

## INVARIANT SUBMODULES OF UNIMODULAR HERMITIAN FORMS

D. G. JAMES

**Let  $M$  be a unimodular lattice on an indefinite hermitian space over an algebraic number field. The submodules of  $M$  invariant under the action of the special unitary group of  $M$  are classified. Generators for the local unitary groups of  $M$  are also determined.**

1. Introduction. Let  $F$  be an algebraic number field of finite degree and  $K$  a quadratic extension of  $F$ . Let  $V$  be an indefinite hermitian space over  $K$  of finite dimension  $n \geq 3$  and  $\Phi: V \times V \rightarrow K$  the associated nondegenerate hermitian form on  $V$  with respect to the nontrivial automorphism of  $K$  over  $F$ . Assume  $V$  supports a unimodular lattice  $M$  (in the sense of O'Meara [7; § 82G] for quadratic spaces). Denote by  $U(V)$  the unitary group of  $V$  and by  $U(M)$  the subgroup of isometries in  $U(V)$  that leave  $M$  invariant. We will classify the sublattices of  $M$  that are invariant under the action of the special unitary group  $SU(M)$ . The problem is first solved locally; the global result is then obtained by applying the approximation theorem of Shimura [8; 5.12].

We now consider localization (see also [2; § 2] and [8]). Let  $\mathfrak{p}$  be a finite prime spot of  $F$  and  $F_{\mathfrak{p}}$  the corresponding local field. Put  $K_{\mathfrak{p}} = K \otimes_F F_{\mathfrak{p}}$  and  $V_{\mathfrak{p}} = V \otimes_F F_{\mathfrak{p}}$ . Making the standard identifications, we have  $K \subseteq K_{\mathfrak{p}}$ ,  $F_{\mathfrak{p}} \subseteq K_{\mathfrak{p}}$  and  $V \subseteq V_{\mathfrak{p}}$ . The hermitian form  $\Phi$  on  $V$  extends naturally to an hermitian form on  $V_{\mathfrak{p}}$ . Let  $\mathfrak{o}$  be the ring of integers in  $F$ ,  $\mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}}$  the (topological) closure of  $\mathfrak{o}$  in  $F_{\mathfrak{p}}$  and  $\mathfrak{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}$  the integral closure of  $\mathfrak{o}_{\mathfrak{p}}$  in  $K_{\mathfrak{p}}$ . Put  $M_{\mathfrak{p}} = \mathfrak{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}M \subseteq V_{\mathfrak{p}}$ . Locally, we must study the submodules of  $M_{\mathfrak{p}}$  invariant under the action of  $SU(M_{\mathfrak{p}})$ . Except when  $K_{\mathfrak{p}}$  is a ramified extension of a dyadic field  $F_{\mathfrak{p}}$ , the classification will be trivial. For ramified dyadic extensions, it is necessary to determine a set of generators of  $U(M_{\mathfrak{p}})$  before the classification can be determined.

We now state the main results.

**THEOREM A.** *Let  $M$  be a unimodular lattice on an indefinite hermitian space of dimension  $n \geq 3$  over an algebraic number field. Then a sublattice  $N$  of  $M$  is invariant under the action of the special unitary group  $SU(M)$  if and only if for all finite prime spots  $\mathfrak{p}$  of  $F$ , the localization  $N_{\mathfrak{p}} = \mathfrak{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}N$  is invariant under the ac-*

tion of  $SU(M_p)$ .

For  $x$  in  $V_p$ , define  $2q(x) = \Phi(x, x)$ , and let  $M_{p^*}$  be the sublattice of  $M_p$  generated by the  $x$  in  $M_p$  with  $q(x)$  in  $\mathfrak{o}_p$ . Let

$$M_p^* = \{x \in V_p \mid \Phi(x, M_{p^*}) \subseteq \mathfrak{D}_p\}$$

be the dual lattice of  $M_{p^*}$ . Then  $M_{p^*} \subseteq M_p \subseteq M_p^*$  and, except when  $K_p$  is a ramified extension of a dyadic local field  $F_p$ , we will show later that  $M_{p^*} = M_p^*$ . A sublattice  $N_p$  of  $M_p^*$  is called primitive if  $N_p$  is not contained in  $\pi M_p^*$  for any prime element  $\pi \in \mathfrak{D}_p$ . Clearly, if  $N_p$  is invariant under  $SU(M_p)$ , the lattice  $\alpha_p N_p$  is also invariant for any fractional ideal  $\alpha_p$  in  $\mathfrak{D}_p$ . It is therefore enough to classify locally the primitive invariant sublattices of  $M_p^*$ .

**THEOREM B.** *A primitive sublattice  $N_p$  of  $M_p^*$  is invariant under the action of  $SU(M_p)$  if and only if  $M_{p^*} \subseteq N_p$ , except when the following three conditions all apply:*

- (i)  $K_p$  is a totally ramified extension of the 2-adic field  $\mathbb{Q}_2$ ,
- (ii)  $K_p$  is a ramified prime extension of  $F_p$ ,
- (iii)  $\dim V_p = 3$  or 4.

*In particular, except when  $K_p$  is a ramified extension of a dyadic field  $F_p$ , the only primitive invariant lattice is  $M_p$ .*

Theorem B will be proven for the various cases in §§ 2-4 and the exceptional 3 and 4 dimensional cases studied in § 5. Theorem A is established in the final section. The special case where  $F$  is the field of rational numbers is also studied in detail.

The approach here follows that given for quadratic spaces in [5] and [6].

