

FOURIER COEFFICIENTS OF MODULAR FORMS ON G_2

WEE TECK GAN, BENEDICT GROSS, and GORDAN SAVIN

Abstract

We develop a theory of Fourier coefficients for modular forms on the split exceptional group G_2 over \mathbb{Q} .

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Introduction

One of the most surprising aspects of the classical theory of modular forms f on the group $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ is the wealth of information carried by the Fourier coefficients $a_n(f)$

for $n \geq 0$. The Fourier coefficients of Eisenstein series were calculated by E. Hecke and C. Siegel and are instrumental in the study of zeta functions at negative integers. The Fourier coefficients of theta series have been studied since the work of C. Jacobi; they give many deep results on Euclidean lattices, such as the unicity of the Leech lattice. Finally, the action of Hecke operators on Fourier coefficients goes back to L. Mordell and allows one to show that the Mellin transform of an eigenform is an L -function with Euler product. For an introduction to these basic results, the reader can consult [Se1] or [R].

Siegel developed a theory of Fourier coefficients $c_N(f)$ for holomorphic forms f on the symplectic group $\mathrm{Sp}_{2g}(\mathbb{Z})$. Here the coefficients, for forms of even weight, are indexed by positive semidefinite, integral even quadratic spaces N of rank g . There is an analogous theory for holomorphic forms on tube domains, where the Fourier coefficients are indexed by orbits on integral elements in the corresponding homogeneous cone.

On the other hand, one has a less refined notion of Fourier coefficients for a general automorphic form f on a general reductive group G . Given any parabolic subgroup $P = M \cdot N$ of G and a unitary character χ of $N(\mathbb{A})$ trivial on $N(\mathbb{Q})$, the χ th Fourier coefficient of f is the function on $G(\mathbb{A})$ given by

$$f_\chi(g) = \int_{N(\mathbb{Q}) \backslash N(\mathbb{A})} f(ng) \cdot \overline{\chi(n)} \, dn.$$

This notion of Fourier coefficients is useful for many purposes, such as the definition of cusp forms, but since f_χ are functions rather than numbers, it is often difficult to extract arithmetic information from them. For arithmetic applications it is thus desirable to have a refined theory of Fourier coefficients analogous to that for the holomorphic forms discussed above.

In this paper we develop such a theory of Fourier coefficients for certain modular forms on the exceptional Chevalley group $G_2(\mathbb{Z})$. Here the symmetric space $X = G_2(\mathbb{R})/\mathrm{SO}_4$ does not have an invariant complex structure; there are thus no holomorphic modular forms. The real components of the automorphic representations we consider are in the quaternionic discrete series (see [GW]). For forms of even weight, we show that the Fourier coefficients $c_A(f)$ are indexed by totally real cubic rings A : commutative rings with unit, which are free of rank 3 over \mathbb{Z} and such that the \mathbb{R} -algebra $A \otimes \mathbb{R}$ is isomorphic to \mathbb{R}^3 .

The definition of the Fourier coefficients requires some background on the Heisenberg parabolic subgroup $P \subset G_2$; this is provided in the first three sections. We then determine the orbits of the Levi factor of P which is isomorphic to GL_2 , on the space of binary cubic forms. These orbits correspond to cubic rings, and the orbits of primitive forms (namely, those for which the greatest common denominator (gcd) of the coefficients is equal to 1) correspond to the Gorenstein cubic rings over

\mathbb{Z} . We then combine our results on orbits with a recent result of N. Wallach [W3], on the uniqueness of certain linear forms on quaternionic discrete series representations of $G_2(\mathbb{R})$, to give a definition of $c_A(f)$ in Section 8. Once the coefficients have been defined, it is natural to ask if the Fourier coefficients $c_A(f)$ determine the form f . Unlike the case of modular forms on $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$, this is not automatic, but we show in Section 8 that it is the case if f is a cusp form.

As an illustration of the theory, we calculate the Fourier coefficients for Eisenstein series (Section 9) and analogs of theta series (Section 10). There is a natural family of Eisenstein series E_{2k} (of even weight $2k$) which was first investigated by D. Jiang and S. Rallis [JR]. Assuming an extension of their local results, we show that for a maximal cubic ring A , the A th Fourier coefficient of the Eisenstein series E_{2k} is the nonzero rational number $\zeta_A(1 - 2k)$. The analogs of theta series are constructed via the dual pair correspondence arising from the restriction of the minimal representation of the quaternionic form of the exceptional group E_8 (see [Gal]). The A th Fourier coefficients of the analogs of theta series count embeddings of the ring A into integral exceptional Jordan algebras, just as the coefficients of Siegel theta series count embeddings of quadratic spaces over \mathbb{Z} .

The rest of the paper studies the action of spherical Hecke operators on Fourier coefficients. We give some background on the general theory in Section 11 and then work out in Section 13 the relative Satake transform when $G = G_2$ and $L = \mathrm{GL}_2$ is the Levi factor of the Heisenberg parabolic subgroup P . Using this transform, we determine the action of the two generators of the spherical Hecke algebra at p on the Fourier coefficients. This involves the determination of single coset representatives for the double cosets corresponding to the two generators, and the computations are carried out in Section 14. The resulting formulas in Section 15 are analogs of the well-known formula

$$a_n(T_p|f) = a_{np}(f) + p^{2k-1}a_{n/p}(f)$$

for the action of the Hecke operator T_p on the Fourier coefficients of a holomorphic modular form f of weight $2k$ on $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$. Finally, we show in the last section that if f is a Hecke eigenform, then the primitive coefficients (i.e. those at Gorenstein cubic rings) and the Hecke eigenvalues determine the rest of the coefficients and hence f (if f is a cusp form). This is the analog of the classical result that if f is a holomorphic cuspidal Hecke eigenform on $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$, then f is determined by $a_1(f)$ and its Hecke eigenvalues.

1. Maximal parabolic subgroups

We begin by reviewing some material on maximal parabolic subgroups in simple algebraic groups (cf. [Bo], [BoT], [Sp]). Let G be a simple algebraic group of adjoint type over an algebraically closed field k . Let $\mathfrak{g} = \mathrm{Lie}(G)$, and let $T \subset B \subset G$ be a

maximal torus, contained in a Borel subgroup. Let Δ be the set of simple roots for T determined by B .

The maximal parabolic subgroups P of G which contain B are associated to simple roots α . If $\theta = \Delta - \{\alpha\}$, and W_θ is the subgroup of the Weyl group of G generated by the simple reflections in θ , then $P = \bigcup_{w \in W_\theta} BwB$. There is a unique Levi factor L of P which contains T ; it has Lie algebra

$$\mathrm{Lie}(L) = \mathrm{Lie}(T) \oplus \left(\bigoplus_{m_\alpha(\beta)=0} \mathfrak{g}_\beta \right),$$

where $m_\alpha(\beta)$ is the multiplicity of α in the root β , and \mathfrak{g}_β is the one-dimensional root space corresponding to β . The unipotent radical U of P has Lie algebra

$$V = \mathrm{Lie}(U) = \bigoplus_{m_\alpha(\beta)>0} \mathfrak{g}_\beta.$$

The center of L , which is isomorphic to \mathbb{G}_m , acts on V and gives a grading of k -vector spaces

$$\begin{aligned} V &= \bigoplus_{n \geq 1} V_n, \\ V_n &= \bigoplus_{m_\alpha(\beta)=n} \mathfrak{g}_\beta. \end{aligned} \tag{1.1}$$

Each subspace V_n is a linear representation of L , and the following proposition describes its structure.

PROPOSITION 1.2

The representation V_n of L is nonzero when $1 \leq n$ is less than or equal to the multiplicity of α in the highest root β_0 . In this case, the representation V_n is indecomposable.

If the characteristic p of k is 2 or 3, and there are two roots β_1 and β_2 which satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} m_\alpha(\beta_1) &= m_\alpha(\beta_2) = n, \\ \|\beta_1\|^2 &= p \cdot \|\beta_2\|^2, \end{aligned}$$

then V_n has a unique irreducible L -submodule, generated by the short root spaces, and the quotient module (which is generated by the long root spaces) is irreducible. In all other cases, when $V_n \neq 0$, the representation V_n of L is irreducible.

Proof

This is a consequence of the results of [ABS], which show that the restriction of V_n

to the normalizer of a maximal torus in L has at most two irreducible constituents, corresponding to the different lengths of roots β with $m_\alpha(\beta) = n$. The submodule is then determined using a Chevalley basis of \mathfrak{g} . \square

Now let β_0 be the highest root. If G is not of type A , there is a unique simple root α with $\langle \beta_0^\vee, \alpha \rangle = 1$. Furthermore, α has multiplicity 2 in β_0 and is a long root, provided that G is not of type C . The associated maximal parabolic subgroup $P \subset G$ is called the Heisenberg parabolic, and the Lie algebra V of U has a 2-step gradation

$$\begin{cases} V = V_1 \oplus V_2, \\ V_2 = \mathfrak{g}_{\beta_0}. \end{cases} \quad (1.3)$$

The Lie bracket gives an alternating form on V_1 , with values in V_2 , and hence gives an L -linear map

$$f : \bigwedge^2 V_1 \longrightarrow V_2. \quad (1.4)$$

PROPOSITION 1.5

If the characteristic p of k is 2 and if G is of type C , then $f = 0$ and the Lie algebra V is abelian. In all other cases, $f \neq 0$.

Assume that $f \neq 0$. If V_1 is an irreducible L -module, then the alternating form f is nondegenerate, and V_2 is the center of V . If V_1 contains a nontrivial L -submodule V_1^{short} , then this is the radical of the alternating form f , and $V_1^{\text{short}} \oplus V_2$ is the center of V .

Proof

When $\text{char}(k) = 2$ and G is of type C , all roots in V_1 are short, and the Chevalley relations show that $f = 0$. In all other cases, α and $\alpha' = \beta_0 - \alpha$ are long roots in V_1 with $f(\alpha \wedge \alpha') = [\alpha, \alpha'] \neq 0$.

If $f \neq 0$, the radical is an L -submodule of V_1 and hence is zero when V_1 is irreducible. When V_1 is reducible, we can use the bracket law on a Chevalley basis to determine the radical of f , and a direct computation proves the proposition. \square

2. The unipotent radical

We now use some results of M. Demazure [D, pp. 438–440] and J.-P. Serre [Se1, pp. 530–531] to convert our knowledge of the Lie algebra $V = \text{Lie}(U) = \bigoplus_{n \geq 1} V_n$ to information on the unipotent radical U of P .

The unipotent group U has a canonical filtration by L -stable, characteristic subgroups

$$U = U_1 \supset U_2 \supset \cdots \supset U_d \supset \{1\},$$

where U_i is the product of all root subgroups U_β with $m_\alpha(\beta) \geq i$. Note that in [D] our subgroup U_i is denoted U_{i-1} , so that $U = U_0$. We have

$$\mathrm{Lie}(U_i) = \bigoplus_{n \geq i} V_n.$$

Demazure proved that the successive quotients U_i/U_{i+1} are vector groups over k and that the L -action on them is k -linear. Finally, he proved that these representations of L are isomorphic to the representations of L on the k -vector spaces

$$\mathrm{Lie}(U_i/U_{i+1}) = V_i.$$

Hence, the results of the previous section show that they are indecomposable $k[L]$ -modules.

The commutator gives a map

$$U_i \times U_j \rightarrow U_{i+j}.$$

Projecting to the quotient U_{i+j}/U_{i+j+1} , we get an L -bilinear form

$$U_i/U_{i+1} \times U_j/U_{j+1} \rightarrow U_{i+j}/U_{i+j+1}.$$

Results of Serre on the canonical exponential show that this form can be identified with the Lie bracket $V_i \times V_j \rightarrow V_{i+j}$. Indeed, if k has characteristic zero (or characteristic $p > h$, the Coxeter number of G), there is an isomorphism of unipotent groups

$$\exp : \mathrm{Lie}(U) \longrightarrow U,$$

where the group structure on $V = \mathrm{Lie}(U)$ is given by the Campbell-Baker-Hausdorff formula (see [B, Chap. II, §6])

$$v +_H w = v + w + \frac{1}{2}[v, w] + \frac{1}{12}[v, [v, w]] + \frac{1}{12}[w, [w, v]] + \cdots.$$

The identity of the group $\mathrm{Lie}(U)$ is $v = 0$, and the inverse of v is $-v$. The isomorphism \exp is characterized by the fact that its derivative is the identity map on $\mathrm{Lie}(U)$. Moreover, \exp is L -equivariant, and the above shows that it can be defined over \mathbb{Q} . The exponential induces an isomorphism of subgroups $\mathrm{Lie}(U_i) \rightarrow U_i$, and the isomorphism

$$\exp : V_i \longrightarrow U_i/U_{i+1}$$

over \mathbb{Q} has no denominators. It thus gives an isomorphism of these vector groups over \mathbb{Z} and hence gives a canonical L -isomorphism in all characteristics. Further, since

$$v +_H w +_H (-v) +_H (-w) = [v, w] + \cdots,$$

we see that the commutator map on the graded quotients is indeed the Lie bracket map

$$V_i \times V_j \longrightarrow V_{i+j}.$$

In the case of the Heisenberg parabolic P , we have filtration

$$U = U_1 \supset U_2 = U_{\beta_0} \supset \{1\}.$$

Translating the results of Proposition 1.5, we have the following.

COROLLARY 2.1

If $\text{char}(k) = 2$ and G is of type C_{n+1} , then $L = G \text{Sp}_{2n}$ and U is abelian of dimension $2n + 1$. In all other cases the commutator subgroup of U is U_2 , and $U^{ab} = U/(U, U)$ is isomorphic to V_1 as an L -module. When this L -module is irreducible (e.g., when $\text{char}(k) \neq 2, 3$), the center of U is isomorphic to U_2 .

