





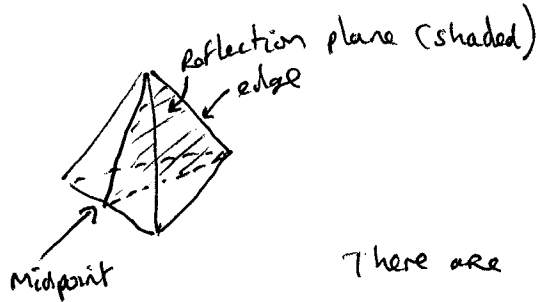
Symm (  )

 has  $\begin{cases} 4 \text{ vertices} \\ 6 \text{ edges} \\ 4 \text{ faces} \end{cases}$

①

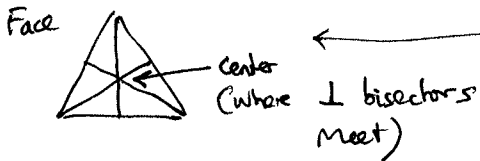
Reflections in planes which (i) contain one edge of  , and (ii) contain the midpoint of the opposite edge of 

Type (1)



There are  $\boxed{6}$  of these; one per edge.

Rotations about lines (axes) which (i) contain one vertex, and (ii) the "center" of the opposite face.

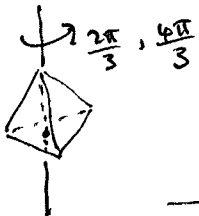


Rotation angles are  $\frac{2\pi}{3}$ ,  $\frac{4\pi}{3}$

$\Rightarrow$  two per axis; one axis per vertex

$\Rightarrow 2 \times 4 = \boxed{8}$  of these.

Type (2)



Rotations about lines (axes) which contain (i) the midpoint of one edge, and (ii) the midpoint of the opposite edge.

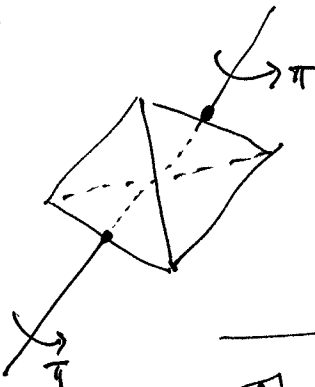
Rotation angle =  $\pi$

One per pair of opposite edges.

There are  $\frac{6}{2} = 3$  pairs of opposite edges

$\Rightarrow \boxed{3}$  of these.

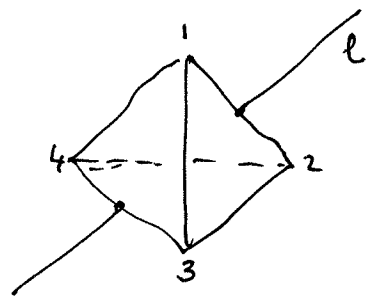
Type (3)



The identity.  $\boxed{1}$  of these!

Type (4)

Finally, we get 6 more symmetries by combining type ① & type ③ symmetries as shown!



New symmetry is a composition

$$(\text{type ①}) \circ (\text{type ③})$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} \text{Reflection in plane} \\ \text{containing } 1, 3 \\ \text{and midpoint of } [2, 4] \end{array} \right) \circ \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{Rotation by } \pi \text{ about} \\ \text{axis } l \end{array} \right)$$

OR plane containing 2, 4 and midpoint of the line segment [1, 3].

Type ⑤

2 possibilities for each type ③ symmetry

$$\Rightarrow 2 \times 3 = \boxed{6} \text{ of these.}$$

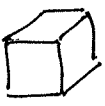
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$$\text{Total} = 6 + 8 + 3 + 1 + 6 = \boxed{24}$$

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We know they are distinct and that there are no more symmetries, because they give distinct permutations of the 4 vertices {1, 2, 3, 4} and there are only  $4! = 24$  such permutations.