**2. Local isometries.** In this and next three sections we are only concerned with local problems.

The structure of  $\mathfrak{D}_p$  over  $\mathfrak{o}_p$  depends on the prime  $p$ . If  $p$  splits in  $K$ , then  $K_p = F_p \times F_p$  and  $\mathfrak{D}_p = \mathfrak{o}_p \times \mathfrak{o}_p$ . In this case the involution  $*$  on  $K$  becomes  $(\alpha, \beta)^* = (\beta, \alpha)$  on  $K_p$ . If  $p$  does not split in  $K$ , we may take  $K_p = F_p(\zeta)$  where  $\zeta \in F_p$  and  $\zeta^* = -\zeta$ . Fix a prime  $\pi$  in  $K_p$  and  $p$  in  $F_p$  and let  $e = \text{ord}_p 2$ . If  $p$  is dyadic, there are now three possible types of extensions of  $K_p$  over  $F_p$ ; the details are an application of [7; 63.2, 63.3].

(i)  $K_p$  is an unramified extension of  $F_p$ . Then  $\zeta^2 = 1 + 4\delta$  with  $\delta$  a unit in  $F_p$  and  $\mathfrak{D}_p$  consists of all the elements  $(\alpha + \zeta\beta)/2$  with  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathfrak{o}_p$  and  $\alpha \equiv \beta \pmod{2\mathfrak{o}_p}$ .

(ii)  $K_p$  is a ramified extension of  $F_p$  and  $\zeta$  is a prime in  $K_p$ —the ramified prime case. Now we may assume  $\pi = \zeta$ ,  $p = \pi\pi^*$  and  $\mathfrak{D}_p$  is generated over  $\mathfrak{o}_p$  by 1 and  $\pi$ .

(iii)  $K_p$  is a ramified extension of  $F_p$  and  $\zeta$  is a unit in  $K_p$ —the ramified unit case. We now have  $\zeta^2 = 1 + p^{2h+1}\delta$  for some unit  $\delta$  in  $F_p$  and some rational integer  $h$  with  $0 \leq h < e$ . Put  $\pi = (1 + \zeta)p^{-h}$  so that  $\pi\pi^* = -p\delta$ . Here  $\mathfrak{D}_p$  consists of the elements  $(\alpha + \zeta\beta)p^{-h}$  with  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathfrak{o}_p$  and  $\alpha \equiv \beta \pmod{p^h\mathfrak{o}_p}$ .

In the nondyadic (nonsplit) case  $\mathfrak{D}_p$  is generated over  $\mathfrak{o}_p$  by 1 and  $\zeta$  provided we choose  $\zeta$  to be a prime or a unit according as the extension is ramified or not.

Thus if  $K_p/F_p$  is a quadratic extension of fields,  $\mathfrak{D}_p$  consists of the elements  $(\alpha + \zeta\beta)p^{-h}$  with  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathfrak{o}_p$  and  $\alpha \equiv \beta \pmod{p^h\mathfrak{o}_p}$ , where we define  $h = 0$  in the nondyadic and ramified prime dyadic cases, and  $h = e$  in the unramified dyadic case.

Since  $M_p$  is a unimodular  $\mathfrak{D}_p$ -lattice with rank at least three, it is split by a hyperbolic plane (if  $\mathfrak{p}$  splits in  $K$  this can be easily verified, otherwise see [4; 7.1, 8.1a, 10.3]). Hence  $M_p = H_p \perp L_p$  where  $H_p = \mathfrak{D}_p u + \mathfrak{D}_p v$  is a hyperbolic plane with  $q(u) = q(v) = 0$  and  $\Phi(u, v) = 1$ . This choice of  $u$  and  $v$  will be fixed throughout the local discussion.

We now describe the standard isometries in the unitary group  $U(M_p)$  that are needed. The norm and trace mappings from  $K_p$  to  $F_p$  are denoted by  $\mathcal{N}$  and  $\mathcal{T}$ , respectively, and our convention for the hermitian form  $\Phi$  on  $V_p$  is  $\Phi(\alpha x, \beta y) = \alpha^* \Phi(x, y) \beta$ .

Let  $\lambda$  in  $\mathfrak{D}_p$  have  $\mathcal{T}(\lambda) = 0$ . The transvection  $T_\lambda(u)$  is defined by

$$T_\lambda(u)(z) = z + \lambda \Phi(u, z)u, \quad z \in M_p.$$

Then  $\det T_\lambda(u) = 1$  so that  $T_\lambda(u)$  is in  $SU(M_p)$ . Similarly,  $T_\lambda(v) \in SU(M_p)$ .

Let  $\lambda$  in  $K_p$  satisfy  $\mathcal{T}(\lambda) = 2\mathcal{N}(\lambda)$ . For  $x$  in  $M_p$  with  $\lambda q(x)^{-1}$  in  $\mathfrak{D}_p$ , define the symmetry  $\Psi_\lambda(x)$  by

$$\Psi_\lambda(x)(z) = z - \lambda \Phi(x, z)q(x)^{-1}x, \quad z \in M_p.$$

Then  $\det \Psi_\lambda(x) = 1 - 2\lambda$  and  $\Psi_\lambda(x) \in U(M_p)$ .

