# Outer group automorphisms may become inner in the integral group ring

Klaus W. Roggenkamp and Alexander Zimmermann

#### Abstract

In this note we shall construct a finite group G which has an automorphism  $\alpha$ , which is not inner; however, the induced automorphism on SG is inner, where S is the ring of algebraic integers in a suitably chosen algebraic number field. A consequence of our arguments is, that  $\alpha$  is inner in KG for every field K.

### 1 Introduction

It follows from from a result of Coleman [1] that the natural map

$$\Phi: Out(G) \longrightarrow Out(SG)$$

is injective for p-groups. Here S is the ring of integers in a global or a local number field K, in which p is not invertible. It is a question of Jackowski and Marciniak ([4, 3.7]) whether this happens for all finite groups G and coefficient ring  $\mathbb{Z} = S$ .

However, there is not yet known an example of a finite group G, where this map is not injective for the algebraic integers of a global field K of characteristic 0. If one wants to construct  $\alpha \in Aut(G)$  with  $\Phi(\alpha)$  inner on SG, then

- 1.  $\alpha$  must be the identity on the conjugacy classes of G,
- 2.  $\alpha$  must be inner in G on the Sylow p-subgroups, combining Sylow theorems and the result of Coleman (cf. [1] and [7, I.II § 2]).

To construct such an  $\alpha$  is is a purely group theoretical problem. However, in order to show that  $\alpha$  becomes inner on SG we have to use the following ingredients from integral representation theory:

- 1. We show that  $\alpha$  is inner on  $\mathbb{Z}G$  semilocally. From this one cannot automatically conclude that  $\alpha$  is inner on  $\mathbb{Z}G$ . The obstruction is an element in the class group of  $\mathbb{Z}G$ . We use class field theory this is where K enters to kill this obstruction.
- 2. The passage from the local to the semilocal situation becomes possible by interpreting automorphisms as invertible bimodules and using Fröhlich's exact sequence of Picard groups [3].
- 3. Finally we are in the local respectively complete situation. Here we use Clifford theory  $^1$  to show, that  $\alpha$  acts as inner automorphism on the inertia groups, after having applied the theorem of Noether Deuring, to pass to a splitting field. The key point in our construction is to involve quaternion groups in order to keep the inertia groups small.
- 4. Let now K be a field, then there exists a rational prime p, such that  $KG \simeq K \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}_p} \mathbb{Z}_p G$ . Thus  $\alpha$  induces an inner automorphism on KG.

## 2 A short review of Clifford theory

Since Clifford theory is essential to our arguments we give a brief summary of it as developed in [7] as far as it is needed here.

- 1. Let N be a normal complemented subgroup of a finite group G with (|G/N|, |N|) = 1.
- 2. Let, furthermore, R be a complete local Dedekind domain of characteristic 0 with residue field k of characteristic p > 0 such that the quotient field K of R is a splitting field for G and all of its subgroups.
- 3. We assume that p does not divide the order of N.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The first author has learnt the way of using Clifford theory integrally from Leonard Scott.

- 4. We denote by I(M) the inertia group of an irreducible RN-lattice M in G.
- 5. We assume that I(M) is normal in G.
- 6. Let  $\alpha$  be a group automorphism of RG that becomes inner in KG.
- 7. Let  $e_M$  be the central primitive idempotent of RN acting as the identity on M. For each t in I(M), the conjugate  $t \cdot e_M \cdot t^{-1}$  is again a central primitive idempotent of RN which acts as 1 on M, hence,  $e_M$  is centralized by I(M).
- 8. If  $\alpha$  acts as the identity on N, we have  $\alpha(e_M) = e_M$ .
- 9. If now I(M) < G, then let  $g_1, ..., g_s$  be a left transversal of I(M) in G and let  $e_i := g_i \cdot e_M \cdot g_i^{-1}; i = 1, ..., s$  be the conjugates of  $e_M$  in RG. Since the  $\{g_i\}$  form a transversal with respect to the inertia group of M, the conjugates  $e_i$  are pairwise orthogonal idempotents in RG. However,  $\sum_{i=1}^s e_i =: e$  is a central idempotent in RG. Now  $RG \cdot e$  is isomorphic to an  $(s \times s)$ -matrix ring, whose (i, j)-entry equals  $B_{i,j} := e_i \cdot RG \cdot e_j$  for  $1 \le i, j \le s$ , the usual Pierce decomposition.
- 10. If, furthermore,  $x^{-1} \cdot \alpha(x) \in I(M)$  for all  $x \in G$ , then

$$\alpha(e_i) = \alpha(g_i \cdot e_M \cdot g_i^{-1}) = \alpha(g_i) \cdot \alpha(e_M) \cdot \alpha(g_i)^{-1} = e_i$$

For the rest of the section we assume that 1.– 10. hold.