3. The Heisenberg parabolic in G_2

We specialize the results of Sections 1 and 2 to the group $G = G_2$ and the Heisenberg parabolic P . If the simple roots of G are $\Delta = \{\alpha, \alpha'\}$ with α long, then P is associated to α and the Levi factor L of P is isomorphic to GL_2 , with simple root α' . We have four root spaces contributing to V_1 ,

$$\{\alpha, \alpha + \alpha', \alpha + 2\alpha', \alpha + 3\alpha'\},$$

and a single root space

$$\beta_0 = 2\alpha + 3\alpha'$$

contributing to V_2 .

The pairing

$$f : \bigwedge^2 V_1 \rightarrow V_2$$

is nondegenerate, and V_1 is irreducible, provided $\text{char}(k) \neq 3$. If the characteristic of k is 3, then the L -submodule V_1^{short} is spanned by the two root spaces

$$\{\alpha + \alpha', \alpha + 2\alpha'\}$$

and this submodule is the radical of the nonzero pairing f . In all cases, $U^{ab} \cong V_1$ is a 4-dimensional representation of L .

PROPOSITION 3.1

The representation L on the space $\text{Hom}(U, \mathbb{G}_a)$ is isomorphic to the twisted representation of GL_2 on the space of binary cubic forms

$$p(x, y) = ax^3 + bx^2y + cxy^2 + dy^3$$

over k , where

$$\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} \in \mathrm{GL}_2$$

acts by the formula

$$\gamma \cdot p(x, y) = \frac{1}{\det(\gamma)} \cdot p(Ax + Cy, Bx + Dy).$$

Proof

Since $\mathrm{Hom}(U, \mathbb{G}_a) = \mathrm{Hom}(U^{ab}, \mathbb{G}_a)$, the representation of L on the character group is isomorphic to V_1^* . This is indecomposable, and when $\mathrm{char}(k) \neq 3$, it is in fact irreducible. Our identification of the unique submodule shows that $\mathrm{Hom}(U, \mathbb{G}_a) \cong S^3(k^2)$ as representations of $L^{\mathrm{der}} \cong \mathrm{SL}_2$. Since the center of L acts by a fundamental character on V_1 and hence on V_1^* , we may choose an isomorphism $L \cong \mathrm{GL}_2$ so that the central element

$$\begin{pmatrix} A & 0 \\ 0 & A \end{pmatrix}$$

acts by multiplication by A . This gives the result. \square

Remarks.

- (i) The twisted representation of GL_2 on the space of binary cubic forms is faithful, whereas the usual action has kernel μ_3 .
- (ii) Under the choice of the isomorphism $L \cong \mathrm{GL}_2$ in the above proof, the modulus character δ_P of P is given by

$$\delta_P(g) = \det(g)^{-3} \quad \text{for } g \in L.$$

Here is another way to see that linear forms on V_1 correspond to binary cubic forms $p(x, y)$. Define the cubic mapping $\theta : k^2 \rightarrow V_1 \otimes \det$ by the formula

$$\theta(x, y) = x^3 e_\alpha + x^2 y e_{\alpha+\alpha'} + x y^2 e_{\alpha+2\alpha'} + y^3 e_{\alpha+3\alpha'}. \quad (3.2)$$

Here $\langle e_\alpha, e_{\alpha+\alpha'}, e_{\alpha+2\alpha'}, e_{\alpha+3\alpha'} \rangle$ is a Chevalley basis, normalized by

$$\begin{aligned} [e_{\alpha'}, e_\alpha] &= e_{\alpha+\alpha'}, \\ [e_{\alpha'}, e_{\alpha+\alpha'}] &= 2e_{\alpha+2\alpha'}, \\ [e_{\alpha'}, e_{\alpha+2\alpha'}] &= 3e_{\alpha+3\alpha'}. \end{aligned}$$

A short computation shows that one can choose an isomorphism $L \cong \mathrm{GL}_2$ so that θ is L -equivariant. Hence, linear forms p on V_1 give cubic forms $p \circ \theta(x, y)$ on k^2 .

A Borel subgroup of L stabilizes a unique complete flag

$$0 \subset W_1 \subset W_2 \subset W_3 \subset W_4 = V_1$$

with $\dim W_i = i$. It also stabilizes a unique line l in the standard representation k^2 . The line W_1 is equal to $\theta(l)$; more generally, we have the following.

PROPOSITION 3.3

A linear form p vanishes on the subspace W_i if and only if the corresponding cubic form $p \circ \theta$ on k^2 vanishes to order greater than or equal to i on the line l .

Proof

It suffices to check this for the Borel subgroup B of upper triangular matrices which stabilizes the line $l = \langle (x, 0) \rangle$ since all the Borel subgroups are conjugate. The complete flag in V^* stabilized by B is given by

$$0 \subset \langle x^3 \rangle \subset \langle x^3, x^2y \rangle \subset \langle x^3, x^2y, xy^2 \rangle \subset V_1^*.$$

Hence, the linear forms p vanishing on W_1 are those of the form $ax^3 + bx^2y + cxy^2$, which vanish to order greater than or equal to 1 on l . The p vanishing on W_2 are those of the form $ax^3 + bx^2y$, and these cubic forms vanish to order greater than or equal to 2 on l . Finally, the p vanishing on W_3 have the form ax^3 and vanish to order greater than or equal to 3 on l . \square

We now consider $G = G_2$ as a Chevalley group over \mathbb{Z} , with Heisenberg parabolic $P = L \cdot U$. The Levi factor is now isomorphic to the group scheme GL_2 over \mathbb{Z} , and V_1 and V_2 are free \mathbb{Z} -modules (of ranks 4 and 1) on which L acts. By our results over fields, the bracket $f : \bigwedge^2 V_1 \rightarrow V_2$ is surjective, $[U, U] \cong U_{\beta_0}$, and $\mathrm{Hom}(U, \mathbb{G}_a)$ is isomorphic to the free \mathbb{Z} -module $\mathrm{Hom}(V_1, \mathbb{G}_a) = \mathrm{Hom}(U(\mathbb{Z}), \mathbb{Z})$. We have shown the following (cf. [Sp, pp. 160–161]).

PROPOSITION 3.4

The representation of $L(\mathbb{Z})$ on the module $\mathrm{Hom}(U(\mathbb{Z}), \mathbb{Z})$ is isomorphic to the twisted representation of $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ on the space of binary cubic forms over \mathbb{Z} .

Thus, the set of $L(\mathbb{Z})$ -orbits on $\mathrm{Hom}(U(\mathbb{Z}), \mathbb{Z})$ is in canonical bijection with the set of $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ -orbits on the space of binary cubic forms. In the next section we identify these orbits with the isomorphism classes of rings A of rank 3 over \mathbb{Z} .

4. Binary cubic forms and cubic rings

We recall that the twisted action of

$$\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$$

on the element

$$p(x, y) = ax^3 + bx^2y + cxy^2 + dy^3$$

in the space of binary cubic forms with integer coefficients is given by

$$\gamma \cdot p(x, y) = \frac{1}{\det(\gamma)} \cdot p(Ax + Cy, Bx + Dy). \quad (4.1)$$

As remarked earlier, this twisted action is faithful. In this section we parametrize the $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ -orbits.

We say that a commutative, associative ring A (with unit 1) is a *cubic ring* if A is a free \mathbb{Z} -module of rank 3.

PROPOSITION 4.2

There is a bijection, given below, between the set of $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ -orbits on the space of binary cubic forms with integer coefficients and the set of isomorphism classes of cubic rings A .

Proof

If A is a cubic ring, choose a basis $A = \mathbb{Z} \cdot 1 + \mathbb{Z} \cdot \alpha + \mathbb{Z} \cdot \beta$ over \mathbb{Z} . By adding integers to α and β , we may arrange that the product

$$\alpha\beta = n$$

lies in \mathbb{Z} . Call this a *good basis* for A (cf. [DF, pp. 103–105]). We first establish a bijection between cubic rings with a good basis (up to isomorphism) and binary cubic forms.

A cubic ring with a good basis is determined up to isomorphism by the products

$$\begin{cases} \alpha\beta = n, \\ \alpha^2 = m + b\alpha - a\beta, \\ \beta^2 = l + d\alpha - c\beta, \end{cases} \quad (4.3)$$

with a, b, c, d, l, m, n in \mathbb{Z} . Since A is associative, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha^2 \cdot \beta &= \alpha \cdot \alpha\beta, \\ \alpha \cdot \beta^2 &= \alpha\beta \cdot \beta. \end{aligned}$$

Writing these out, we find that

$$\begin{cases} n = -ad, \\ m = -ac, \\ l = -bd, \end{cases} \quad (4.4)$$

but that the integers (a, b, c, d) are arbitrary. To A with the good basis $(1, \alpha, \beta)$, we associate the binary cubic form $p(x, y) = ax^3 + bx^2y + cxy^2 + dy^3$, and to the form p , we associate the cubic ring with multiplication given by (4.3) and (4.4). This is the first bijection.

Now consider the operation where a good basis $(1, \alpha, \beta)$ of A is replaced by another good basis $(1, \alpha', \beta')$. Write

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ u & A & B \\ v & C & D \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \alpha' \\ \beta' \end{pmatrix}$$

with

$$\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}),$$

and u and v integers determined by γ (and the fact that $\alpha'\beta' = n'$ is an integer). After some calculation, best suppressed here, we find that the form

$$p'(x, y) = a'x^3 + b'x^2y + c'xy^2 + d'y^3$$

associated to $(1, \alpha', \beta')$ is equal to $\gamma \cdot p$. This completes the proof of the proposition. \square

As an example, the orbit of $p = (0, 0, 0, 0)$ gives the cubic ring

$$A = \mathbb{Z}[\alpha, \beta]/(\alpha^2, \beta^2, \alpha\beta),$$

and the orbit of $p = (1, 0, 0, 0)$ gives the cubic ring

$$A = \mathbb{Z}[\alpha]/(\alpha^3).$$

Remarks. P. Deligne has observed that the bijection of orbits and rings established in Proposition 4.2 holds over any base scheme S . There is an equivalence of categories between the following two kinds of objects, with morphisms being the isomorphisms:

- (a) a vector bundle V of rank 2 with p in $\mathrm{Sym}^3(V) \otimes \bigwedge^2(V)^{-1}$;
- (b) a vector bundle A of rank 3 with a (commutative) algebra structure.

The key point is that we are not looking at the action of $\mathrm{GL}(V)$ on binary cubic forms (i.e., on elements of $\mathrm{Sym}^3(V)$) where the subgroup μ_3 in the center acts trivially, but at the twisted action on $\mathrm{Sym}^3(V) \otimes \bigwedge^2(V)^{-1}$, which is faithful.

The invariants and covariants of the form $p(x, y)$, studied in the nineteenth century by G. Eisenstein, C. Hermite, and others (see [DF, p. 167]), can all be given in terms

of the cubic ring A (see the recent article [HM]). For example, the discriminant Δ of $p(x, y)$, defined by

$$\Delta = b^2c^2 + 18abcd - 4ac^3 - 4db^3 - 27a^2d^2, \quad (4.5)$$

is equal to the discriminant of A over \mathbb{Z} . Indeed, if $\text{Tr} : A \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is the trace form, we have

$$\text{disc}(A/\mathbb{Z}) = \det \begin{pmatrix} \text{Tr}(1) & \text{Tr}(\alpha) & \text{Tr}(\beta) \\ \text{Tr}(\alpha) & \text{Tr}(\alpha^2) & \text{Tr}(\alpha\beta) \\ \text{Tr}(\beta) & \text{Tr}(\alpha\beta) & \text{Tr}(\beta^2) \end{pmatrix}$$

for any \mathbb{Z} -basis $(1, \alpha, \beta)$ of A . Using a good basis, we find

$$\begin{cases} \text{Tr}(1) = 3, \\ \text{Tr}(\alpha) = b, \\ \text{Tr}(\beta) = -c, \\ \text{Tr}(\alpha^2) = b^2 - 2ac, \\ \text{Tr}(\beta^2) = c^2 - 2bd, \\ \text{Tr}(\alpha\beta) = -3ad. \end{cases}$$

From this we obtain the identity $\text{disc}(A/\mathbb{Z}) = \Delta$.

Eisenstein defined a quadratic covariant of $p(x, y)$:

$$q(x, y) = (b^2 - 3ac)x^2 + (bc - 9ad)xy + (c^2 - 3bd)y^2. \quad (4.6)$$

We have

$$\text{disc}(q) = -3\Delta,$$

and q is positive definite when $\Delta > 0$. If $p(x, y)$ is associated to A with a good basis $(1, \alpha, \beta)$, and we write

$$\gamma = x\alpha + y\beta = \frac{\text{Tr}(\gamma)}{3} + \gamma_0$$

with $\gamma_0 \in (1/3) \cdot A$ of trace zero, then we have

$$q(x, y) = \frac{3}{2} \text{Tr}(\gamma_0^2). \quad (4.7)$$

Similarly, Hermite defined a cubic covariant of $p(x, y)$:

$$\begin{aligned} n(x, y) &= (2b^3 - 9abc + 27a^2d)x^3 \\ &\quad + (3b^2c - 9ac^2 + 27abd)x^2y \\ &\quad + (-3bc^2 + 18b^2d - 27acd)xy^2 \\ &\quad + (-2c^3 + 9bcd - 27ad^2)y^3, \end{aligned} \quad (4.8)$$

with

$$\Delta(n) = 3^6 \cdot \Delta^3.$$

With the above notation, we have the formula

$$n(x, y) = 27 \cdot \mathbb{N}(\gamma_0). \quad (4.9)$$

The relation between the covariants (of degree 6),

$$n(x, y)^2 + 27 \cdot \Delta \cdot p(x, y)^2 = 4 \cdot q(x, y)^3,$$

follows from the formula for the discriminant of γ_0 in terms of the coefficients of its characteristic polynomial.