Recall that  $M_{p^*}$  is the sublattice of  $M_p$  generated by those  $x$  in  $M_p$  with  $q(x) \in \mathfrak{o}_p$ . Since  $2q(x) = \Phi(x, x)$ , in the nondyadic case  $M_{p^*} = M_p$ . This is also true when  $\mathfrak{p}$  splits in  $K$ ; for the involution on  $K_p = F_p \times F_p$  is given by  $(\alpha, \beta)^* = (\beta, \alpha)$ , so that for  $x$  in  $M_p$ ,

$$q((1, 0)x) = \mathcal{N}(1, 0)q(x) = 0.$$

Thus  $(1, 0)x \in M_{p^*}$  and  $x = (1, 1)x$  is in  $M_{p^*}$ .

**PROPOSITION 2.1.** *Let  $F_p$  be a dyadic local field with  $\mathfrak{p}$  not split in  $K$ . Then*

$$M_{p^*} = \{x \in M_p \mid p^h q(x) \in \mathfrak{o}_p\} .$$

*In particular,  $M_{p^*} = M_p$  when  $K_p$  is an unramified extension of  $F_p$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $S$  be the set of all elements  $x$  in  $M_p$  with  $p^h q(x)$  in  $\mathfrak{o}_p$ . Since  $\mathcal{S}(\mathfrak{D}_p) \subseteq 2p^{-h}\mathfrak{o}_p$  and

$$q(x + y) = q(x) + q(y) + \mathcal{S}(\Phi(x, y))/2 ,$$

it follows that  $S$  is an  $\mathfrak{D}_p$ -module. Hence  $M_{p^*} \subseteq S$ . We now prove the converse inclusion. For  $x$  in  $S$ , let  $x = y + z$  with  $y \in H_p$  and  $z \in L_p$ . Clearly,  $u, v$  and consequently  $y$  are in  $S$ . Therefore,  $z = x - y$  is in  $S$  and  $p^h q(z) \in \mathfrak{o}_p$ . Let  $w = u - \alpha v + z$  where  $\alpha = q(z)(1 + \zeta)$  is in  $\mathfrak{D}_p$ . Then  $q(w) = 0$  and  $w \in M_{p^*}$ . Hence  $z \in M_{p^*}$  and  $S \subseteq M_{p^*}$ , proving the proposition.

Fix  $\mu$  in  $\mathfrak{D}_p$  such that  $\mathcal{S}(\mu) = 2$ . For  $x$  in  $L_p$  with  $\mu q(x)$  in  $\mathfrak{D}_p$ , define the Siegel transformation  $E(u, x)$  by

$$E(u, x)(z) = z - \Phi(u, z)x + \Phi(x, z)u - \mu q(x)\Phi(u, z)u .$$

Then  $\det E(u, x) = 1$  and  $E(u, x)$  is in  $SU(M_p)$ . Similarly, define  $E(v, x)$ . Fix  $\mu = 1$  except when  $F_p$  is dyadic and  $K_p$  is either an unramified or a ramified unit extension of  $F_p$ . In these exceptional cases fix  $\mu = 1 + \zeta \in p^h \mathfrak{D}_p$ . Except for the split dyadic case, it is now sufficient to choose  $x$  in  $L_p \cap M_{p^*}$  for  $E(u, x)$  to be an integral isometry. Let  $\mathcal{E}$  be the subgroup of  $SU(M_p)$  generated by the Siegel transformations.

In the following three sections we classify locally the primitive sublattices of  $M_p^*$  invariant under the action of the special unitary group  $SU(M_p)$ . We conclude this section with three observations. Assume that  $\mathfrak{p}$  does not split in  $K$ .

**2.2.** *Any lattice  $N_p$  satisfying  $M_{p^*} \subseteq N_p \subseteq M_p^*$  is invariant under the action of  $\mathcal{E}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $z \in N_p$  and  $x \in L_p \cap M_{p^*}$ . Then  $\Phi(x, z) \in \mathfrak{D}_p$  and

$$E(u, x)(z) \equiv z \pmod{M_{p^*}} .$$

Hence  $E(u, x)(z)$  and, likewise,  $E(v, x)(z)$  lies in  $N_p$ . The result follows.

**2.3.** *If  $N_p$  is invariant under  $SU(M_p)$  and  $u \in N_p$  or  $v \in N_p$ , then  $M_{p^*} \subseteq N_p$ .*

*Proof.* For any  $x$  in  $L_p$  with  $q(x)^{-1}$  in  $\mathfrak{D}_p$ , we have  $\Psi_1(u - v)\Psi_1(x)$

is in  $SU(M_p)$ . This isometry interchanges  $u$  and  $v$ , so that  $H_p \subseteq N_p$ . Let  $y \in L_p \cap M_{p^*}$ . Then  $E(u, y)(v)$  is in  $N_p$  and hence  $y \in N_p$ . Thus  $M_{p^*} \subseteq N_p$ .

2.4. Assume either  $K_p$  is an unramified extension of  $F_p$  or  $F_p$  is a nondyadic field. Then  $M_p$  is the unique primitive sublattice invariant under the action of  $SU(M_p)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $N_p$  be a primitive invariant sublattice. It suffices by 2.3 to show that  $u \in N_p$ , since under our assumptions  $M_{p^*} = M_p$ . Since  $N_p \not\subseteq \pi M_p$ , there exists  $z$  in  $N_p$  with  $z \notin \pi M_p$ . Let  $z = \alpha u + \beta v + t$  where  $t \in L_p$ . If  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are nonunits, there exists  $r$  in  $L_p$  such that  $\Phi(r, t) = 1$  (since  $z \notin \pi M_p^*$ ). The coefficient of  $v$  in  $E(v, r)(z) \in N_p$  is now a unit. Assume, therefore,  $\beta = 1$  (or symmetrically,  $\alpha = 1$ ). If  $K_p = F_p(\zeta)$  is an unramified extension of  $F_p$ ,  $\zeta$  is a unit. Then  $T_\zeta(u)(z) = z + \zeta u$  is in  $N_p$ . Hence  $u \in N_p$  and the result follows. Now assume  $F_p$  is a nondyadic field. Then  $E(u, t)(z) = \gamma u + v$  is in  $N_p$  for some  $\gamma$  in  $\mathfrak{O}_p$ . Let  $w \in L_p$  have  $q(w)$  a unit. Applying  $E(u, \rho w)$  to  $\gamma u + v \in N_p$  with  $\rho = 1, -1$  gives  $\rho w + q(w)u$  is in  $N_p$ . Since 2 is now a unit, it follows that  $u$  is in  $N_p$  and hence  $N_p = M_p$ .