We look at  $B_{i,j}$  more closely:

An element  $g \in G$  can be written as  $n \cdot h$  with  $n \in N$  and  $h \in G/N$ . Then,  $h = g_k \cdot t$  with  $t \in I(M)$  and a certain k. We denote by  $\chi_i$  the character of N afforded by  $e_i$ . Using the normality of I(M) we calculate

$$e_{i} \cdot n \cdot h \cdot e_{j} = \chi_{i}(n) \cdot e_{i} \cdot g_{k} \cdot t \cdot e_{j}$$
$$= \chi_{i}(n) \cdot g_{i} \cdot e_{M} \cdot g_{i}^{-1} \cdot g_{k} \cdot g_{j} \cdot e_{M} \cdot g_{j}^{-1} \cdot t.$$

If  $g_k \cdot g_j \not\in g_i \cdot I(M)$ , which is equivalent to  $g_k \not\in g_i \cdot g_j^{-1} \cdot I(M)$ , again by the normality of I(M), then the above equals 0. Hence,

$$B_{i,i} = g_i \cdot e_M RI(M) \cdot e_M \cdot g_i^{-1}.$$

More precisely, the above calculations show

$$e_i \cdot RG \cdot e_j = g_i \cdot e_M \cdot RI(M) \cdot e_M \cdot g_j^{-1}$$
.

This allows us to describe explicitly the action of  $\alpha$  on  $B_{i,j}$ :

$$\alpha: g_i \cdot e_M \cdot x \cdot e_M \cdot g_j^{-1} \longrightarrow \alpha(g_i) \cdot e_M \cdot \alpha(x) \cdot e_M \cdot \alpha(g_j^{-1}) \text{ for } x \in RI(M).$$
 (1)

A central<sup>2</sup> automorphism  $\alpha$  of RG fixes the  $B_{i,j}$  as set for all i, j if and only if it is conjugation by

$$\begin{pmatrix}
u_1 & 0 & & & 0 \\
0 & \ddots & \ddots & & \\
& \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\
& & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\
0 & & & 0 & u_s
\end{pmatrix}$$

with elements  $\{u_i \in (RI(M) \cdot e_M) \cap U(KI(M) \cdot e_M) | i = 1, ..., s\}.$ 

If  $\alpha$  acts as the identity on I(M) and if moreover  $\alpha(g_i) \in g_i \cdot Z(I(M))$ , then it acts as identity on  $g_i \cdot e_M \cdot RI(M) \cdot e_M \cdot g_i^{-1}$ , and furthermore  $u_i \in Z(RI(M) \cdot e_M)$  for all i = 1, ..., s. Since R is local,

$$Outcent(RI(M) \cdot e_M) \simeq Outcent(Mat_n(RI(M) \cdot e_M)).$$

Consequently, there is an inner automorphism  $\gamma$  of  $Mat_n(RI(M) \cdot e_M) = RG \cdot e$  such that

$$\alpha = \gamma \circ \delta$$

with a central automorphism  $\delta$  acting via the identification

$$B_{i,j} = e_i \cdot RG \cdot e_j = g_i \cdot e_M \cdot RI(M) \cdot e_M \cdot g_j^{-1}$$

on each of the entries  $B_{i,j}$ . Since  $\delta$  is then just conjugation by

$$v \in (RI(M) \cdot e_M) \cap U(KI(M) \cdot e_M),$$

 $<sup>^{2}\</sup>mathrm{An}$  automorphism of a ring acting as the identity on the centre of the ring is called central.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Note that this can always be achieved by multiplication with a central element.

the unit  $\gamma$  has to have the diagonal form analogous to that of  $\alpha$ . Hence, there is an element  $v \in (RI(M) \cdot e_M) \cap U(KI(M) \cdot e_M)$  and elements  $\gamma_i \in U(RI(M) \cdot e_M)$  such that

$$u_i = \gamma_i \cdot v \in Z(RI(M) \cdot e_M).$$

Therefore,

$$u_i \cdot u_j^{-1} \in U(RI(M) \cdot e_M)$$
 for all  $1 \le i, j \le s$ .

