. Then the following equalities hold:
(1) $b^2[x^4y^2] = -[x^4z^2]$ (2) $b^4[x^2y^4] = [x^2z^4]$ (3) $b^6[y^6] = -[z^6]$ (4) $b^2[y^4z^2] = -[y^2z^4]$.
We can show that the equality (1) implies (2) through (4). To be more precise, assume that b is a solution to (1) for given D. (1) gives $b^4[x^4y^2]^2 = [x^4z^2]^2$, which implies (2), because $[x^4y^2]^2[x^2z^4] - [x^4z^2]^2[x^2y^4] = 0$. (1) and (2) give $b^6[x^4y^2][x^2y^4] = -[x^4z^2][x^2z^4]$, which implies (3). (4) is exactly the same condition as (1). This completes the proof of Proposition 2.22. □

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