Theorem B has now been established except when either  $\mathfrak{p}$  splits in  $K$ , or  $K_p$  is a ramified extension of a dyadic field  $F_p$ .

3. Split extensions. Assume  $\mathfrak{p}$  splits in  $K$  so that  $K_p = F_p \times F_p$  and  $\mathfrak{O}_p = \mathfrak{o}_p \times \mathfrak{o}_p$ . Let  $N_p$  be a primitive invariant sublattice of  $M_p^* = M_p = H_p \perp L_p$ . We wish to prove  $N_p = M_p$ . Since  $N_p \not\subseteq \pi M_p$  for any prime element  $\pi$  in  $\mathfrak{O}_p$ , there exists  $x \in N_p$  with  $x \notin \pi M_p$ . Let  $x = \alpha u + \beta v + t$  with  $t \in L_p$ . If  $\beta$  (or  $\alpha$ ) is a unit in  $\mathfrak{O}_p$ , we may assume  $\beta = 1$ . Then, since  $\mathcal{S}(1, -1) = 0$ , it follows that

$$T_{(1, -1)}(u)(x) = x + (1, -1)u$$

is in  $N_p$ . Thus  $(1, -1)u$  and  $u$  are in  $N_p$ . As in 2.3, we now have  $H_p \subseteq N_p$ . Let  $y \in L_p$ . Then  $E(u, (1, 0)y)(v)$  is in  $N_p$ . Hence  $(1, 0)y$ , and likewise  $(0, 1)y$ , are in  $N_p$ . Consequently,  $y \in N_p$  and  $N_p = M_p$ .

Now assume that neither  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2)$  nor  $\beta = (\beta_1, \beta_2)$  is a unit. If  $\alpha_1$  is a unit in  $\mathfrak{o}_p$ , replacing  $x$  by  $T_{(1, -1)}(v)(x)$  if necessary, we may assume  $\beta_1$  is also a unit. Hence, unless both  $\alpha_1$  and  $\beta_1$  are nonunits, or both  $\alpha_2$  and  $\beta_2$  are nonunits, we arrange that  $\beta$  becomes a unit in  $\mathfrak{O}_p$  and we are finished. Assume, therefore,  $\alpha_1, \beta_1 \in \mathfrak{p}\mathfrak{o}_p$ . Since  $x \notin \pi M_p$ , there exists  $y$  in  $M_p$  such that  $\Phi(x, y) = (1, 1)$ . Hence, there exists  $r \in L_p$  such that  $\Phi(t, r) = (?, 1)$ . In  $E(u, (0, 1)r)(x)$  the new coefficient of  $u$  has first component a unit. The second component is unchanged. We can thus arrange that  $\beta$  becomes a unit in  $\mathfrak{O}_p$ , and consequently  $N_p = M_p$ .

4. **Ramified dyadic extensions.** Now let  $K_v$  be a ramified extension of the dyadic field  $F_v$ . Before classifying the primitive invariant sublattices in this case it is necessary to determine a set of generators for  $U(M_v)$ . Special cases have already appeared in the work of Baeza [1] and Hayakawa [3], but it appears better to modify the approach in [5].

By [4; 10.3], we can split hyperbolic planes and write

$$M_v = H_v \perp J_v \perp B_v$$

where  $J_v$  is an orthogonal sum of hyperbolic planes and  $\text{rank } B_v \leq 2$ . Then  $J_v$  has dual bases  $w_1, \dots, w_m$  and  $z_1, \dots, z_m$  such that  $\Phi(w_i, z_j) = \delta_{ij}$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq m$ . Recall that  $\mathcal{E}$  is the subgroup of  $SU(M_v)$  generated by the Siegel transformations defined in § 2.

**PROPOSITION 4.1.**  $U(M_v)$  is generated by  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $U(H_v \perp B_v)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\varphi \in U(M_v)$ . We reduce  $\varphi$  to the identity using the given isometries. Let  $w_1, \dots, w_m$  and  $z_1, \dots, z_m$  be dual bases of  $J_v$ , as above, and assume for some  $k \leq m$  that  $\varphi(w_j) = w_j$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq k - 1$  (at worst,  $k = 1$ ). Let

$$\varphi(u + w_k) = \varepsilon u + \beta v + t$$

where  $t \in J_v \perp B_v$ . We want  $\varepsilon$  to be a unit. Assume  $\varepsilon$  is not a unit. If  $\beta$  is a unit, use the isometry in  $U(H_v)$  which interchanges  $u$  and  $v$ . If  $\beta$  is not a unit, let  $\varphi(z_k)$  have component  $r$  in  $J_v \perp B_v$ . Then  $\Phi(t, r)$  is a unit. Since  $z_k \in M_{v^*}$ , it follows that  $r \in M_{v^*}$ . Also,  $\Phi(r, w_j) = \Phi(\varphi(z_k), \varphi(w_j)) = 0$  for  $1 \leq j \leq k - 1$ . Now replace  $\varphi$  by  $E(u, r)\varphi$  and the new coefficient of  $u$  is a unit.