5. Primitivity and Gorenstein cubic rings

One invariant of the $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ -orbit of $p(x, y)$ is the content $e \geq 0$ of the form p , defined as the nonnegative generator of the ideal $\mathbb{Z}a + \mathbb{Z}b + \mathbb{Z}c + \mathbb{Z}d$ of \mathbb{Z} . We say that $p(x, y)$ is *primitive* if $e = 1$. Every nonzero form p may be written uniquely as

$$p = e \cdot p_0 \quad (5.1)$$

with $e \geq 1$ the content of p , and p_0 primitive. If the cubic ring A corresponds to the $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ -orbit of $p(x, y)$, then we also say that A has content e .

We say that the cubic ring is Gorenstein if the A -module $\mathrm{Hom}(A, \mathbb{Z})$ is projective. For example, if $A = \mathbb{Z}[\gamma]$ is generated by a single element, it is Gorenstein. Indeed, $\mathrm{Hom}(A, \mathbb{Z}) = A \cdot f$ is free, with basis given by the map

$$\begin{cases} f(1) = 0, \\ f(\gamma) = 0, \\ f(\gamma^2) = 1. \end{cases}$$

PROPOSITION 5.2

The form $p(x, y)$ is primitive if and only if the associated cubic ring A is Gorenstein. If $p = e \cdot p_0$ with $e \geq 1$, then $A = \mathbb{Z} + eA_0$.

Before proving this result, we give a useful description of the function $|p(x, y)|$, using the rank 2 \mathbb{Z} -module A/\mathbb{Z} .

LEMMA 5.3

The element $\gamma = m\alpha + n\beta \pmod{\mathbb{Z}}$ in A/\mathbb{Z} generates a subring of finite index in A if and only if $p(m, n) \neq 0$. In this case, $|p(m, n)|$ is the index of $\mathbb{Z}[\gamma]$ in A .

Proof

Since

$$\gamma^2 = m^2\alpha^2 + 2mn\alpha\beta + n^2\beta^2 + k(m\alpha + n\beta) + l,$$

where k and l are integers, we have

$$\gamma^2 \equiv (bm^2 + dn^2 + km)\alpha + (-am^2 - cn^2 + kn)\beta$$

in A/\mathbb{Z} .

The index of $\mathbb{Z}[\gamma]$ in A is finite if and only if the matrix

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} m & bm^2 + dn^2 + km \\ n & -am^2 - cn^2 + kn \end{pmatrix}$$

has nonzero determinant, in which case the index is $|\det(M)|$. Since $\det(M) = -p(m, n)$, the lemma is proved. \square

Proof of Proposition 5.2

Let l be a prime number, and put $A_l = A \otimes \mathbb{Z}_l$. We show that $p(x, y) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{l}$ is equivalent to the fact that $\text{Hom}(A_l, \mathbb{Z}_l)$ is a free A_l -module.

If $p(x, y) \equiv 0 \pmod{l}$, then the ring

$$A/lA = \mathbb{Z}/l\mathbb{Z}[\alpha, \beta]/(\alpha^2, \beta^2, \alpha\beta)$$

is not Gorenstein over $\mathbb{Z}/l\mathbb{Z}$. Indeed, it is a local ring with maximal ideal $m = (\alpha, \beta)$. Since $m^2 = 0$, the kernel of m on A/lA has dimension 2, but A/m has dimension 1.

Now assume that $p(x, y) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{l}$. Since p has at most three distinct roots $(\text{mod } l)$, we can find $(m, n) \in \mathbb{Z}_l^2$ such that $p(m, n)$ is a unit in \mathbb{Z}_l , unless $l = 2$ and $p(x, y)$ is equivalent to the form $x^2y - xy^2$ over \mathbb{Z}_2 . In the latter case, $A_2 \cong \mathbb{Z}_2^3$, and $\text{Hom}(A_2, \mathbb{Z}_2) \cong A_2$ by the trace form. So we may assume that $p(m, n)$ is a unit in \mathbb{Z}_l . By Lemma 5.3, $A_l = \mathbb{Z}_l[\gamma]$ with $\gamma = m\alpha + n\beta$. Hence, $\text{Hom}(A_l, \mathbb{Z}_l)$ is a free module by the remarks preceding Proposition 5.2. This proves the first assertion in Proposition 5.2.

If $(1, \alpha_0, \beta_0)$ is a good basis for A_0 , with form $p_0(x, y)$, then $(1, \alpha = e\alpha_0, \beta = e\beta_0)$ is a good basis for $A = \mathbb{Z} + eA_0$. The associated form is $p = e \cdot p_0$ by the formulas in (4.3). This proves the second assertion of Proposition 5.2. \square

For our calculations with Hecke operators in Section 15, we need a local variant of the content e . We say that the p -depth of A is n if e is divisible by p^n and not by p^{n+1} . Assume, for the rest of the section, that the p -depth of A is zero. Let $A_n = \mathbb{Z} + p^n A$ which has p -depth n , and let $q(x, y)$ be a binary cubic form in the orbit corresponding to A . For all $n \geq 0$, the abelian group A_n/A_{n+1} is isomorphic to $(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^2$, so there

are $(p + 1)$ free abelian groups B with $A_{n+1} \subset B \subset A_n$. How many of these lattices are cubic rings?

PROPOSITION 5.4

There is one-to-one correspondence between the solutions of $q(x, y) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$ and the cubic rings B with $A_1 \subset B \subset A$.

If $n \geq 1$, any lattice B with $A_{n+1} \subset B \subset A_n$ is a cubic ring.

Proof

Let $\langle 1, \alpha, \beta \rangle$ be the good basis for A corresponding to the cubic form $q(x, y)$. Any lattice B between A_1 and A is spanned by $1, p\alpha, p\beta$, and an additional element $a\alpha + b\beta$ for some integers a and b (which are well defined \pmod{p}). One checks that B is a ring if and only if $q(a, b) = 0 \pmod{p}$. The statement for $n \geq 1$ is clear. \square

Note that the cubic rings B between A_{n+1} and A_n may be mutually isomorphic. For example, when $A = \mathbb{Z}^3$, then the three cubic rings B between A_1 and A are abstractly isomorphic.

PROPOSITION 5.5

Let B be a ring such that $A_{n+1} \subset B \subset A_n$. Then the p -depth of B lies between $n - 1$ and $n + 2$. If the p -depth of B is $n - 1 + i$, then $q(x, y) \pmod{p}$ has a zero of order i .

Proof

We can find a good basis $\langle 1, \alpha, \beta \rangle$ of A such that $\langle 1, p^n\alpha, p^{n+1}\beta \rangle$ is a good basis of B . If $q(x, y) = ax^3 + bx^2y + cxy^2 + dy^3$ is the cubic form associated to the above good basis for A , the cubic form associated to the above good basis for B is

$$ap^{n-1}x^3 + bp^nx^2y + cp^{n+1}xy^2 + dp^{n+2}y^3.$$

The first assertion now follows from the fact that A has p -depth zero. Moreover, if the form attached to B is divisible by p^{n-1+i} , then $(1, 0)$ is a zero of $q(x, y) \pmod{p}$ of order i . \square

COROLLARY 5.6

If A/pA is a cubic field and B is a cubic ring such that $A_{n+1} \subset B \subset A_n$, then the p -depth of B is $n - 1$.

Fix an arbitrary cubic ring A' (not necessarily of p -depth zero) and a binary cubic form $q'(x, y)$ in the $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ -orbit corresponding to A' . We conclude this section by describing another way of parametrizing the cubic rings B that contain or are contained in A' with index p .

By base extension, the action of $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ on the binary cubic forms over \mathbb{Z} gives rise to a rational representation of $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Q})$ on the \mathbb{Q} -vector space of binary cubic forms over \mathbb{Q} . Further, one has the analog of Proposition 4.2 over \mathbb{Q} , with the same proof. Now we have the following.

PROPOSITION 5.7

(i) Let S_1 be the set of left cosets $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})\gamma$ contained in

$$\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}) \begin{pmatrix} P & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}).$$

Then there is a natural bijection between

$$\{\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})\gamma \in S_1 : \gamma \cdot q' \text{ has integer coefficients}\}$$

and the set of cubic rings B such that $B \subset_p A'$.

(ii) Let S_2 be the set of left cosets $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})\gamma$ contained in

$$\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}).$$

Then there is a natural bijection between the set $\{\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})\gamma \in S_2 : \gamma \cdot q' \text{ has integer coefficients}\}$ and the set of cubic rings B such that $A' \subset_p B$.

Proof

(i) Suppose that the binary cubic form q' corresponds to the good basis $\{1, \alpha, \beta\}$ of A' . Every

$$\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}) \begin{pmatrix} P & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$$

determines a lattice

$$L_\gamma = \langle 1, A\alpha + B\beta, C\alpha + D\beta \rangle \subset_p A'.$$

The lattice L_γ depends only on the left coset $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})\gamma$, so that there is a bijection between S_1 and the set of lattices $L \subset_p A'$. The lattice L_γ is a ring if and only if $q'(A, B) \equiv q'(C, D) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$. On the other hand, a simple but somewhat tedious calculation shows that $\gamma \cdot q'$ has integer coefficients if and only if $q'(A, B) \equiv q'(C, D) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$. Further, in this case the integral binary cubic form $\gamma \cdot q'$ corresponds to the cubic ring L_γ . This proves (i).

(ii) The proof is similar to that for (i); we omit the details. \square

6. Quaternionic discrete series

We now consider the restriction of certain discrete series representation of the real Lie group $G_2(\mathbb{R})$ to the Heisenberg parabolic subgroup. Wallach has recently studied this situation in a more general setting (see [W3]), and we simply state his results for G_2 here.

The discrete series π_k we consider here were discussed in [GW]. They are parametrized by integers $k \geq 2$ and have infinitesimal character $\rho + (k - 2)\beta_0$, with β_0 the highest root. In this paper π_k denotes the Casselman-Wallach globalization, which is a smooth Fréchet representation of moderate growth (cf. [C], [W2], [W1]). The maximal compact subgroup K of $G_2(\mathbb{R})$ is $SU_4 = (SU_2 \times SU_2)/\langle \pm 1 \rangle$, with the long root SU_2 as the first factor. The representation π_k is admissible for the long root SU_2 , and its underlying Harish-Chandra module decomposes as a K -module:

$$(\pi_k)_K \cong \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} S^{2k+n}(\mathbb{C}^2) \otimes S^n(S^3\mathbb{C}^2).$$

The minimal K -type is the representation

$$S^{2k} \otimes S^0 \quad \text{of } (SU_2 \times SU_2)/\langle \pm 1 \rangle,$$

of dimension $2k + 1$. Finally, the subgroup $K_0 = U_2 = (U_1 \times SU_2)/\langle \pm 1 \rangle$ of K has highest weight $(\det)^k$ on the minimal K -type. Moreover, the representations π_k are nongeneric: they have Gelfand-Kirillov dimension 5.

We also have the continuation of quaternionic discrete series π_0 and π_1 constructed in [GW]. They have the same properties as the representations π_k above, although the infinitesimal characters $\rho - \beta_0$ and $\rho - 2\beta_0$ are no longer regular. The representation π_1 is a limit discrete series, and π_0 has a trivial minimal K -type. Both are unipotent in the sense of D. Vogan [V].

Following the techniques in [GW, §6], one can show that π_k is a submodule of a degenerate C^∞ -principal series representation $\text{Ind}_{P(\mathbb{R})}^{G_2(\mathbb{R})} \lambda_k$, with λ_k a 1-dimensional representation of $P(\mathbb{R})/U(\mathbb{R}) \cong \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{R})$. Indeed, we have

$$\lambda_k = (\text{sign})^k \cdot |\det|^{-k-1},$$

where (sign) is the unique quadratic character of $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{R})$. Here we recall that we have chosen an isomorphism $L \cong \text{GL}_2$ so that the modulus character of P is $\delta_P = \det^{-3}$.

The real vector space $\text{Hom}(U(\mathbb{R}), \mathbb{R})$ is isomorphic to the group of characters $\text{Hom}(U(\mathbb{R}), S^1)$ under the map taking f to $\chi = e^{2\pi i f}$. This isomorphism takes the lattice $\text{Hom}(U(\mathbb{Z}), \mathbb{Z})$ to the subgroup of characters χ that are trivial on $U(\mathbb{Z})$. This subgroup is a representation of $L(\mathbb{Z})$, isomorphic to the action of $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ on the space of binary cubic forms with integer coefficients.

The full character group is a representation of $L(\mathbb{R}) \cong \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{R})$, isomorphic to the representation on the space of binary cubic forms with real coefficients. We say

a character χ of $U(\mathbb{R})$ is *generic* when the cubic form $p(x, y)$ associated to χ has discriminant $\Delta \neq 0$. The generic characters break up into two $L(\mathbb{R})$ -orbits: those with $\Delta > 0$, corresponding to the real cubic algebra \mathbb{R}^3 , and those with $\Delta < 0$, corresponding to the cubic algebra $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{C}$. A representative χ for the orbit with $\Delta > 0$ is given by $\chi = e^{2\pi i f}$, where $f : U(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is nonzero on the two short root spaces \mathfrak{g}_γ with $m_\alpha(\gamma) = 1$, and zero on the two long root spaces with $m_\alpha(\gamma) = 1$.

The following is Wallach's result for G_2 .

PROPOSITION 6.1

Let χ be a generic character of $U(\mathbb{R})$, and let $k \geq 0$.

If $\Delta(\chi) < 0$, then the complex vector space of continuous linear maps $\text{Hom}_{U(\mathbb{R})}(\pi_k, \mathbb{C}(\chi))$ is zero.

If $\Delta(\chi) > 0$, then the complex vector space of continuous linear maps $\text{Hom}_{U(\mathbb{R})}(\pi_k, \mathbb{C}(\chi))$ is 1-dimensional, and it affords the representation $(\text{sign})^k$ for $\Sigma_3 = \text{Stab}(\chi) \subset \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{R})$.