We summarize these observations, which we shall apply in the next section, as

**Proposition 1** With the above notation, assume that one of the elements  $u_i$  can be chosen to be a unit in  $RI(M) \cdot e_M$ , then the automorphism  $\alpha$  is inner.

## 3 The construction of the group and the automorphism

Let  $\overline{H}$  be the semidirect product of the cyclic group of order 8, generated by a, with its automorphism group  $C_2 \times C_2$ , generated by  $\overline{b}$  and  $\overline{c}$  such that  $\overline{b}$  inverts a and  $\overline{c}$  raises a to the third power.  $\overline{H}$  has a non inner central automorphism  $\sigma$  sending  $\overline{c}$  to  $a^4\overline{c}$  and fixing  $\overline{b}$  and a (cf. [4]). Let

$$H_0 := (C_8 \rtimes (C_2 \times C_2)) \rtimes < \sigma > .$$

Factoring the centre of a quaternion group  $Q_8$  of order 8, the group  $Q_8$  generated by b and c maps onto  $C_2 \times C_2$ , the image of b being  $\overline{b}$  and that of c being  $\overline{c}$ , the natural projection is called  $\pi_Q$ . We form the pullback

For H we form two irreducible modules  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  such that for each  $i \in \{1, 2\}$  the element a acts as 1 on  $M_i$  and restricted to the quaternion group  $Q_8$  the modules  $M_i$  are the two dimensional irreducible representation of  $Q_8$  over a finite prime field  $F_i$  of odd characteristic  $p_i$ . It is well known that there are irreducible two dimensional representations of the quaternion

group of order 8 over every field of odd characteristic (see e.g. [2, (27.1) and (74.11)]). We choose  $p_1 \neq p_2$ . On  $M_1$  the element  $\sigma$  operates as 1 and on  $M_2$  it acts as -1. Let G be the semidirect product of M with H:

$$G := (M_1 \times M_2) \rtimes H$$

Since a acts trivially on  $M:=M_1\times M_2$  the automorphism  $\alpha$ , conjugation by  $\sigma$  on H, can be extended to G as  $(id_M,\alpha)$ , also denoted by  $\alpha$ . The extension is central since on H the elements h and  $\alpha(h)$  are conjugate by either a or  $a^2$  or 1. All of these elements centralize M, and therefore,  $\alpha$  as automorphism of G is central. In fact, for every integers i and j the elements  $a^ibc\sigma^j$  and  $a^ib^3c\sigma^j$  are centralized by  $a\sigma$ , the elements  $a^ic\sigma^j$  and  $a^ib^2c\sigma^j$  are centralized by  $a^2\sigma$  and the rest of H is centralized by  $\sigma$  itself.

## 4 The automorphism is semilocally inner

We claim that  $\alpha$  is inner in RG with a suitable semilocal ring of integers R, containing a  $p_1 \cdot p_2 \cdot 8$ -th root of unity, and neither  $p_1$  nor  $p_2$  nor 2 are invertible in R. Note that the Noether Deuring theorem ([6]) implies that there is no loss of generality if we assume that the quotient field of R is a splitting field for G. This can be applied since the outer central automorphism group of RG can be mapped into Picent(RG) (cf. [3]) by means of mapping the automorphism  $\phi$  to the invertible bimodule  $_{\phi}RG_1$  where the left module action is twisted by  $\phi$ . For details see [3, Theorem 1].

Using Fröhlich's result ([3, Theorem 6]) for semilocal domains R

$$Outcent(RG) \simeq \prod_{\wp \in Spec(R)} Outcent(R_\wp G)$$

and interpreting  $\alpha$  as an invertible bimodule as above it is enough to show that  $\alpha$  is inner for all completions of R at finite primes  $\wp$ : We extend  $\alpha$  to a central automorphism  $\alpha_{\wp}$  of  $R_{\wp}G$  and map the bimodule corresponding to  $\alpha$  to the finite direct product of bimodules corresponding to  $\alpha_{\wp}$ .

For non semilocal Dedekind domains R the obstruction to globalize local automorphisms is a certain subgroup of the class group of the centre of the group ring. In fact, denoting by  $Cl(centre(\Lambda))$  the locally free class group of the order  $\Lambda$ , the sequence

$$1 \longrightarrow Cl(centre(RG)) \longrightarrow Picent(RG) \longrightarrow \prod_{\wp \in Spec(R)} Picent(R_{\wp}G) \longrightarrow 1$$

Using class field theory (cf. [5, Satz 7]) this implies that there exists a ring of algebraic integers S in an algebraic number field L, L being finite over the quotient field of R, such that  $\alpha$  becomes inner as an automorphism of SG.