We may now assume  $\varepsilon$  is a unit. Let  $s = t - w_k$ . Then

$$\Phi(s, w_j) = \Phi(\varphi(u + w_k) - w_k, w_j) = 0$$

for  $1 \leq j \leq k - 1$ . Also, since  $q(t) \equiv q(w_k) \pmod{p^{-h}v_v}$ , we have  $s \in M_{v^*}$ . Put

$$\psi = E(u, -\varepsilon^* z_k) T_\lambda(v) E(v, \varepsilon^{-1} s) \varphi E(u, z_k)$$

where  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{D}_v$  is to be chosen subject to the restraint  $\mathcal{S}(\lambda) = 0$ . Then  $\psi(w_j) = w_j$  for  $1 \leq j \leq k - 1$ . Choose  $\lambda$  such that

$$E(v, \varepsilon^{-1} s) \varphi E(u, z_k)(w_k) = \varepsilon(u - \lambda v) + w_k.$$

Then  $\mathcal{S}(\lambda) = 0$  and  $\psi(w_k) = w_k$ . If  $\psi$  is generated by the given isometries, so is  $\varphi$ . The result now follows by induction on  $k$ .

This proposition reduces the question of generators for  $U(M_v)$  to

the cases  $\text{rank } M_p = 3, 4$ . It can be easily verified that  $U(H_p)$  is generated by symmetries and transvections. Also, if  $\text{rank } B_p = 2$  the basis  $w, z$  of  $B_p$  can be chosen such that  $\Phi(w, z) = 1$  and  $z \in M_{p^*}$  (see [4; 9.2]).

**THEOREM 4.2.**  $U(M_p)$  is generated by  $\mathcal{E}$ ,  $U(H_p)$  and symmetries on  $B_p$ .

*Proof.* We need only consider  $\text{rank } M_p = 3, 4$ .

(i) Let  $\text{rank } M_p = 4$  and  $M_p = H_p \perp B_p$  with  $B_p$  having a basis as above. We reduce  $\varphi$  in  $U(M_p)$  to the identity using the given isometries. From the proof of Proposition 4.1, we may assume  $\varphi(w) = w$ . In fact, if  $w \in M_{p^*}$ , the proposition proves the theorem. Now assume  $w \notin M_{p^*}$ . Put  $r = w - 2q(w)z$  so that  $\Phi(r, w) = 0$ . Then

$$\varphi(z) = \alpha u + \beta v + z + \gamma r$$

for some  $\alpha, \beta$  in  $\mathfrak{D}_p$  and  $\gamma$  in  $\pi\mathfrak{D}_p$  ( $\gamma r \in M_{p^*}$ ). Let

$$\mathcal{M}_z = \{x \in M \mid \Phi(x, z) = 1\} = w + H_p \perp \mathfrak{D}_p(z - 2q(z)w)$$

be the characteristic set of  $z$  (cf. [5; p. 429]). Then

$$q(\mathcal{M}_{\varphi(z)}) = q(\mathcal{M}_z) \equiv q(w) \pmod{p^{-h}\mathfrak{o}_p}.$$

Since  $(1 - \alpha^*)w + v$  is in  $\mathcal{M}_{\varphi(z)}$ , it follows that  $q(\alpha w) \in p^{-h}\mathfrak{o}_p$  and hence  $\alpha w \in M_{p^*}$ . Similarly,  $\beta w \in M_{p^*}$ . Interchanging  $u$  and  $v$  if necessary, we have  $\beta = \alpha\lambda$  with  $\lambda = (\lambda_1 + \lambda_2\zeta)p^{-h}$  in  $\mathfrak{D}_p$  and  $\lambda_1 \equiv \lambda_2 \pmod{p^h}$ . Using a transvection, we can then arrange that  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{o}_p$  in the ramified prime case and  $\lambda \in \pi\mathfrak{o}_p$  in the ramified unit case. In the ramified prime case the proof can be completed by modifying the argument in [5; 2.4]; the symmetry on  $B_p$  needed is  $\Psi_\delta(r)$  with  $\delta \in \mathcal{O}_p$ . In the ramified unit case we proceed as follows. The coefficient of  $v$  in  $E(v, \xi r)\varphi(z)$  is zero if

$$\alpha\lambda + \xi^*\Phi(r, z + \gamma r) = \mu q(\xi r)\alpha.$$

Here  $\mu = 1 + \zeta = \pi p^h$  and  $\varepsilon = \Phi(r, z + \gamma r)$  is a unit. By Hensel's lemma there exists a root  $\xi$  of the form  $\xi = \varepsilon\pi^*\alpha^*\rho$  with  $\rho$  in  $\mathfrak{o}_p$ . Similarly, the coefficient of  $u$  can be made zero and we may assume  $\varphi(z) = z + \gamma r$ . Put  $\delta = \gamma q(w) = -\gamma q(r)\Phi(z, r)^{-1}$ . Then  $\mathcal{F}(\delta) = 2\mathcal{N}(\delta)$  and  $\Psi_\delta(r)^{-1}\varphi$  acts as the identity on both  $w$  and  $z$ . This completes the proof in this case.