- Type ①  $\leftrightarrow$  (12) etc.. transpositions
  - Type ②  $\leftrightarrow$  (123) etc 3-cycles
  - Type ③  $\leftrightarrow$  (12)(34) etc products of complimentary transpositions
  - Type ④  $\leftrightarrow$   $\mathbb{1}$  identity permutation
  - Type ⑤  $\leftrightarrow$  (1234) the 4-cycles
-

Symm (  )



has

- 8 vertices
- 12 edges
- 6 faces

①

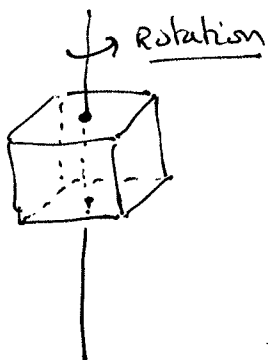
We'll describe the symmetries which preserve "right-handedness" first of all. These are rotations about lines in 3-d.

Type ① Rotations about lines through centers of opposite faces.

— angles are  $\frac{\pi}{2}, \pi, \frac{3\pi}{2} \Rightarrow 3$  per line

There are  $\frac{6}{2} = 3$  lines  $\Rightarrow$  a total of

$$3 \times 3 = \boxed{9} \text{ such symmetries.}$$



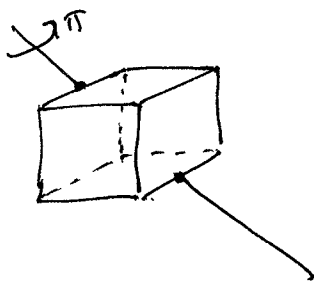
Type ②

Rotations about lines through centers (midpoints) of opposite edges.

Angle must be  $\pi$ .  $\Rightarrow 1$  per line.

Total of  $\frac{12}{2} = 6$  lines.

$\Rightarrow \boxed{6}$  of these.



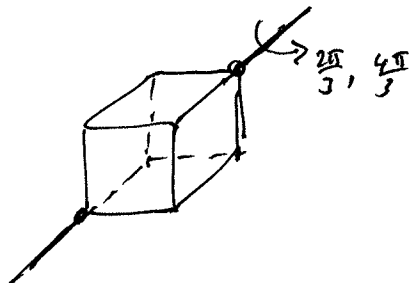
Type ③

Rotations about lines through opposite vertices.

Angles are  $\frac{2\pi}{3}$  &  $\frac{4\pi}{3} \Rightarrow 2$  per line.

There are  $\frac{8}{2} = 4$  such lines  $\Rightarrow$  Total of

$$2 \times 4 = \boxed{8} \text{ of these.}$$



Type ④

Any of the above with 0 angle of rotation!

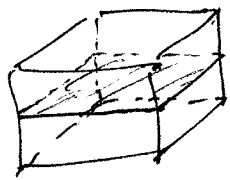
The identity!

$$\boxed{1} \text{ of these.}$$

There is a total of  $9 + 6 + 8 + 1 = 24$  rotational symmetries

These preserve "right-handedness". (Rotate a right hand  $\Rightarrow$  still get a right hand.)

Take your favorite "reflection in a plane" symmetry; e.g.,



$H$  = midplane between two opposite faces.

Reflection in  $H$  takes "right hand" into mirror image "left hand".

$$L_H : \text{Symm}(\text{cube}) \longrightarrow \text{Symm}(\text{cube})$$

$$: g \longmapsto Hg \quad = \text{composition of } H \text{ and } g.$$

We saw in class notes that  $L_H$  is a bijection.  $\Rightarrow$

$L_H(\{\text{symmetries of type } \textcircled{1}, \textcircled{2}, \textcircled{3}, \textcircled{4}\})$  is a set of 24 symmetries.  
 $\uparrow$  (injectivity of  $L_H$ )

They are all distinct from the original 24 symmetries because they all take a right hand into its mirror image left hand.

$$\Rightarrow \text{we have } 24 + 24 = 48 \text{ distinct symmetries.}$$

We were told in class that 48 was the number so we have given a description of them all.

$$\text{Type } \textcircled{1} \longrightarrow \text{Type } \textcircled{4} \quad \& \quad H \circ (\text{Type } \textcircled{1}), \dots, H \circ \text{Type } \textcircled{4}.$$

You might like to think about giving explicit geometric descriptions of the 24 symmetries which take right hands to left hands.