#### 4.1 The crucial calculation

We now come to the central point in the proof:

We shall show in the next subsection that the following three groups will occur as inertia groups at various primes  $\wp$ :

- 1.  $I_1 := \langle M, a, \sigma \rangle$  is normal in G.
- 2.  $I_2 := \langle M, a, \sigma \cdot b^2 \rangle$  is normal in G.
- 3.  $I_3 := \langle M, a \rangle = I_1 \cap I_2$ .

We take this as guaranteed for the moment. At the prime  $\wp$  the group ring has a ring direct factor of the form  $(g_i \cdot e_M \cdot R_\wp I \cdot e_M \cdot g_j^{-1})_{1 \leq i,j \leq s}$  with  $I \in \{I_1, I_2, I_3\}$ . Recall that  $e_i = {}^{g_i}e_M$  for  $g_i \in H_k$  and  $H_k$  suitably chosen according to the inertia groups  $I_k$ .

We now consider the three cases  $I_1$ ,  $I_2$  and  $I_3$ . In case  $I = I_1$  we can choose the transversal

$$H_1 := \{1, b, b^2, b^3, c, cb, cb^2, cb^3\} = H_1^0 \stackrel{\cdot}{\cup} c \cdot H_1^0.$$

In case  $I = I_2$  we can choose the transversal

$$H_2 := \{1, b, b^2, b^3, c, cb, cb^2, cb^3\} = H_2^0 \stackrel{\cdot}{\cup} c \cdot H_2^0.$$

In case  $I = I_3$  we can choose the transversal

$$H_3 := \{1, b, b^2, b^3, \sigma, b\sigma, b^2\sigma, b^3\sigma, c, cb, cb^2, cb^3, c\sigma, cb\sigma, cb^2\sigma, cb^3\sigma\} = H_3^0 \stackrel{\cdot}{\cup} c \cdot H_3^0$$

We have seen that

$$e_i \cdot R_{\wp}G \cdot e_j = g_i \cdot e_M \cdot R_{\wp}I \cdot e_M \cdot g_i^{-1}$$

Thus, by Equation (1), in case  $I = I_1$  and in case  $I = I_2$  the action of  $\alpha$  on  $(e_i \cdot R_{\wp}G \cdot e_j)_{1 \leq i,j \leq s}$  is multiplication by  $a^4$  if  $4 \leq |i-j|$  and the identity otherwise, hence, conjugation by the matrix

$$\left(\begin{array}{cc} 1_{4\times 4} & 0\\ 0 & a^4 \cdot 1_{4\times 4} \end{array}\right).$$

Here we denote by  $1_{m \times m}$  the m by m unit matrix. Therefore,  $\alpha$  acts as inner automorphism on the ring direct factor corresponding to  $e_M$ .

In case  $I = I_3$  a similar observation yields that  $\alpha$  acts as conjugation by

$$\left(\begin{array}{cc}
1_{8\times8} & 0 \\
0 & a^4 \cdot 1_{8\times8}
\end{array}\right)$$

Hence, by Proposition 1,  $\alpha$  acts as inner automorphism on the ring direct factor corresponding to  $e_M$  as well.<sup>4</sup>

### 4.2 Determination of the inertia groups

We choose a prime  $\wp \in Spec(R)$  and discuss various cases for  $\wp$ .

Case 1:  $2 \in \wp$ .

Then the group ring decomposes as

$$R_{\wp}G = I_{R_{\wp}}(M)G \prod R_{\wp}H.$$

On  $R_{\wp}H$  the automorphism  $\alpha$  is conjugation by  $\sigma$ . For  $I_{R_{\wp}}(M)G$  we apply Clifford theory. Let  $\chi$  be an irreducible nontrivial character of M as abelian groups (the quotient field of R is a splitting field for M) with kernel  $K \subseteq M_1 \times M_2$ .

For  $\chi$  there are three cases which have to be considered separately:

1. If  $M_2 \subset K$  then the inertia group  $I_{\chi}$  contains M,  $\sigma$  and a. If  $h \in H$  lies in  $I_{\chi}$  we observe that the sequence

$$1 \longrightarrow \langle a, \sigma \rangle \longrightarrow H \longrightarrow Q_8 \longrightarrow 1$$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Note how sensitive this construction is with respect to the group G.

splits. Hence, we may assume that  $h \in Q_8$ , but there are fixed points on neither  $M_1$  nor  $M_2$ , a contradiction. Thus

$$I_{\chi} = \langle M, a, \sigma \rangle = I_1,$$

and  $\alpha$  is seen to be inner.