(ii) Let  $\text{rank } M_p = 3$  and  $M_p = H_p \perp \mathfrak{D}_p w$  where  $2q(w)$  is a unit. Again, we can reduce  $\varphi$  in  $U(M_p)$  to the identity by the isometries. Let

$$\varphi(w) = \alpha(u + \lambda v) + \eta w$$

where  $\eta$  is a unit. Moreover, as in the previous case, we may assume  $\lambda$  is in  $\pi\mathfrak{o}_p$  (resp.  $\mathfrak{o}_p$ ) in the ramified unit (resp. prime) case. Since

$$q(\mathfrak{D}_p\varphi(w)^\perp) = q(\mathfrak{D}_pw^\perp) = q(H_p) \subseteq p^{-h}\mathfrak{o}_p,$$

it follows that  $\alpha w \in M_{p^*}$ . Using Siegel transformations we can reduce to the case  $\varphi(w) = \varepsilon w$ , although in the ramified prime case it is necessary to use the fact that  $\mathcal{N}(\eta) \equiv 1 \pmod 4$  and hence  $\mathcal{N}(\eta)$  is a square. Finally, since  $\mathcal{N}(\varepsilon) = 1$ , putting  $\delta = (1 - \varepsilon)/2$  gives  $\mathcal{I}(\delta) = 2\mathcal{N}(\delta)$  and  $\Psi_\delta(w)^{-1}\varphi$  fixes  $w$ . This completes the proof.

**COROLLARY 4.3.** *Except in the ramified unit case with the rank of  $M_p$  even, all lattices  $N_p$  satisfying*

$$M_{p^*} \subseteq N_p \subseteq M_p^*$$

*are invariant under the action of  $U(M_p)$ .*

*Proof.* This follows from 2.2 and the easily verified fact that  $U(H_p)$  and the symmetries used in the proof of the theorem preserve such  $N_p$ .

**COROLLARY 4.4.** *In the ramified unit case with rank  $M_p$  even, all lattices between  $M_{p^*}$  and  $M_p^*$  are  $SU(M_p)$ -invariant.*

*Proof.* Symmetries  $\Psi_\delta$  in  $U(H_p)$  have  $p^h\delta \in \mathfrak{D}_p$  and  $\det \Psi_\delta \equiv 1 \pmod{2p^{-h}}$ . Hence, for  $\varphi$  in  $SU(M_p)$  in the proof of Theorem 2.2, the only symmetries  $\Psi_\delta(r)$  on  $B_p$  needed will also have  $p^h\delta \in \mathfrak{D}_p$ . These symmetries leave invariant lattices between  $M_{p^*}$  and  $M_p^*$ .

We now investigate the converse. Let  $N_p$  be a primitive  $SU(M_p)$ -invariant sublattice of  $M_p^*$ . As in 2.4, there exists  $x = \alpha u + v + t$  in  $N_p$  with  $t \in L_p^*$  (letting  $M_p^* = H_p \perp L_p^*$ ). In the ramified unit case  $\zeta$  is a unit and  $\mathcal{I}(\zeta) = 0$ . Since  $T_\zeta(u)(x) \in N_p$ , it follows that  $\zeta u \in N_p$ . By 2.3,  $M_{p^*} \subseteq N_p$ , completing the proof of Theorem B in this case. Finally, the ramified prime case. If  $\dim V_p \geq 5$ , then  $L_p$  is split by a hyperbolic plane  $H'_p = \mathfrak{D}_p u' + \mathfrak{D}_p v'$ . Applying  $E(u, u')$  to  $x$ , we obtain  $u' - \Phi(u', t)u$  is in  $N_p$ . Applying  $E(u, v')$  now gives  $u \in N_p$  and hence  $M_{p^*} \subseteq N_p$ . Assume, therefore, the rank of  $M_p$  is 3 or 4 and that the residue class field of  $F_p$  has at least four elements. Let  $\varepsilon$  be a unit in  $F_p$  with  $\varepsilon^2 \not\equiv 1 \pmod p$ . The proof of Theorem B is now easily completed by using the isometry  $u \mapsto \varepsilon u, v \mapsto \varepsilon^{-1}v$  on  $x$  to obtain  $v \in N_p$ . The exceptional case is studied in the next section.

**5. Exceptional invariant lattices.** In this section  $F_p$  is a totally ramified extension of the 2-adic field  $\mathbf{Q}_2$  and  $K_p$  is a ramified prime

extension of  $F_p$ . Thus the residue class fields of both  $F_p$  and  $K_p$  have only two elements.

We consider first the case with  $\dim V_p = 3$  so that  $M_p = H_p \perp \mathfrak{D}_p w$ . Then  $M_{p^*} = H_p \perp \mathfrak{D}_p \pi^e w$  and  $M_p^* = H_p \perp \mathfrak{D}_p \pi^{-e} w$  where  $e = \text{ord}_p 2$ . There are now two new invariant lattices

$$E_p = \pi M_p^* + \mathfrak{D}_p(u + v + \pi^{-e} w)$$

and its dual  $E_p^\#$ . It can be easily verified using the generators in Theorem 4.2 that  $E_p$  is a  $SU(M_p)$ -invariant lattice; it follows that the dual  $E_p^\#$  is also invariant.