7. Modular forms on G_2 of weight k

We fix a quaternionic discrete series representation π_k of $G_2(\mathbb{R})$ with $k \geq 2$, or a continuation with $k = 0$ or 1. Let \mathcal{A} be the space of automorphic forms on G_2 . More precisely, \mathcal{A} is the space of smooth functions φ on the adelic group

$$G_2(\mathbb{A}) = G_2(\mathbb{R}) \times G_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Q}})$$

which satisfy the following conditions:

- (i) φ is left-invariant under $G_2(\mathbb{Q})$;
- (ii) φ is right-invariant under some open compact subgroup K_f of $G_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Q}})$;
- (iii) φ is annihilated by an ideal J of finite codimension in $Z(\mathfrak{g})$, the center of the universal enveloping algebra of the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} of $G_2(\mathbb{R})$;
- (iv) φ is of uniform moderate growth on $G_2(\mathbb{R})$ (cf. [BoJ], [W2, p. 252]).

Note that this definition of \mathcal{A} differs from that in much of the literature since we are not assuming that φ is K -finite; instead, let \mathcal{A}_K be the subspace of \mathcal{A} consisting of K -finite functions. As a result, \mathcal{A} is a representation of the adelic group $G_2(\mathbb{A})$. For fixed K_f and J , let $\mathcal{A}(J, K_f)$ be the subspace of \mathcal{A} consisting of those functions φ for which conditions (ii) and (iii) are satisfied with respect to the given J and K_f . As shown in [W2], $\mathcal{A}(J, K_f)$ is a smooth Frechet representation of $G_2(\mathbb{R})$ of moderate growth. By a fundamental theorem of Harish-Chandra (cf. [BoJ, Th. 1.7]), its underlying (\mathfrak{g}, K) -module $\mathcal{A}(J, K_f)_K$ is admissible and finitely generated. Thus, $\mathcal{A}(J, K_f)$ is the Casselman-Wallach globalization of $\mathcal{A}(J, K_f)_K$ by results of [C] and [W1]. Let $\mathcal{A}_0 \subset \mathcal{A}$ be the subspace of cusp forms. We now give the following definition.

Definition

The space of modular forms of weight k and level 1 for G_2 is the complex vector space

$$M_k = \text{Hom}_{G_2(\mathbb{R}) \times G_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})}(\pi_k \otimes \mathbb{C}, \mathcal{A}). \quad (7.1)$$

The subspace of cusp forms is

$$M_k^0 = \text{Hom}_{G_2(\mathbb{R}) \times G_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})}(\pi_k \otimes \mathbb{C}, \mathcal{A}_0). \quad (7.2)$$

By the fundamental theorem of Harish-Chandra alluded to above, M_k is finite-dimensional. Moreover, it affords a representation of the spherical Hecke algebra

$$\mathcal{H}(G_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Q}}) // G_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})) \cong \bigotimes_l \mathcal{H}(G_2(\mathbb{Q}_l) // G_2(\mathbb{Z}_l)).$$

In Sections 9 and 10 we give some examples of elements of M_k , and in Section 15 we study the action of $\mathcal{H}(G_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Q}}) // G_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}}))$ on M_k in greater detail.

8. Fourier coefficients

In this section we define, for any $f \in M_k$, a collection of Fourier coefficients $c_A(f) \in \mathbb{C}$. The coefficients are indexed by those cubic rings A with $A \otimes \mathbb{R} = \mathbb{R}^3$ and depend linearly on f .

For vectors $v \in \pi_k$, we may view $f(v)$ as a function on the double coset space

$$G_2(\mathbb{Q}) \backslash G_2(\mathbb{A}) / G_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}}),$$

which is identified with the single coset space

$$G_2(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash G_2(\mathbb{R})$$

by the strong approximation theorem $G_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Q}}) = G_2(\mathbb{Q}) \cdot G_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$. Let χ be a character of $U(\mathbb{R})$ which is trivial on $U(\mathbb{Z})$, and define a continuous linear form on π_k by the integral

$$l_\chi(v) = \int_{U(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash U(\mathbb{R})} f(v)(u) \overline{\chi(u)} du. \quad (8.1)$$

Here du is a Haar measure on the unipotent group $U(\mathbb{R})$, and the quotient $U(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash U(\mathbb{R})$ is compact.

PROPOSITION 8.2

The linear form l_χ lies in the complex vector space $\text{Hom}_{U(\mathbb{R})}(\pi_k, \mathbb{C}(\chi))$. If $\chi' = \gamma \cdot \chi$ with γ in $L(\mathbb{Z})$, then $l_{\chi'} = \gamma \cdot l_\chi$.

Proof

For $g \in U(\mathbb{R})$ we must show that $l_\chi(gv) = \chi(g)l_\chi(v)$. But $f(gv)$ is the function on $G_2(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash G_2(\mathbb{R})$ defined by

$$f(gv)(h) = f(v)(hg).$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} l_\chi(gv) &= \int_{U(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash U(\mathbb{R})} f(gv)(u) \overline{\chi(u)} du \\ &= \int_{U(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash U(\mathbb{R})} f(v)(ug) \overline{\chi(u)} du \\ &= \int_{U(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash U(\mathbb{R})} f(v)(u') \overline{\chi(u'g^{-1})} du' \quad (u' = ug, du' = du) \\ &= \chi(g)l_\chi(v), \end{aligned}$$

as required. Now assume that $\chi' = \gamma \cdot \chi$ with γ in $L(\mathbb{Z})$, so that

$$\chi'(u) = \chi(\gamma^{-1}(u)) = \chi(\gamma^{-1}u\gamma).$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} l_{\chi'}(v) &= \int_{U(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash U(\mathbb{R})} f(v)(u) \overline{\chi'(u)} du \\ &= \int_{U(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash U(\mathbb{R})} f(v)(u) \overline{\chi(\gamma^{-1}u\gamma)} du \\ &= \int_{U(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash U(\mathbb{R})} f(v)(\gamma u' \gamma^{-1}) \overline{\chi(u')} du' \quad (u' = \gamma^{-1}u\gamma, du' = du) \\ &= \int_{U(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash U(\mathbb{R})} f(\gamma^{-1}v)(u') \overline{\chi(u')} du \\ &= l_\chi(\gamma^{-1}v) = \gamma \cdot l_\chi(v). \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

If $\Delta(\chi) < 0$, $l_\chi = 0$ by Proposition 6.1. If $\Delta(\chi) > 0$, l_χ lies in the 1-dimensional complex vector space $\text{Hom}_{U(\mathbb{R})}(\pi_k, \mathbb{C}(\chi))$. Fix a character χ_0 with $\Delta(\chi_0) > 0$, and a basis vector l_0 of $\text{Hom}_{U(\mathbb{R})}(\pi_k, \mathbb{C}(\chi_0))$. Since χ is in the $L(\mathbb{R})$ -orbit of χ_0 , we may write $\chi = g \cdot \chi_0$ with $g \in L(\mathbb{R})$ well defined up to right multiplication by $\Sigma_3 = \text{Stab}(\chi_0)$. If k is even, this finite group fixes l_0 . If k is odd, Σ_3 acts on $\text{Hom}_{U(\mathbb{R})}(\pi_k, \mathbb{C}(\chi_0))$ by the sign character. In any case, the linear form $\lambda_k(g) \cdot (g \cdot l_0)$ gives a well-defined basis element of $\text{Hom}_{U(\mathbb{R})}(\pi_k, \mathbb{C}(\chi))$. Hence, we may write

$$l_\chi = c_\chi(f) \cdot \lambda_k(g) \cdot (g \cdot l_0) \tag{8.3}$$

for some constant $c_\chi(f)$.

If the weight k is even, it follows by Proposition 8.2 that $c_\chi(f)$ depends only on the $L(\mathbb{Z})$ -orbit of the character χ . We have seen in Propositions 3.4 and 4.2 that the $L(\mathbb{Z})$ -orbits of such χ 's are indexed canonically by the cubic rings A with $\text{disc}(A) > 0$, so that $A \otimes \mathbb{R} = \mathbb{R}^3$. Hence, if the orbit of χ corresponds to A , we write $c_A(f)$ for the constants $c_\chi(f)$ in this orbit and call $c_A(f)$ the A th Fourier coefficient of f .

When k is odd, it is no longer the case that the constant $c_\chi(f)$ depends only on the $L(\mathbb{Z})$ -orbit of χ . Indeed, if $\chi' = \gamma \cdot \chi$, where $\gamma \in L(\mathbb{Z})$, an easy calculation shows that $c_{\chi'}(f) = \det(\gamma) \cdot c_\chi(f)$. As a consequence, $c_\chi(f)$ depends not only on the cubic ring A (which indexes the orbit of χ), but also on an orientation of A , that is, the choice of a basis element e of $\bigwedge^3 A$. Hence, when k is odd, we denote the Fourier coefficients of f by $c_{A,e}(f)$. Since $c_{A,-e}(f) = -c_{A,e}(f)$, we abuse notation and write $c_A(f)$ for the pair of numbers $\pm c_{A,e}(f)$. It is interesting to note that a similar complication arises for the Siegel modular forms of odd weight.

If we replace the basis l_0 by the basis $l'_0 = \alpha l_0$, then

$$c_A(f) = \alpha c'_A(f)$$

for all A . Also, it follows from definition that

$$c_A(\alpha f + \beta g) = \alpha c_A(f) + \beta c_A(g).$$

When k is odd, we have $c_A(f) = 0$ whenever the stabilizer of χ in $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ contains an involution, for example, when $A = \mathbb{Z} + B$ with B an order in a quadratic field.

Having defined the Fourier coefficients $c_A(f)$ for modular forms $f \in M_k$, we can ask a number of natural questions. The first question that suggests itself is whether f is determined by its Fourier coefficients. We can show that this is true for cusp forms.

PROPOSITION 8.4

If $f \in M_k^0$ is a cusp form and $c_A(f) = 0$ for all A , then $f = 0$.

The proof of this proposition makes use of the other standard maximal parabolic subgroup $Q = M \cdot N$ of G over \mathbb{Z} . Hence, we begin by describing the structure of Q briefly. Its Levi factor M is isomorphic to GL_2 , and its unipotent radical N is a 3-step nilpotent group over \mathbb{Z} :

$$N = N_1 \supset N_2 \supset N_3 \supset \{1\}.$$

This filtration is the one introduced in Section 2 for a general maximal parabolic subgroup. The center N_3 of N is 2-dimensional, and one can choose an isomorphism $M \cong \text{GL}_2$ so that the action of M on $\text{Hom}(N_3, \mathbb{G}_a)$ is the standard representation of GL_2 twisted by the determinant character. Similarly, $W_1 \cong N_1/N_2$ is also 2-dimensional, and the action of M on $\text{Hom}(W_1, \mathbb{Z})$ is the standard representation of

GL_2 . Note that $U \cap N$ is the 4-dimensional commutator subgroup of the unipotent radical of the Borel subgroup $B = P \cap Q$. Moreover, we have the inclusions

$$\begin{cases} U_2 \subset N_3, \\ N_2 \subset U \cap N, \end{cases}$$

where we recall from Section 2 that $U_2 = [U, U]$ is the center of the unipotent radical U of P .

Proof of Proposition 8.4

Take any nonzero $v \in \pi_k$, and let $\varphi = f(v) \in \mathcal{A}_0$. Using strong approximation, we regard φ as a function on $G_2(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash G_2(\mathbb{R})$. Note that φ is a nongeneric cusp form and that we need to show that $\varphi = 0$. We first note the following lemma.

LEMMA 8.5

The automorphic form φ vanishes if and only if its constant term along U_2 ,

$$\varphi_{U_2}(g) = \int_{U_2(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash U_2(\mathbb{R})} \varphi(ug) \, du, \quad g \in G_2(\mathbb{R}),$$

vanishes as a function on $G(\mathbb{R})$.

Proof

Clearly, if φ vanishes, so does φ_{U_2} . To prove the converse, consider the Fourier expansion of φ along the compact abelian group $N_3(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash N_3(\mathbb{R})$,

$$\varphi(g) = \sum_{\psi} \varphi_{\psi}(g),$$

where the sum extends over the characters $\psi \in \text{Hom}(N_3(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash N_3(\mathbb{R}), S^1)$, and

$$\varphi_{\psi}(g) = \int_{N_3(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash N_3(\mathbb{R})} \varphi(n g) \cdot \overline{\psi(n)} \, dn.$$

If $\varphi_{U_2} = 0$, then $\varphi_{\psi} = 0$ for any ψ that restricts to the trivial character on the subgroup $U_2(\mathbb{R})$. But any other character of $N_3(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash N_3(\mathbb{R})$ is conjugate under $M(\mathbb{Z})$ to a ψ of the above type. Hence, $\varphi_{\psi} = 0$ for all ψ , and the lemma is proved. \square

To prove Proposition 8.4, it remains to show that $\varphi_{U_2} = 0$. For any $g \in G(\mathbb{R})$, the function

$$u \mapsto \varphi_{U_2}(ug) \quad \text{for } u \in U(\mathbb{R})$$

descends to a function on $V_1(\mathbb{R})$, where $V_1 \cong U/U_2$. Considering the Fourier expansion of φ_{U_2} along the compact abelian group $V_1(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash V_1(\mathbb{R})$, we have

$$\varphi_{U_2}(g) = \sum_{\chi} \varphi_{\chi}(g),$$

where the sum is over the characters $\chi \in \text{Hom}(V_1(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash V_1(\mathbb{R}), S^1)$, and

$$\varphi_{\chi}(g) = \int_{V_1(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash V_1(\mathbb{R})} \varphi_{U_2}(vg) \cdot \overline{\chi(v)} \, dv.$$

Proposition 6.1 implies that $\varphi_{\chi} = 0$ for all χ satisfying $\Delta(\chi) < 0$, and by assumption, $\varphi_{\chi} = 0$ for those χ such that $\Delta(\chi) > 0$. Hence, to show that φ_{U_2} vanishes, it remains to see that $\varphi_{\chi} = 0$ for degenerate χ , that is, those for which $\Delta(\chi) = 0$.