2.  $M_1 \subset K$  then obviously  $I_{\chi} \supseteq \langle M, a, b^2 \cdot \sigma \rangle$ . Similar arguments show that

$$I_{\nu} = \langle M, a, b^2 \cdot \sigma \rangle = I_2.$$

Now, here  $\alpha$  is also inner.

3. If neither  $M_1$  nor  $M_2$  belongs completely to K the inertia group

$$I_{\rm v} = < M, a > = I_3$$

is the intersection of the two inertia groups of the previous cases since  $M = M_1 \times M_2$  and  $(\wp, |M|) = 1$ . Again we see that  $\alpha$  acts as inner automorphism on the factor corresponding to that character of N.

Our automorphism now acts as inner automorphism on each of the factors and  $\alpha_{\wp}$  is inner in  $R_{\wp}G$  provided  $2 \in \wp$ .

Case 2:  $p_1 \in \wp$ .

Then the group ring decomposes to

$$R_{\wp}G = I_{R_{\wp}}(M_2)G \prod R_{\wp}G/M_2.$$

On the second factor the automorphism  $\alpha$  is conjugation by  $\sigma$  and for the first factor we take an irreducible non trivial character  $\chi$  of  $M_2$ . Then the inertia group is

$$I_{\chi} = \langle M, a, b^2 \cdot \sigma \rangle = I_2$$

as before. As above,  $\alpha_{\wp}$  is inner.

Case 3:  $p_2 \in \wp$ .

Then the group ring decomposes to

$$R_{\wp}G = I_{R_{\wp}}(M_1)G \prod R_{\wp}G/M_1.$$

On the second factor the automorphism  $\alpha$  is conjugation by  $b^2 \cdot \sigma$  and for the first factor we take an irreducible non trivial character  $\chi$  of  $M_1$ . Then the inertia group is

$$I_{\chi} = \langle M, a, \sigma \rangle = I_1$$

as before. Again, as above, Clifford theory tells us that  $\alpha_{\wp}$  is inner.

Case 4: 
$$|G|R_{\wp} = R_{\wp}$$

Then the group ring  $R_{\wp}G$  is separable and every central automorphism is inner.

We have shown that  $\alpha$  is an inner automorphism of RG.

Now we show that  $\alpha$  is not inner as group automorphism. On G/M the automorphism is conjugation by  $\sigma$ . The conjugating elements on G/M are, therefore, contained in  $\sigma \cdot < a^4, b^2 >$ . Since  $a^4$  is central in G, we may assume that the conjugating element maps onto an element in  $\sigma \cdot < b^2 >$ . Therefore, the conjugating element in G is  $m \cdot b^{2j} \cdot \sigma$  for some  $m \in M$  and  $j \in \mathbb{Z}$ . But on  $M_1$  this operates trivial if and only if j is even and on  $M_2$  it operates trivial if and only if j is odd. Thus it cannot exist and  $\alpha$  is not inner in G.

Now, the invertible bimodule  ${}^6$   $_{\alpha}(RG)_1$  is isomorphic to  $_1(RG)_1$ , and therefore, by [6], we have  $_{\alpha}(\mathbb{Z}_{\pi}G)_1 \simeq _{1}(\mathbb{Z}_{\pi}G)_1$  with  $\pi$  being any finite set of primes.

**Proposition 2** For the group G of order  $2^7 \cdot p_1^2 \cdot p_2^2$  as above the natural map

$$Outcent(G) \longrightarrow Outcent(\mathbb{Z}_{\pi}G)$$

is not injective. For  $p_1 = 5$ ,  $p_2 = 3$  the group G has generators and relations  $G = \{a, b, c, \sigma, x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2 > \text{subject to the relations } \{a^8 = 1, b^4 = 1, c^4 = 1, (bc)^2 = b^2 = c^2, (\sigma, a) = 1, (\sigma, b) = 1, \ \sigma c = a^4c, \ ba = a^7, \ ca = a^3, x_1^5 = 1, x_2^5 = 1, y_1^3 = 1, y_2^3 = 1, (a, x_1) = 1, (a, x_2) = 1, (a, y_1) = 1, (a, y_2) = 1, (\sigma, x_1) = 1, (\sigma, x_2) = 1, \ \sigma y_1 = y_1^{-1}, \ \sigma y_2 = y_2^{-1}, \ bx_1 = x_2, \ bx_2 = x_1^{-1}, \ cx_1 = x_1^2, \ cx_2 = x_2^3, \ by_1 = y_2, by_2 = y_1^2, \ cy_1 = y_1^2 \cdot y_2, \ cy_2 = y_1 \cdot y_2, (x_1, x_2), (y_1, y_2), (x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2) \}$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>These arguments are also checked by GAP.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>We adopt the notation of [3]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>The commutator of g and h is denoted by (g,h)