Let  $N_p$  be a primitive invariant sublattice of  $M_p^*$ . As in the proof of 2.4, there exists an element  $x = \alpha u + v + \beta w$  in  $N_p$  with  $\alpha$  and  $\pi^e \beta$  in  $\mathfrak{D}_p$ . Since  $\pi = \zeta$ ,  $T_\pi(u)(x)$  is in  $N_p$ . Hence  $\pi M_{p^*} \subseteq N_p$ . Assume first that  $\pi^e \beta$  is a unit. Then  $\pi x \in N_p$  forces  $\pi^{1-e} w \in N_p$  and  $\pi M_p^* \subseteq N_p$ . If  $\alpha$  is not a unit, then the image of  $v + \pi^{-e} w$  under  $E(v, \pi^e w)$  is in  $N_p$ . Hence  $v \in N_p$  and  $M_{p^*} \subseteq N_p$ . Assume, therefore,  $\alpha \equiv 1 \pmod{\pi}$ . We have now shown, when  $\pi^e \beta$  is a unit,  $E_p \subseteq N_p$ . Moreover,  $E_p \neq N_p$  forces  $M_{p^*} \subseteq N_p$ . Now assume  $\pi^e \beta$  is not a unit and apply  $E(u, \pi^e w)$  to  $x$ . This gives  $u + \pi^e w$  is in  $N_p$ . The isometry  $u \mapsto v, v \mapsto u, w \mapsto -w$  is in  $SU(M_p)$ . Hence both  $v - \pi^e w$  and  $u + v$  are in  $N_p$ . Define

$$G_p = \pi M_{p^*} + \mathfrak{D}_p(u + v) + \mathfrak{D}_p(v + \pi^e w).$$

Then  $\pi^{-1} G_p = E_p^\#$ , the dual lattice of  $E_p$ . Now, if  $\pi^e \beta$  is not a unit,  $G_p \subseteq N_p$  and if  $G_p \neq N_p$ , necessarily  $M_{p^*} \subseteq N_p$ . In summary,

5.1. *The only exceptional three dimensional invariant lattices are of the form  $\mathfrak{a}_p E_p$  and  $\mathfrak{a}_p E_p^\#$ , with  $\mathfrak{a}_p$  a fractional ideal in  $K_p$ .*

Now consider the more complicated situation when  $\dim V = 4$  and  $M_p = H_p \perp B_p$  with  $w, z$  a basis of  $B_p$  having  $\Phi(w, z) = 1$  and  $z \in M_{p^*}$ . Let  $f$  be the minimal integer such that  $\pi^f w$  is in  $M_{p^*}$ . Then

$$M_{p^*} = H_p \perp (\mathfrak{D}_p \pi^f w + \mathfrak{D}_p z).$$

If  $f = 0$ , then  $M_{p^*} = M_p$  and it is easily verified that  $M_p$  is the only primitive invariant lattice. Assume, therefore,  $1 \leq f \leq e$ . Now  $z$  can be chosen with  $q(z)$  in  $p\mathfrak{o}_p$ . For  $1 \leq g \leq f$ , define

$$E(g)_p = \pi M_{p^*} + \mathfrak{D}_p \pi^g w + \mathfrak{D}_p(u + v + \pi^{-f} z)$$

and

$$G(g)_p = \pi M_{p^*} + \mathfrak{D}_p(u + v) + \mathfrak{D}_p \pi^{1-g} z + \mathfrak{D}_p(u + \pi^f w).$$

Then  $G(g)_p = \pi^{-1} E(g)_p^\#$  and using Theorem 4.2 we can check that these

lattices are all  $SU(M_p)$ -invariant. However, except when  $f=1$ , these are not the only new invariant lattices that arise. We shall only consider  $f=1$  in detail; this includes the case where 2 is prime in  $F_p$ .

Let  $N_p$  be a primitive  $SU(M_p)$ -invariant sublattice of  $M_p^*$ . Again  $N_p$  contains an element  $x = \alpha u + v + \beta w + \gamma z$  with  $\alpha, \beta$  and  $\pi^f \gamma$  in  $\mathfrak{O}_p$ . Applying  $T_\pi(u)$  to  $x$  gives  $\pi u \in N_p$  and hence  $\pi M_{p^*} \subseteq N_p$ . Since  $E(u, z)(x)$  is in  $N_p$ , we can conclude that  $\beta$  is in  $\pi \mathfrak{O}_p$  and  $z$  is in  $N_p$ , for otherwise  $M_{p^*} \subseteq N_p$ . Assume first that  $\gamma$  is in  $\pi^{1-f} \mathfrak{O}_p$ . Then  $E(u, \pi^f w)(x) \in N_p$  gives  $u + \pi^f w$  and  $u + v$  are both in  $N_p$ . Hence  $G(1)_p \subseteq N_p$ . If  $f=1$  and  $G(1)_p \neq N_p$ , necessarily  $M_{p^*} \subseteq N_p$ . Now assume  $\pi^f \gamma$  is a unit. Then  $E(u, \pi^f w)(x) \in N_p$  gives  $\pi^f w \in N_p$ . If  $\alpha$  is a nonunit, applying  $E(v, \pi^f w)$  to  $x$  leads to  $M_{p^*} \subseteq N_p$ . Hence  $\alpha \equiv 1 \pmod{\pi}$  and now  $u + v + \beta w + \pi^{-f} z$  is in  $N_p$  with  $\beta \in \pi \mathfrak{O}_p$ . Again, if  $f=1$ , this gives  $E(1)_p \subseteq N_p$  and, if  $E(1)_p \neq N_p$ , necessarily  $M_{p^*} \subseteq N_p$ . Hence,

5.2. *For  $f=1$  the only exceptional four dimensional invariant lattices are of the form  $\alpha_p E(1)_p$  and  $\alpha_p E(1)_p^*$ , with  $\alpha_p$  a fractional ideal in  $K_p$ .*

For  $f \geq 2$ , the analysis of the exceptional lattices is more complicated, but could be carried out in the above manner.