We have yet to use the fact that φ is a nongeneric cusp form. This is equivalent to the assertion that the constant term $\varphi_{U \cap N}$ of φ along $U \cap N$ vanishes identically. To see this, consider the Fourier expansion of $\varphi_{U \cap N}$ along $U_B^{ab} = (U \cap N) \backslash U_B$, where U_B is the unipotent radical of the Borel subgroup B . We deduce that φ is cuspidal if and only if $(\varphi_{U \cap N})_{\psi} = 0$ for any degenerate character ψ of $U_B^{ab}(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash U_B^{ab}(\mathbb{R})$ (i.e., those ψ that restrict to the trivial character of the root subgroup corresponding to one of the two simple roots). On the other hand, φ is nongeneric if and only if $(\varphi_{U \cap N})_{\psi} = 0$ for any nondegenerate character ψ . Hence, ψ is a nongeneric cusp form if and only if $(\varphi)_{U \cap N} = 0$.

We now claim that in fact φ_{N_2} is already identically zero. To see this, we consider its Fourier expansion along $W_1(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash W_1(\mathbb{R})$, where $W_1 \cong N_1/N_2$:

$$\varphi_{N_2}(g) = \sum_{\phi} (\varphi_{N_2})_{\phi}(g).$$

The fact that $\varphi_{U \cap N} = 0$ implies that $(\varphi_{N_2})_{\phi} = 0$ for any ϕ that restricts to the trivial character on the subgroup $U(\mathbb{R}) \cap N(\mathbb{R})$. But any other character is conjugate under $M(\mathbb{Z})$ to a ϕ of the above type. Hence, we conclude that $\varphi_{N_2} = 0$. In particular, this implies that $\varphi_{\chi} = 0$ for any character $\chi \in \text{Hom}(V_1(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash V_1(\mathbb{R}), S^1)$ which restricts to the trivial character of $N_2(\mathbb{R}) \subset U(\mathbb{R})$.

Finally, we observe that any degenerate character χ is conjugate under $L(\mathbb{Z})$ to a character that is trivial on $N_2(\mathbb{R})$, and hence $\varphi_{\chi} = 0$ for all χ . Proposition 8.4 is proved completely. \square

We conclude this section with another question: Are there bounds for the Fourier coefficients of f in terms of the discriminants of the cubic rings? Recall that the discriminant $\text{disc}(A)$ of a cubic ring A is as defined in Section 4. The following proposition gives the analog of the Hecke bound for cusp forms.

PROPOSITION 8.6

Let $f \in M_k^0$ be a cusp form. Then for any totally real cubic ring A ,

$$|c_A(f)| \leq C_f \cdot |\text{disc}(A)|^{(k+1)/2}$$

for some constant C_f depending only on f .

Proof

Recall that the Fourier coefficient $c_A(f)$ is defined by equation (8.3):

$$l_\chi = c_A(f) \cdot \lambda_k(g) \cdot (g \cdot l_0),$$

where $\chi = g \cdot \chi_0$ is a character in the $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ -orbit corresponding to A . Assume without loss of generality that $\Delta(\chi_0) = 1$. (Here, $\Delta(\chi_0)$ is as defined in (4.5).) Then we see that

$$|\text{disc}(A)| = |\det(g)|^2.$$

Pick any $v_0 \in \pi_k$ such that $l_0(v_0) = 1$. Evaluating the above equation at the vector $g \cdot v_0$, we obtain

$$|c_A(f)| = |l_\chi(g \cdot v_0)| \cdot |\text{disc}(A)|^{(k+1)/2}.$$

On the other hand, as f is cuspidal, $f(v_0)$ is bounded as a function on $G_2(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash G_2(\mathbb{R})$. Since

$$l_\chi(g \cdot v_0) = \int_{U(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash U(\mathbb{R})} f(v_0)(ug) \cdot \overline{\chi(u)} du,$$

we conclude that $|l_\chi(g \cdot v_0)|$ is bounded above by a constant independent of A . The proposition is proved. \square

9. Eisenstein series of weight $2k \geq 4$

To show that the theory of Fourier coefficients developed above is nonempty, we give some examples of modular forms of weight k and study their Fourier coefficients. In this section we consider a natural family of Eisenstein series E_{2k} of even weight $2k \geq 4$, and we show under some hypotheses that their Fourier coefficients are given by

$$c_A(E_{2k}) = \zeta_A(1 - 2k)$$

for maximal cubic rings A .

As we mentioned before, there is an embedding

$$i : \pi_{2k} \hookrightarrow \text{Ind}_{P(\mathbb{R})}^{G_2(\mathbb{R})} \lambda_{2k},$$

which is well defined up to scaling. The character λ_{2k} is the archimedean component of a global character

$$\chi_k : P(\mathbb{A}) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times,$$

which is unramified at every finite place; indeed, one has

$$\chi_k = |\det|^{-2k-1}.$$

We can thus consider the global induced representation

$$I(k) = \text{Ind}_{P(\mathbb{A})}^{G_2(\mathbb{A})} \chi_k = \widehat{\bigotimes}_v I_v(k).$$

For a finite prime l , let $\Gamma_{k,l}$ be the unique vector in $I_l(k)$ which is fixed by $G_2(\mathbb{Z}_l)$, and which satisfies $\Gamma_{k,l}(1) = 1$. For $\varphi \in \pi_k$, set

$$\hat{\varphi} = i(\varphi) \otimes \left(\bigotimes_l \Gamma_{k,l} \right) \in I(k),$$

and form the Eisenstein series

$$E(\hat{\varphi}, g) = \sum_{\gamma \in P(\mathbb{Q}) \backslash G_2(\mathbb{Q})} \hat{\varphi}(\gamma g) \tag{9.1}$$

for $g \in G_2(\mathbb{R})$. This converges absolutely when $2k > 2$, and defines an element of \mathcal{A} which is right-invariant under $G_2(\hat{\mathbb{Z}})$. Thus, the map

$$E_{2k} : \varphi \mapsto E(\hat{\varphi}, g)$$

defines a nonzero element of M_{2k} .

We now consider the Fourier coefficients of E_{2k} . Much computation has been done by D. Jiang and S. Rallis [JR] in the adelic setting, and we begin by recalling their results. Let χ be a character of $U(\mathbb{R})$ which is trivial on $U(\mathbb{Z})$. By strong approximation we can regard χ as a character of $U(\mathbb{A})$ which is trivial on $U(\mathbb{Q})$ and $U(\hat{\mathbb{Z}})$. Consider the automorphic form $E(g) = E(\hat{\varphi}, g)$, defined by (9.1), for $\hat{\varphi} \in I(k)$. We then compute $l_\chi(\varphi)$ following the approach of [JR]:

$$\begin{aligned} l_\chi(\varphi) &= \int_{U(\mathbb{Q}) \backslash U(\mathbb{A})} E(u) \cdot \overline{\chi(u)} \, du \\ &= \int_{U(\mathbb{Q}) \backslash U(\mathbb{A})} \left(\sum_{\gamma \in P(\mathbb{Q}) \backslash G_2(\mathbb{Q})} \hat{\varphi}(\gamma u) \right) \cdot \overline{\chi(u)} \, du. \end{aligned}$$

Now the double coset space $P(\mathbb{Q}) \backslash G_2(\mathbb{Q}) / P(\mathbb{Q})$ has four representatives, say, w_0, w_1, w_2, w_3 , with

$$P(\mathbb{Q})w_0P(\mathbb{Q}) = P(\mathbb{Q})w_0U(\mathbb{Q})$$

the open P -orbit. Hence,

$$l_\chi(\varphi) = \sum_{i=0}^3 \int_{U(\mathbb{Q}) \backslash U(\mathbb{A})} \left(\sum_{\gamma \in P(\mathbb{Q}) \backslash P(\mathbb{Q})w_iP(\mathbb{Q})} \hat{\varphi}(\gamma u) \right) \cdot \overline{\chi(u)} \, du.$$

Jiang and Rallis showed that the only nonzero term in the sum over w_i is the term corresponding to w_0 . Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} l_\chi(\varphi) &= \int_{U(\mathbb{A})} \widehat{\varphi}(w_0 u) \cdot \overline{\chi(u)} \, du \\ &= \left(\int_{U(\mathbb{R})} \varphi(w_0 u) \cdot \overline{\chi(u)} \, du \right) \cdot \left(\prod_p \int_{U(\mathbb{Q}_p)} \Gamma_p(w_0 u_p) \cdot \overline{\chi(u_p)} \, du_p \right), \end{aligned}$$

an absolutely convergent Euler product. Now we have the following (see [JR, Th. 2]).

PROPOSITION 9.2

Assume that χ corresponds to a maximal cubic ring A . If $A \otimes \mathbb{Q}_p$ is one of the following,

$$\begin{cases} \mathbb{Q}_p \times \mathbb{Q}_p \times \mathbb{Q}_p, \\ \mathbb{Q}_p \times K, \text{ where } K \text{ is the unramified quadratic extension of } \mathbb{Q}_p \text{ and } p \neq 2, \\ \text{the unramified cubic extension of } \mathbb{Q}_p \text{ with } \mathbb{Q}_p \text{ containing all cube roots of unity,} \end{cases}$$

then

$$\int_{U(\mathbb{Q}_p)} \Gamma_p(w_0 u_p) \cdot \overline{\chi(u_p)} \, du_p = c_p \cdot \zeta_{A \otimes \mathbb{Z}_p}(2k),$$

where c_p is an explicit universal constant independent of A .

For the rest of the section, we assume that the formula in Proposition 9.2 holds for all finite primes and use this to compute the Fourier coefficients $c_A(E_{2k})$ of E_{2k} for maximal A . Hence, after a rescaling, we have

$$l_\chi(\varphi) = \zeta_A(2k) \cdot \int_{U(\mathbb{R})} \varphi(w_0 u) \cdot \overline{\chi(u)} \, du,$$

and it remains to examine the archimedean factor. The archimedean integral converges for $k \geq 1$, and the linear form

$$\varphi \mapsto \int_{U(\mathbb{R})} \varphi(w_0 u) \cdot \overline{\chi(u)} \, du \tag{9.3}$$

defines a nonzero element of $\text{Hom}_{U(\mathbb{R})}(I_\infty(k), \mathbb{C}(\chi))$. We expect but do not know that its restriction to the submodule π_{2k} is nonzero. However, it is not difficult to see that the vanishing of this restriction for one such χ with $\Delta(\chi) > 0$ implies the vanishing of the restriction for all χ 's with $\Delta(\chi) > 0$, in which case $c_A(E_{2k})$ is zero for all A . Since we do not expect this to be the case, we make the further assumption that the archimedean integral is nonzero when restricted to π_{2k} for some (and hence all) χ with $\Delta(\chi) > 0$.

To compute the Fourier coefficient, we now fix a χ_0 with $\Delta(\chi_0) > 0$, and a nonzero $l_0 \in \text{Hom}_{U(\mathbb{R})}(\pi_{2k}, \mathbb{C}(\chi_0))$. We pick χ_0 to be the character corresponding to $p_0 = (0, 1, 1, 0)$, and we let l_0 be the linear form

$$l_0(\varphi) = \int_{U(\mathbb{R})} \varphi(w_0 u) \cdot \overline{\chi_0(u)} du. \quad (9.4)$$

By our assumption, this defines a nonzero element of $\text{Hom}_{U(\mathbb{R})}(\pi_{2k}, \mathbb{C}(\chi_0))$. Now take any $g \in \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ such that $g \cdot \chi_0 = \chi$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} (g \cdot l_0)(\varphi) &= \int_{U(\mathbb{R})} \varphi(w_0 u g^{-1}) \cdot \overline{\chi_0(u)} du \\ &= \int_{U(\mathbb{R})} \varphi(w_0 g^{-1} u') \cdot \overline{\chi_0(g^{-1} u' g)} \cdot \delta_P(g)^{-1} du' \quad (\text{with } u' = g u g^{-1}) \\ &= \delta_P(g)^{-1} \cdot \int_{U(\mathbb{R})} \varphi((w_0 g^{-1} w_0) w_0 u') \cdot \overline{\chi(u')} du' \\ &= \delta_P(g)^{-1} \cdot \delta_P(g)^{(2k+1)/3} \cdot \zeta_A(2k)^{-1} \cdot l_\chi(\varphi). \end{aligned}$$

Here the last equality follows because $w_0 g^{-1} w_0 \in \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{R})$, and $\delta_P(w_0 g^{-1} w_0) = \delta_P(g)$.

Now the Fourier coefficient c_χ is defined by the equality

$$l_\chi = c_\chi \cdot \delta_P^{(2k+1)/3}(g) \cdot (g \cdot l_0).$$

By the above computation, we see that

$$c_\chi = \zeta_A(2k) \cdot \delta_P(g) \cdot \delta_P(g)^{-2(2k+1)/3} = \zeta_A(2k) \cdot |\det(g)|^{4k-1}$$

since $\delta_P = |\det|^{-3}$. On the other hand,

$$|\det(g)|^2 = \Delta(\chi) = \text{disc}(A).$$

Hence,

$$c_\chi = \zeta_A(2k) \cdot \text{disc}(A)^{(4k-1)/2},$$

which by the functional equation gives $\zeta_A(1-2k)$ up to a universal scalar. Concluding, under various local assumptions we have seen that, up to a universal scalar,

$$c_A(E_{2k}) = \zeta_A(1-2k). \quad (9.5)$$

Hence, the Eisenstein series E_{2k} are analogs of H. Cohen's Eisenstein series of half-integral weight (see [Co]). Observe that since $\zeta_A(2k)$ is about the size of 1, $c_A(E_{2k})$ grows like $|\text{disc}(A)|^{2k-1/2}$, which violates the bound in Proposition 8.6 satisfied by cusp forms.