**Remark 1** J. Krempa proved that there can at most be an elementary abelian two group in the kernel of the group homomorphism from Outcent(G) to  $Outcent(\mathbb{Z}G)$  (cf. [4, 3.2 Theorem]).

#### Claim 1 Outcent(G) is of order 2.

Proof. Let  $\beta$  be a central automorphism of G. The Schur-Zassenhaus theorem assures that we may vary  $\beta$  by conjugation with an element in M such that  $H := \langle a, b, c, \sigma \rangle$  is fixed under  $\beta$ . Therefore, we assume that  $\beta$  itself fixes H and we may calculate in H modulo M.

Let  $\beta$  be a central automorphism of H. Since the conjugacy class of a consists of the elements  $\{a, a^3, a^5, a^7\}$  the normal subgroup A := < a > of G is fixed under  $\beta$ . Since  $\beta$  is central and elements are conjugate to their image we may assume that  $\beta(b) = b$  (if not we modify  $\beta$  by an inner automorphism). The conjugacy class of c consists of the elements  $\{c, a^2c, a^4c, a^6c, c^3, a^2c^3, a^4c^3, a^6c^3\}$ . If we vary by conjugation by  $\sigma$  and (or) b, centralizing b, we may assume that  $\beta(c) \in \{c, a^2c\}$ . The conjugacy class of bc is equal to  $\{bc, a^4bc\}$ , and therefore, c cannot be mapped to  $a^2c$  under  $\beta$  if b is fixed. We may assume that b and c are fixed. The conjugacy class of  $\sigma$  is equal to  $\{\sigma, a^4\sigma\}$ . The conjugacy class of  $a\sigma$  is equal to  $\{a\sigma, a^7\sigma\}$ . Therefore, from  $\beta(a) \in \{a^3, a^5\}$  it follows  $\beta(\sigma) = a^4\sigma$  and from  $\beta(a) \in \{a, a^7\}$  we conclude  $\beta(\sigma) = \sigma$ .

We, have only 4 candidates left: These are generated by the two automorphisms of order 2:  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  with  $\lambda_1(a) = a^7$  and the rest of the generators stay fixed and  $\lambda_2(a) = a^3, \lambda_2(\sigma) = a^4\sigma$  and the rest of the generators stay fixed. The conjugacy class of abc is equal to  $\{abc, a^5bc, a^7b^3c, a^3b^3c\}$ . Hence, neither  $\lambda_1$  nor  $\lambda_2$  are central automorphisms.

For the automorphism  $\lambda_1 \cdot \lambda_2$  we look at the conjugacy class of  $ay_2$  which has length 8. An automorphism has to map  $y_2$  to either  $y_2$  or to  $y_2^{-1}$  since the H-modules  $^{\lambda_1\lambda_2}M$  and M are equal and an automorphism extending  $\lambda_1\lambda_2$  differs on M from the identity by an automorphism of M which preserves the orbits of H on M. But all of the elements in  $bc \cdot C_H(a)$  moves  $y_2$  to neither  $y_2$  nor to  $y_2^{-1}$ . We see that also  $\lambda_1\lambda_2$  cannot be central <sup>8</sup>.

Assuming  $\beta$  to be the identity on G/M the automorphism is a module endomorphism of M as G/M-module. The endomorphism ring, however, is the prime field on each of  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  and only the element -1 is realizable by

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>These statements are also checked by GAP.

the operation of a group element. It may hence be realized by the operation of elements in the subgroup  $< b^2, \sigma >$  which causes to be  $\alpha$  modulo conjugation by  $b^2$ .

We conclude: Up to inner automorphisms of G there is only one non trivial central automorphism of G inducing the identity on H.

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Address of the authors: Mathematisches Institut B Universität Stuttgart Pfaffenwaldring 57 D-70550 Stuttgart Germany