6. **Global results.** We start by proving Theorem A; in fact, this result remains valid even if  $M$  is not unimodular.

First let  $N$  be a  $SU(M)$ -invariant sublattice of  $M$ . We must prove  $N_p = \mathfrak{O}_p N$  is  $SU(M_p)$ -invariant at all finite prime spots  $p$  of  $F$ . Fix a finite prime spot  $q$  and an isometry  $\psi_q$  in  $SU(M_q)$ . By the approximation theorem of Shimura [8; 5.12], there exists a  $\varphi$  in  $SU(V)$  with local extension  $\varphi_q$  close to  $\psi_q$  at the spot  $q$  and  $\varphi_p(M_p) = M_p$  elsewhere. Since  $\psi_q(M_q) = M_q$ , we have  $\varphi_q(M_q) = M_q$  if  $\varphi_q$  is sufficiently close to  $\psi_q$  and hence  $\varphi(M) = M$ . Thus  $\varphi$  is in  $SU(M)$  and hence  $\varphi(N) = N$ . Therefore,  $\varphi_q(N_q) = N_q$  and if  $\varphi_q$  is sufficiently close to  $\psi_q$ , necessarily  $N_q$  is invariant under  $\psi_q$ .

Conversely, let  $N$  be a lattice in  $M$  with  $N_p = \mathfrak{O}_p N$  a  $SU(M_p)$ -invariant lattice at all finite prime spots  $p$ . We must prove  $\varphi(N) = N$  for all  $\varphi$  in  $SU(M)$ . Clearly, however,  $\varphi_p \in SU(M_p)$  so that  $\varphi(N)_p = \varphi_p(N_p) = N_p$ . The result now follows as in O'Meara [7; §81E]. Notice that this half of the proof does not require that  $\Phi$  be indefinite. This completes the proof of Theorem A.

We can also construct global invariant lattices from local ones as follows.

PROPOSITION 6.1. *At each finite spot  $p$  of  $F$  assume given a*

$SU(M_p)$ -invariant sublattice  $J_p$  of  $M_p$  with  $J_p = M_p$  almost always. Then there exists a sublattice  $N$  of  $M$  such that for each spot  $\mathfrak{p}$

$$N_{\mathfrak{p}} = \mathfrak{O}_{\mathfrak{p}}N = J_{\mathfrak{p}} .$$

*Proof.* This is an immediate consequence of [2; 2.4].

We conclude this paper by giving more explicitly the invariant lattices when  $F$  is the rational field  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Now  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{m})$  with  $m$  a square free integer. Let  $p$  be a rational prime. Then  $p$  splits in  $K$  if either  $p = 2$  and  $m \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$ , or  $p$  is odd and  $(m/p) = 1$ . Otherwise, for  $p = 2$ , we have an unramified extension if  $m \equiv 5 \pmod{8}$ , a ramified unit extension with  $h = 0$  if  $m \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ , and a ramified prime extension if  $m$  is even.

Let  $M$  be a unimodular lattice on an indefinite hermitian space  $V$  over  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{m})$ . Except when  $\mathbb{Q}_2(\sqrt{m})$  is a ramified extension of  $\mathbb{Q}_2$ , the only primitive invariant sublattice is  $M_p$ . Hence, when  $m \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , the  $SU(M)$ -invariant lattices are the  $\alpha M$  with  $\alpha$  a fractional ideal in  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{m})$ .

When  $m \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  or  $m$  is even,  $\mathbb{Q}_2(\sqrt{m})$  is a ramified extension of  $\mathbb{Q}_2$  and  $M_2$  can support other local invariant lattices. If the rank of  $M$  is odd, the invariant lattices are the  $\alpha N$  with  $\alpha$  a fractional ideal and  $N_2$  one of the lattices  $M_{2^*}$ ,  $M_2$  or  $M_2^*$ , together with  $E_2$  and  $E_2^*$  when  $m$  is even and  $\dim V = 3$ .

Finally, when the rank of  $M$  is even there are a number of possibilities. If  $\Phi$  is an even form, namely if  $M_{2^*} = M_2$ , the only invariant sublattices are the  $\alpha M$  with  $\alpha$  a fractional ideal. If  $\Phi$  is an odd form and  $m \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$  or  $m$  is even, there are five lattices  $N_2$  lying between  $M_{2^*}$  and  $M_2^*$ . If  $M_2 = H_2 \perp J_2 \perp (\mathfrak{O}_2 w + \mathfrak{O}_2 z)$  with  $\Phi(w, z) = 1$ ,  $2q(w)$  a unit and  $q(z) \in \mathfrak{o}_p$ , these five lattices are  $M_2$ ,  $M_{2^*}$ ,  $M_2^*$ ,

$$H_2 \perp J_2 \perp (\mathfrak{O}_2 \pi w + \mathfrak{O}_2 \pi^{-1} z)$$

and

$$H_2 \perp J_2 \perp (\mathfrak{O}_2 \pi w + \mathfrak{O}_2 (w + \pi^{-1} z)) .$$

For  $\dim V \geq 6$  and for  $\dim V = 4$  when  $m \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ , the invariant lattices are the  $\alpha N$  with  $\alpha$  a fractional ideal,  $N_2$  one of these five lattices and  $N_p = M_p$  for  $p$  odd. When  $\dim V = 4$  and  $m$  is even,  $N_2$  can also be one of the dual pair of exceptional lattices  $E(1)_2$  and  $E(1)_2^*$  obtained in the previous section.

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THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY PARK, PA 16802