Remarks. When $2k = 2$, the series (9.1) may not converge. However, by the theory of R. Langlands, the Eisenstein series can be meromorphically continued in the parameter k to the whole complex plane, provided φ is K -finite. If φ is spherical, the Eisenstein series does have a pole, and the residue at $k = 1$ is a constant function. For $\varphi \in \pi_2$, the corresponding Eisenstein series is holomorphic at $k = 1$ but the map $E_2 : \pi_2 \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(G_2)$ is not $G_2(\mathbb{A})$ -equivariant. One has only a $G_2(\mathbb{A})$ -equivariant embedding $\pi_2 \hookrightarrow \mathcal{A}(G_2)/(\text{constant functions})$. This is the analog of the fact that the classical Eisenstein series E_2 for $\text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ is nonholomorphic.

10. Exceptional theta series of weight 4

In this section we give examples of theta series of weight 4 on G_2 . Recall that if (Λ, q) is an even unimodular lattice of rank $8k$ over \mathbb{Z} and if we set

$$a_n(q) = \#\{x \in \Lambda : q(x) = 2n\},$$

then the function

$$f(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n(q) e^{2\pi i n z}$$

is a modular form on $\text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ of weight $4k$. By the same token, by a theta series on G_2 we mean a modular form f whose Fourier coefficients $c_A(f)$ count the number of embeddings of A into certain cubic structures over \mathbb{Z} . This is an embedding problem studied in [GG], and we begin by describing it in greater detail.

Let R be Coxeter's order in the \mathbb{Q} -algebra of Cayley's octonions, and let J be the set of 3×3 Hermitian matrices with coefficients in R . Then J is a free \mathbb{Z} -module of rank 27, and the determinant map provides a natural cubic form $N_J : J \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$. Let $X \in J$ be an element in the cone of positive definite matrices which satisfies $N_J(X) = 1$. Then the triple (J, N_J, X) is a pointed cubic space over \mathbb{Z} . An example of such an X is the identity matrix I . It was shown in [Gr1] that on varying $X \in J$, one gets precisely two isomorphism classes of pointed cubic spaces. Suppose that the two classes are represented by $J_I = (J, N_J, I)$ and $J_E = (J, N_J, E)$; we refer the reader to [Gr1] for the definition of the element E . These two spaces are isomorphic over \mathbb{Q} and \mathbb{Z}_p for all p , but are globally inequivalent. The automorphism groups G_I and G_E of J_I and J_E are groups over \mathbb{Z} in the sense of [Gr1]. They have isomorphic generic fibers G , which are split of type F_4 over \mathbb{Q}_p and are anisotropic over \mathbb{R} .

Similarly, a cubic ring A gives rise to a pointed cubic space $(A, N_A, 1)$, where N_A is the norm map of A . The counting problem studied in [GG] is that of computing the number

$$N(A) = 91 \cdot N(A, I) + 600 \cdot N(A, E),$$

where

$$\begin{cases} N(A, I) = \#\{A \rightarrow J_I\}, \\ N(A, E) = \#\{A \rightarrow J_E\}. \end{cases}$$

We see that these numbers occur as the Fourier coefficients of modular forms of weight 4 on G_2 . In fact, to be able to make such a precise statement is the initial motivation for the developing of our theory.

The construction of these exceptional theta series exploits the fact that $G_2 \times G$ is a dual reductive pair in the quaternionic form H of E_8 over \mathbb{Q} . The group H has \mathbb{Q} -rank 4 and is split over \mathbb{Q}_p for all p . Indeed, there exist integral models H_I and H_E of H such that the embedding $G_2 \times G \hookrightarrow H$ extends to embeddings

$$\begin{cases} G_2 \times G_I \hookrightarrow H_I, \\ G_2 \times G_E \hookrightarrow H_E \end{cases}$$

of group schemes over \mathbb{Z} . The models H_I and H_E are also groups over \mathbb{Z} , and, in particular, $K_I = H_I(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$ and $K_E = H_E(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$ are hyperspecial maximal compact subgroups of $H(\widehat{\mathbb{Q}})$.

Let $\Pi = \widehat{\otimes}_v \Pi_v$ be the global minimal representation of $H(\mathbb{A})$. The local minimal representation Π_p of $H(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ is unramified. Let Γ_I (resp., Γ_E) be a nonzero vector of $\widehat{\otimes}_p \Pi_p$ fixed by the maximal compact subgroup K_I (resp., K_E); these are unique up to scaling. On the other hand, the representation Π_∞ of the real Lie group $H(\mathbb{R})$ has minimal K -type $\text{Sym}^8(\mathbb{C}^2) \otimes \mathbb{C}$, where the maximal compact subgroup of $H(\mathbb{R})$ is $K = (\text{SU}_2 \times E_7)/\langle \pm 1 \rangle$. In [HPS] the restriction of Π_∞ to the dual pair $G_2(\mathbb{R}) \times G(\mathbb{R})$ was completely determined. In particular, it was shown that

$$\Pi_\infty^{G(\mathbb{R})} \cong \pi_4$$

as a representation of $G_2(\mathbb{R})$. Hence, we have a $G_2(\mathbb{R})$ -equivariant embedding

$$\iota : \pi_4 \longrightarrow \Pi_\infty,$$

well defined up to scaling.

In [Gal] an embedding

$$\Theta : \Pi \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}(H)$$

of Π into the space of automorphic forms on H was constructed. Now we can construct two modular forms θ_I and θ_E of weight 4 as follows. For $v \in \pi_4$, we set

$$\begin{cases} \theta_I(v) = \text{the restriction of } \Theta(\iota(v) \otimes \Gamma_I) \text{ to } G_2, \\ \theta_E(v) = \text{the restriction of } \Theta(\iota(v) \otimes \Gamma_E) \text{ to } G_2. \end{cases}$$

The following result shows that θ_I and θ_E are exceptional theta series.

PROPOSITION 10.1

For any Gorenstein A ,

$$\begin{cases} c_A(\theta_I) = N(A, J_I), \\ c_A(\theta_E) = N(A, J_E). \end{cases}$$

Proof

In [Ga2, Th. 11.3] it was shown that there exists an integer $e \geq 1$ such that the Fourier coefficients $c_A(\theta_I)$ and $c_A(\theta_E)$ are zero unless A has content divisible by e ; further, if $A = \mathbb{Z} + eA_0$ has content precisely equal to e (so that A_0 is Gorenstein), then

$$\begin{cases} c_A(\theta_I) = N(A_0, J_I), \\ c_A(\theta_E) = N(A_0, J_E). \end{cases}$$

Hence, it remains to show that e is equal to 1.

Consider the modular form

$$\theta = 91 \cdot \theta_I + 600 \cdot \theta_E.$$

If $A = \mathbb{Z} + eA_0$, then $c_A(\theta) = N(A_0)$ and it was shown in [GG, Th. 3] that $N(A_0) = c \cdot \zeta_{A_0}(-3)$ for a nonzero constant c independent of A_0 . In particular, $c_A(\theta) \neq 0$. To show that $e = 1$, it suffices to show that, for some Gorenstein cubic ring A , the Fourier coefficient of θ at A is nonzero. It was shown in [Ga2, Th. 15.5] that (after a suitable scaling)

$$\theta = E_4,$$

which is the analog of the classical Siegel formula. This implies that θ is a Hecke eigenform with some nonzero Fourier coefficients. On the other hand, Theorem 16.12 (which is proved at the end of the present paper) shows that a Hecke eigenform with a nonzero Fourier coefficient must have a nonzero Gorenstein coefficient. The proposition is proved. \square

Remark

The proof of the proposition, together with [GG, Th. 3], implies that the Fourier coefficient $c_A(E_4)$ is equal to $\zeta_A(-3)$ for maximal A , that is, that (9.5) holds unconditionally when $k = 2$.

The examples of modular forms we have given in this section and in Section 9 are noncuspidal. The cuspidal support of E_{2k} and θ is the Borel subgroup, whereas that of $\theta' = \theta_I - \theta_E$ should be the Heisenberg parabolic P . It would be nice to construct some cusp forms and compute their Fourier coefficients. In particular, we conclude this section with the following question.

Question

What is the smallest k for which M_k^0 is nonzero?

To show the extent of our ignorance, we do not know of even a single k for which M_k^0 is nonzero.

11. Unramified Hecke algebra and Satake isomorphism

The remainder of the paper is devoted to the study of the action of Hecke operators on M_k . We begin with some background on the spherical Hecke algebra, and for the next few sections the setting is entirely local. Let G be a simple split algebraic group of adjoint type over the ring of integers \mathcal{O} of a local field F . We fix the uniformizing element ϖ . Let $T \subset B \subset G$ be a maximal torus, contained in a Borel subgroup, defined over \mathcal{O} . Define the characters and cocharacters of T by

$$\begin{cases} X^*(T) = \text{Hom}(T, \mathbb{G}_m), \\ X_*(T) = \text{Hom}(\mathbb{G}_m, T). \end{cases}$$

These are free abelian of rank $l = \dim(T)$ and have pairing into $\text{Hom}(\mathbb{G}_m, \mathbb{G}_m) = \mathbb{Z}$. The choice of B determines a set of positive roots $\Phi^+ \subset X^*(T)$, and this determines a positive Weyl chamber P^+ in $X_*(T)$ by

$$P^+ = \{\lambda \in X_*(T) \mid \langle \lambda, \alpha \rangle \geq 0 \text{ for all } \alpha \in \Phi^+\}.$$

Let \widehat{G} be the complex dual group of G . This is a simply connected simple group over \mathbb{C} whose root system is dual to G . If we fix a maximal torus $\widehat{T} \subset \widehat{B} \subset \widehat{G}$, then we have isomorphisms

$$\begin{cases} X^*(\widehat{T}) = X_*(T), \\ X_*(\widehat{T}) = X^*(T), \end{cases}$$

which take the positive roots (coroots) corresponding to \widehat{B} to the positive coroots (roots) corresponding to B . Under these identifications the elements of P^+ index the irreducible representations of \widehat{G} ; $\lambda \in P^+$ is the highest weight for \widehat{B} .

Let $K = G(\mathcal{O})$, which is a hyperspecial maximal compact subgroup of $G = G(F)$ containing $T(\mathcal{O})$. By definition, the Hecke algebra $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}(G, K)$ is the set of all compactly supported, K -bi-invariant functions $f : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, with multiplication defined by convolution (using Haar measure on G giving K volume 1). For λ in $X_*(T)$, the double coset $K\lambda(\varpi)K$ does not depend on the choice of uniformizing element ϖ of F . The Cartan decomposition implies that the characteristic functions

$$c_\lambda = \text{char}(K\lambda(\varpi)K), \quad \lambda \in P^+,$$

give a basis of \mathcal{H} over \mathbb{C} .

Let $R(\widehat{G})$ be the Grothendieck ring (over \mathbb{C}) of finite-dimensional representations of \widehat{G} . The Satake transform gives an isomorphism of \mathcal{H} and $R(\widehat{G})$. To describe it, we start with the simplest case when $G = T$. Then $X_*(T) = T/T(\mathcal{O})$, and the algebra \mathcal{H}_T is simply the group algebra of $X_*(T)$. Since $X_*(T)$ is isomorphic to $X^*(\widehat{T})$, we have

$$\mathcal{H}_T \cong R(\widehat{T}).$$

In general, let N be the unipotent radical of B , defined over \mathcal{O} . Let dn be the unique Haar measure on N such that the volume of $N(\mathcal{O})$ is one. Let δ be the modular function on T , so that

$$d(tnt^{-1}) = |\delta(t)| \cdot dn.$$

For f in $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}(G, K)$, define the Satake transform

$$S = S_{G/T} : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_T$$

by the integral

$$S(f)(t) = |\delta(t)|^{1/2} \int_N f(tn) dn.$$

The image is precisely the ring of Weyl group invariants in the group algebra of $X_*(T)$ (see [Gr2, Prop. 3.6]). Since the ring $R(\widehat{G})$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{C}[X_*(T)]^W$, the Satake transform gives an isomorphism of \mathbb{C} -algebras

$$S : \mathcal{H} \cong R(\widehat{G}).$$

Matrices for this isomorphism, using the standard bases c_λ of \mathcal{H} and χ_λ of $R(\widehat{G})$ (the character of the irreducible representation with highest weight λ), are described in [Gr2]; their entries involve Kazhdan-Lusztig polynomials.

More generally, if $P = LU$ is a parabolic subgroup of G with $T \subset L$ and $B \subset P$, we can define a relative Satake transform

$$S_{G/L} : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_L$$

by the integral

$$S_{G/L}(f)(l) = |\delta_P(l)|^{1/2} \int_U f(lu) du,$$

where $|\delta_P| : L \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+^\times$ is the modular function for L . Via the Satake isomorphisms

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{H} \cong R(\widehat{G}), \\ \mathcal{H}_L \cong R(\widehat{L}), \end{cases}$$

the relative Satake transform $S_{G/L}$ corresponds to the restriction of representations from \widehat{G} to \widehat{L} . In particular, it is injective and its image lies in the subalgebra of $R(\widehat{L})$ consisting of elements invariant under $W_{\widehat{G}/\widehat{L}} = W_{G/L} = N_G(L)/L$. After reviewing the classical example of $G = \mathrm{GL}_2$ in the next section, we work out a less familiar example in Section 13, where $G = G_2$, P is the Heisenberg parabolic, and $L = \mathrm{GL}_2$.

12. The Hecke algebra of GL_2

In this section, let $G = GL_2$. The Hecke algebra \mathcal{H} of G over \mathbb{Q}_p is well known. We review the basic facts in a manner suitable for later use in this paper. A good reference is [Sel, Chap. VII].

The dual group \widehat{G} is isomorphic to $GL_2(\mathbb{C})$. Let χ be the character of the standard representation, and let χ^* be the character of the dual representation. Let $\pi = \bigwedge^2 \chi$ be the determinant character of χ , and let π^* be the inverse of the determinant. Then we have an isomorphism of \mathbb{C} -algebras

$$R(\widehat{G}) \cong \mathbb{C}[\chi, \pi, \pi^*]/(\pi \cdot \pi^* = 1).$$

Some further relations are

$$\begin{cases} \chi^* = \chi \cdot \pi^*, \\ \chi = \chi^* \cdot \pi. \end{cases}$$

The outer involution $A \mapsto {}^t A^{-1}$ of $GL_2(\mathbb{C})$ induces an involution τ of $R(\widehat{G})$ with $\tau(\chi) = \chi^*$ and $\tau(\pi) = \pi^*$.

In the Satake isomorphism $S : \mathcal{H} \cong R(\widehat{G})$, we find the following formulas for the generators (see [Gr2, §5]):

$$\begin{cases} S(\text{char } K \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} K) = p^{1/2} \cdot \chi, \\ S(\text{char } K \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & p \end{pmatrix} K) = \pi, \\ S(\text{char } K \begin{pmatrix} p^{-1} & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix} K) = \pi^*. \end{cases}$$

Put $\varphi = p^{1/2} \cdot \chi$ so that

$$S(\text{char } K \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} K) = \varphi.$$

Let $\varphi^* = \tau(\varphi) = p^{1/2} \cdot \chi^*$. Since $\varphi^* = \varphi \cdot \pi^*$, we have

$$S\left(\text{char } K \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix} K\right) = \varphi^*.$$

Let \mathcal{L} be the set of all lattices in the standard representation \mathbb{Q}_p^2 of $G = GL_2(\mathbb{Q}_p)$. Since G acts transitively on \mathcal{L} , and $K = GL_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ is the stabilizer of the lattice \mathbb{Z}_p^2 , we have $\mathcal{L} \cong G/K$. The Hecke algebra acts on functions $f : \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ as follows (see [Sel, p. 98]):

$$\begin{cases} \varphi \circ f(\Lambda) = \sum_{p\Lambda \subset \Lambda' \subset \Lambda} f(\Lambda'), \\ \varphi^* \circ f(\Lambda) = \sum_{\Lambda \subset \Lambda' \subset p^{-1}\Lambda} f(\Lambda'), \\ \pi \circ f(\Lambda) = f(p\Lambda), \\ \pi^* \circ f(\Lambda) = f\left(\frac{1}{p}\Lambda\right). \end{cases} \quad (12.1)$$

The first sum above is taken over the $p+1$ lattices properly included in Λ and properly containing $p\Lambda$, and the second sum is similarly defined. Finally, a short calculation gives the formula

$$(\varphi \cdot \varphi^*) \circ f(\Lambda) = \sum_{p\Lambda \subset \Lambda' \subset p^{-1}\Lambda} f(\Lambda') + p + 1.$$

Here, the sum is taken over the $p^2 + p$ lattices Λ' between $p\Lambda$ and $p^{-1}\Lambda$, with $\Lambda'/p\Lambda \cong \mathbb{Z}/p^2$. Indeed, we have

$$S\left(\text{char } K \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix} K\right) = \varphi \cdot \varphi^* - (p + 1) \in R(\widehat{G}).$$

To compute the action of Hecke operators on the Fourier coefficients $a_n(f)$ of a holomorphic form f of weight $2k$ for $\text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$, we need the decomposition of the double coset

$$\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$$

into single cosets. An argument with elementary divisors (see [Sel, pp. 99–100]) gives

$$\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & p \end{pmatrix} \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) \cup \bigcup_{j=0}^{p-1} \begin{pmatrix} p & j \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) \tag{12.2}$$

as a union of $p+1$ right $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ -cosets. From this it follows (see [Sel, p. 100]) that the Fourier coefficients of $T_p|f$ with $T_p = p^{-1}\varphi$ are given by

$$a_n(T_p|f) = a_{np}(f) + p^{2k-1}a_{n/p}(f) \tag{12.3}$$

with $a_{n/p} = 0$ unless $n \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$.

13. The Hecke algebra of G_2

We now let $G = G_2$. Let P be the Heisenberg parabolic subgroup with Levi factor $L \cong \text{GL}_2$. The two root spaces in the Lie algebra of L correspond to the short roots $\{\alpha', -\alpha'\}$ for G .

The dual group \widehat{G} is isomorphic to $G_2(\mathbb{C})$, and its representation ring $R(\widehat{G})$ is isomorphic to the polynomial ring $\mathbb{C}[\chi_1, \chi_2]$, where χ_1 is the character of the 7-dimensional representation and χ_2 is the character of the 14-dimensional adjoint representation. Some useful identities in $R(\widehat{G})$ are (see [Gr2, p. 234])

$$\begin{cases} \bigwedge^2 \chi_1 = \chi_1 + \chi_2, \\ \bigwedge^3 \chi_1 = \chi_1^2 - \chi_2, \\ \bigwedge^{7-n} \chi_1 = \bigwedge^n \chi_1. \end{cases}$$

The highest weight λ_1 of χ_1 is identified with a dominant coroot for G . Since λ_1 is a short coroot, $\lambda_1 = \beta^\vee$ with $\beta = 2\alpha + 3\alpha'$ the (long) highest root. Similarly, the highest weight λ_2 for χ_2 is a dominant long coroot, so $\lambda_2 = \gamma^\vee$ with $\gamma = \alpha + 2\alpha'$. See Figure 1 for a root diagram.

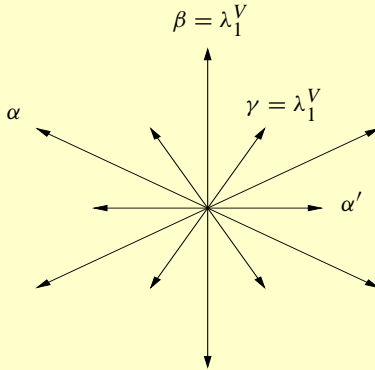


Figure 1

The Levi factor \widehat{L} in the dual parabolic \widehat{P} is isomorphic to $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{C})$. Its Lie algebra has root spaces corresponding to the long coroots $\{\alpha'^\vee, -\alpha'^\vee\}$. Consulting the root diagram and using the notation of the previous section, we find the following restriction formulas from \widehat{G} to \widehat{L} :

$$\begin{cases} \mathrm{Res}(\chi_1) = \pi + \chi + 1 + \chi^* + \pi^*, \\ \mathrm{Res}(\chi_2) = \mathrm{Res}(\chi_1) + \pi \cdot \chi + \chi \cdot \chi^* + \pi^* \cdot \chi^* - 1. \end{cases}$$

The image of restriction lies in the subring of τ -invariants of $R(\widehat{L})$.

To study the Satake transform for G over \mathbb{Q}_p , put

$$\begin{cases} \varphi_1 = p^3 \chi_1, \\ \varphi_2 = p^5 \chi_2 \end{cases}$$

in $R(\widehat{G})$. This is analogous to our normalization $\varphi = p^{1/2} \chi$ in the previous section. Then the calculations in [Gr2, §5] give the formulas

$$\begin{cases} \varphi_1 = S(K\lambda_1(p)K) + 1, \\ \varphi_2 - \varphi_1 = S(K\lambda_2(p)K) + p^4 \end{cases}$$

in $R(\widehat{G})$, where $K = G(\mathbb{Z}_p) \subset G = G_2(\mathbb{Q}_p)$.

We are now interested in obtaining the decomposition of $K\lambda_i(p)K$ into single K -cosets of the form ulK , with u in $U = U(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ the unipotent radical of P , and l in

$L = L(\mathbb{Q}_p) \cong \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ its Levi factor. This is analogous to the decomposition of

$$\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) \begin{pmatrix} P & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$$

obtained in (12.2) and is needed for the computation of the action of Hecke operators on modular forms. To accomplish this, we use the relative Satake transform and the following observation.

PROPOSITION 13.1

Fix t in G and l in L . Let $c[t]$ in $\mathcal{H}(G, K)$ be the characteristic function of the double coset KtK . Then

$$S_{G/L}(c[t])(l) = |\delta_P(l)|^{1/2} \cdot \#\{\text{distinct cosets of the form } ulK \text{ in } KtK \text{ with } u \in U\}.$$

Proof

Since, by definition,

$$S_{G/L}(c[t])(l) = |\delta_P(l)|^{1/2} \cdot \int_U c[t](lu) du,$$

where $\int_{U(\mathbb{Z}_p)} du = 1$, we have

$$S_{G/L}(c[t])(l) \cdot |\delta_P(l)|^{-1/2} = \#\{\text{distinct cosets of the form } lvU(\mathbb{Z}_p) \text{ in } lU \cap KtK, \text{ with } v \in U\}.$$

Since $U(\mathbb{Z}_p) = U \cap K$, the right-hand side is equal to $\#\{\text{cosets of the form } lvK \text{ in } KtK\}$. Since L normalizes U , putting $u = lv^{-1}$, this is equal to $\#\{\text{cosets of the form } ulK \text{ in } Kt\}$, as required. □

Since we have a commutative diagram of \mathbb{C} -algebra homomorphisms

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{H}(G) & \xrightarrow{S_G} & R(\widehat{G}) \\ S_{G/L} \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{Res} \\ \mathcal{H}(L) & \xrightarrow{S_L} & R(\widehat{L}) \end{array}$$

we can compute $S_{G/L}$ from our results on S_G and S_L and from the restriction of representations from \widehat{G} to \widehat{L} .

Consider first the double coset $K\lambda_1(p)K$. We have seen that $S_G(c[\lambda_1(p)]) = p^3\chi_1 - 1$. Hence,

$$\text{Res}(S_G(c[\lambda_1(p)])) = p^3(\pi + \chi + \chi^* + \pi^*) + (p^3 - 1)$$

in $R(\widehat{L})$. But, by results in Section 12,

$$\begin{cases} p^{1/2}\chi = S_L(c\begin{bmatrix} p & \\ & 1 \end{bmatrix}), \\ p^{1/2}\chi^* = S_L(c\begin{bmatrix} 1 & \\ & p^{-1} \end{bmatrix}), \\ \pi = S_L(c\begin{bmatrix} p & \\ & p \end{bmatrix}), \\ \pi^* = S_L(c\begin{bmatrix} p^{-1} & \\ & p^{-1} \end{bmatrix}). \end{cases} \quad (13.2)$$

We conclude that

$$S_{G/L}(c[\lambda_1(p)])(l) = \begin{cases} p^3 & \text{if } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & p \end{pmatrix} \text{ or } \begin{pmatrix} p^{-1} & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, \\ p^{5/2} & \text{if } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ or } \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, \\ p^3 - 1 & \text{if } l \equiv 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Here we have written $l \equiv t \in \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ to mean $l \in \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) \cdot t \cdot \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$.

On the other hand, we have chosen the isomorphism $L \cong \text{GL}_2$ so that $\delta_P(l) = \det(l)^{-3}$. Hence,

$$|\delta_P(l)|^{1/2} = p^{(3/2) \cdot \text{ord}_p(\det(l))}.$$

From this and our determination of $S_{G/L}(c[\lambda_1(p)])$ above, we obtain the following.

COROLLARY 13.3

In the decomposition of $K\lambda_1(p)K$, the number of distinct cosets of the form ulK is given by

$$\begin{cases} 1 & \text{with } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & p \end{pmatrix}, \\ p(p+1) & \text{with } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ p^4(p+1) & \text{with } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, \\ p^6 & \text{with } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p^{-1} & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, \\ p^3 - 1 & \text{with } l \equiv 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

In particular, we see that the total number of distinct single K -cosets in $K\lambda_1(p)K$ is $p^6 + p^5 + p^4 + p^3 + p^2 + p$, in agreement with [Gr2, p. 235]. To obtain an explicit decomposition, it remains to determine the elements u in ulK . This is carried out in the next section (Section 14).

Remarks. For a fixed

$$l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{respectively, } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix},$$

Proposition 13.1 and the ensuing computations actually show that there are precisely p (resp., p^4) single cosets of the form ulK in $K\lambda_1(p)K$. Since each of the double cosets

$$\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$$

contains $p+1$ single cosets, and $ulK = u'l'K$ implies that $l \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) = l' \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, this explains the numbers obtained in the second and third cases of Corollary 13.3.

In the remainder of this section, we determine the l 's that enter in the decomposition of $K\lambda_2(p)K$ into single K -cosets. Here we have (see [Gr2, p. 231])

$$S_G(c[\lambda_2(p)]) = p^5\chi_2 - p^3\chi_1 - p^4,$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{Res}(S_G(c[\lambda_2(p)])) &= p^5(\pi \cdot \chi + (\chi \cdot \chi^*)_0 + \pi^* \cdot \chi^*) \\ &\quad + (p^5 - p^3)(\pi + \chi + \chi^* + \pi^*) + (p^5 - p^3) \end{aligned}$$

with $(\chi \cdot \chi^*)_0 = \chi \cdot \chi^* - (p+1)/p$ in $R(\widehat{L})$. But by (13.2), as well as by the formulas

$$\begin{cases} p^{1/2}\pi \cdot \chi = S_L(c[\begin{smallmatrix} p^2 & \\ & p \end{smallmatrix}]), \\ p^{1/2}\pi^* \cdot \chi^* = S_L(c[\begin{smallmatrix} p^{-1} & \\ & p^{-2} \end{smallmatrix}]), \\ p(\chi \cdot \chi^*)_0 = S_L(c[\begin{smallmatrix} p & \\ & p^{-1} \end{smallmatrix}]), \end{cases}$$

we obtain the following.

COROLLARY 13.4

In the decomposition of $K\lambda_2(p)K$, the number of distinct cosets of the form ulK is

given by

$$\begin{cases} 1 \cdot (p+1) & \text{with } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p^2 & \\ & p \end{pmatrix}, \\ p^4(p^2+p) & \text{with } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, \\ p^9(p+1) & \text{with } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p^{-1} & \\ & p^{-2} \end{pmatrix}, \\ (p^3-p)(p+1) & \text{with } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ (p^6-p^4)(p+1) & \text{with } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, \\ p^2-1 & \text{with } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & p \end{pmatrix}, \\ p^8-p^6 & \text{with } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p^{-1} & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, \\ p^5-p^3 & \text{with } l \equiv 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

In particular, we obtain $p^{10} + p^9 + p^8 + p^7 + p^6 + p^5$ single cosets in all.

14. Single coset decompositions

We now study the unipotent elements u that occur in the single cosets $uK \subset K\lambda_i(p)K$. Since $uK = lu'K$ with $u = lu'l^{-1}$, and u' is well defined up to right multiplication by $K \cap U = U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, we see that u is well defined up to right multiplication by $lU(\mathbb{Z}_p)l^{-1}$.

Recall that for each root γ of T , we have the root group isomorphism $x_\gamma : \mathbb{G}_a \rightarrow U_\gamma$ over \mathbb{Z}_p as well as the coroot $\gamma^\vee = h_\gamma : \mathbb{G}_m \rightarrow T$. Indeed, γ determines an embedding $\mathrm{SL}_2 \hookrightarrow G$ over \mathbb{Z}_p such that

$$\begin{cases} x_\gamma(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & t \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ x_{-\gamma}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} cc1 & 0 \\ t & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ h_\gamma(\lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} cc\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda^{-1} \end{pmatrix}. \end{cases}$$

We need to use the identity

$$h_\gamma(p)x_{-\gamma}(vp)x_\gamma(-t/p) \in K \tag{14.1}$$

for any root γ , where v and t are p -adic integers with $vt \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$. Indeed, in the associated SL_2 , this is the matrix product

$$\begin{pmatrix} p & 0 \\ 0 & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ vp & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\frac{t}{p} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} p & -t \\ v & \frac{1-vt}{p} \end{pmatrix}$$

which lies in $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) \subset K$.

The coroots h_γ give us elements

$$h_\gamma(p) = \begin{pmatrix} p^a & \\ & p^b \end{pmatrix}$$

in $L \cong \text{GL}_2$, which we can identify by

$$\begin{cases} \langle \gamma^\vee, \beta \rangle = -a - b, \\ \langle \gamma^\vee, \alpha' \rangle = a - b, \end{cases}$$

where α' is the basic short root and β is the highest root. See Figure 2 for a coroot diagram.

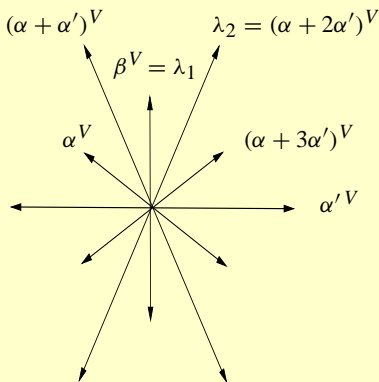


Figure 2

We now begin by constructing the single cosets ulK in the double coset $K\lambda_1(p)K$.

PROPOSITION 14.2

If l lies in the double coset of either

$$\begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & p \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{pmatrix} p^{-1} & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

in $L \cong \text{GL}_2$, and u lies in $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, then ulK is contained in the K -double coset of $\lambda_1(p)$ in G . For each such l , the representatives u of the distinct right cosets of $U(\mathbb{Z}_p) \cap lU(\mathbb{Z}_p)l^{-1}$ in $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ give the distinct right cosets of the form ulK in $K\lambda_1(p)K$.

Proof

We have

$$\begin{cases} \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & p \end{pmatrix} = -\beta^\vee(p), \\ \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} = -\alpha^\vee(p), \\ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix} = (\alpha + 3\alpha')^\vee(p), \\ \begin{pmatrix} p^{-1} & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix} = \beta^\vee(p) = \lambda_1(p). \end{cases}$$

Since these cocharacters are in the Weyl group orbit of λ_1 and since representatives for the Weyl group elements can be taken in $N_G(T)(\mathbb{Z}_p) \subset K$, we see that $KlK = K\lambda_1(p)K$ for l in the four double cosets of GL_2 listed in the proposition. Hence, ulK is contained in $K\lambda_1(p)K$ for any $u \in U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$. Moreover, for u and u' in $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, $ulK = u'lK$ if and only if $u^{-1}u'$ lies in $U(\mathbb{Z}_p) \cap lU(\mathbb{Z}_p)l^{-1}$. The index of the latter subgroup in $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ is

$$\begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & p \end{pmatrix}, \\ p & \text{if } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ p^4 & \text{if } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} cc1 & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, \\ p^6 & \text{if } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p^{-1} & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix}. \end{cases}$$

By Corollary 13.3 and the remark following it, this is equal to the number of single cosets of the form ulK contained in $K\lambda_1(p)K$. Hence, by taking u to be distinct right coset representatives of $U(\mathbb{Z}_p) \cap lU(\mathbb{Z}_p)l^{-1}$ in $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, we obtain all such cosets, and the proposition is proved. \square

Let $U^* \supset_p U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ be the group obtained from $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ by adjoining the central elements $x_\beta(t/p)$ in U with $t \in \mathbb{Z}_p$.

LEMMA 14.3

If u lies in $U^* \setminus U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, then uK is contained in $K\lambda_1(p)K$.

Proof

We may assume that $u = x_\beta(t/p)$ with t a unit in \mathbb{Z}_p . Find v in \mathbb{Z}_p such that $vt \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$. Then by (14.1) we see that u lies in the K -double coset of $h_\beta(p) = \lambda_1(p)$, as claimed. \square

In fact, we can improve the above result slightly and obtain all single cosets uK (i.e., with $l \equiv 1$) contained in $K\lambda_1(p)K$. Recall the filtration

$$U(\mathbb{Z}_p) \supset U_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) \supset \{1\}$$

of $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ discussed in §§1 and 2, with

$$U_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) \cong U_\beta(\mathbb{Z}_p) \cong \mathbb{Z}_p$$

and

$$U(\mathbb{Z}_p)/U_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) = V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$$

free of rank 4 over \mathbb{Z}_p . Let

$$m \subset \frac{1}{p}V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)/V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$$

be a line stable under a Borel subgroup of $L(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}) = \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})$; we call such a line m a *singular line*. In the notation of §3, we have $m = W_1 = \theta(l)$. Let $V_1(m)$ be the corresponding \mathbb{Z}_p -module between $(1/p)V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ and $V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, and let $U(m)$ be the subgroup of U with

$$\begin{cases} U(m) \cap U_2 = \frac{1}{p}U_2(\mathbb{Z}_p), \\ U(m)/U(m) \cap U_2 = V_1(m). \end{cases} \tag{14.4}$$

Then $U(m)$ contains $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ with index p^2 , and the $p + 1$ subgroups $U(m) \subset U$ intersect in the group U^* .

PROPOSITION 14.5

If u lies in $U(m) \setminus U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, then uK is contained in $K\lambda_1(p)K$. The representatives u of the $p^2 - 1$ nontrivial cosets of $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ in $U(m)$ give distinct single cosets uK . As we vary the line m in $(1/p)V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)/V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, we obtain the $p^3 - 1$ distinct single cosets with $l \equiv 1$.

Proof

If $u \in U^* \setminus U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, we have seen in Lemma 14.3 that $uK \subset K\lambda_1(p)K$. Hence, it remains to consider those $u \in U(m) \setminus U^*$. Since the various $U(m)$'s are conjugate under $L(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, we may assume without loss of generality that m is given by $(1/p)e_\alpha$, where α is the long basic root. Indeed, this is the highest weight vector for the Borel subgroup of L with root space $-\alpha'$. Then $U(m)$ is generated by U^* and $x_\alpha(t/p)$ with t in \mathbb{Z}_p . Since α^\vee is conjugated to $\beta^\vee = \lambda_1$ by an element of the Weyl group, Lemma 14.3 shows that $x_\alpha(t/p)$ lies in $K\lambda_1(p)K$ whenever t is a unit in \mathbb{Z}_p . A commutation calculation in U then yields

$$U(\mathbb{Z}_p)x_\alpha(t/p)K = \bigcup_{a \pmod{p}} x_\beta(a/p)x_\alpha(t/p)K,$$

which completes the proof that uK lies in the double coset of $\lambda_1(p)$ for all u in $U(m) \setminus U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$.

Each of the $p + 1$ lines m gives $p^2 - 1$ distinct single cosets, but the $p - 1$ single cosets with $u \in U^* \setminus U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ are obtained with multiplicity $p + 1$. Hence, there are $(p + 1)(p^2 - 1) - p(p - 1) = p^3 - 1$ distinct single cosets in all. Comparing with Corollary 13.3, we see that we have obtained all the single cosets of the form uK in $K\lambda_1(p)K$. □

We now construct the single cosets ulK contained in $K\lambda_2(p)K$.

PROPOSITION 14.6

If l lies in the double coset of either

$$\begin{pmatrix} p^2 & \\ & p \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{pmatrix} p^{-1} & \\ & p^{-2} \end{pmatrix}$$

in $L \cong \mathrm{GL}_2$, and u lies in $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, then ulK is contained in $K\lambda_2(p)K$. For each such l , the representatives u of the distinct right cosets of $U(\mathbb{Z}_p) \cap lU(\mathbb{Z}_p)l^{-1}$ in $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ give the distinct right cosets of the form ulK contained in $K\lambda_2(p)K$.

Proof

This proof is similar to that of Proposition 14.2. We have

$$\begin{cases} \begin{pmatrix} p^2 & \\ & p \end{pmatrix} = -(\alpha + \alpha')^\vee(p), \\ \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix} = \alpha'^\vee(p), \\ \begin{pmatrix} p^{-1} & \\ & p^{-2} \end{pmatrix} = -(\alpha + 2\alpha')^\vee(p) = -\lambda_2(p). \end{cases}$$

Since these cocharacters are in the same Weyl group orbit as λ_2 , we have ulK contained in $K\lambda_2(p)K$ for all $u \in U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$.

Again, we compute the index of $U(\mathbb{Z}_p) \cap lU(\mathbb{Z}_p)l^{-1}$ in $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ to be

$$\begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p^2 & \\ & p \end{pmatrix}, \\ p^4 & \text{if } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, \\ p^9 & \text{if } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p^{-1} & \\ & p^{-2} \end{pmatrix}. \end{cases}$$

By Corollary 13.4, this is the total number of single cosets of the form ulK in $K\lambda_2(p)K$, and thus the proposition is proved. \square

Next, we determine the single cosets in $K\lambda_2(p)K$, with

$$l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & p \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} p^{-1} & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

in $L \cong \mathrm{GL}_2$. This is more involved and requires greater care. The following lemma is the main technical tool.

LEMMA 14.7

Let γ and γ' be a pair of long roots forming a 60° angle. Let t be a unit in \mathbb{Z}_p . Then

$$Kx_\gamma(t/p)h_{\gamma'}(p)K = K\lambda_2(p)K = Kx_\gamma(-t/p^2)h_{-\gamma'}(p)K.$$

Proof

Let v be a unit in \mathbb{Z}_p such that $vt \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} Kx_\gamma(t/p)h_{\gamma'}(p)K &= Kx_\gamma(t/p)h_{\gamma'}(p)x_{-\gamma}(-p^2v)K \\ &= Kx_\gamma(t/p)x_{-\gamma}(-pv)h_{\gamma'}(p)K = Kh_\gamma(p)h_{\gamma'}(p)K, \end{aligned}$$

where the last equality follows by formula (14.1). Since γ and γ' form a 60° angle, $\delta = (1/3)(\gamma + \gamma')$ is a short root. Since $h_\gamma(p)h_{\gamma'}(p) = h_\delta(p)$, and δ^\vee is conjugated to λ_2 , the first identity holds. To prove the second identity, note that inverse mapping preserves K -double cosets. Thus,

$$(x_\gamma(t/p)h_{\gamma'}(p))^{-1} = h_{-\gamma'}(p)x_\gamma(-t/p) = x_\gamma(-t/p^2)h_{-\gamma'}(p)$$

is in $K\lambda_2(p)K$. The lemma is proved. □

The following lemma can easily be checked; we omit the proof.

LEMMA 14.8

Let $l = h_\gamma(p)$, where γ is a long root different from α and $-\alpha$. Let t be a unit in \mathbb{Z}_p , and set

$$\begin{cases} u = x_\alpha(t/p) & \text{if } \langle \alpha, \gamma^\vee \rangle = 1, \\ u = x_\alpha(t/p^2) & \text{if } \langle \alpha, \gamma^\vee \rangle = -1. \end{cases}$$

Then the index of $U(\mathbb{Z}_p) \cap ulU(\mathbb{Z}_p)l^{-1}u^{-1}$ in $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ is

$$\begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } l = \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & p \end{pmatrix} = -\beta^\vee(p), \\ p & \text{if } l = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & p \end{pmatrix} = -(\alpha + 3\alpha')^\vee(p), \\ p^4 & \text{if } l = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix} = (\alpha + 3\alpha')^\vee(p), \\ p^6 & \text{if } l = \begin{pmatrix} p^{-1} & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix} = \beta^\vee(p). \end{cases}$$

To describe the single cosets, we use the exponential map in a special case. A nonzero element w in V_1 is called singular if the line through w is singular. Assume now that w is singular, contained in $V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, but not contained in $pV_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$. Using the cubic map θ , one can check that each such w is conjugated under $L(\mathbb{Z}_p) \cong \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ to e_α . In particular, since it is true for e_α ,

$$\begin{cases} ad_w^2(\mathfrak{g}(\mathbb{Z}_p)) \subset 2 \cdot \mathfrak{g}(\mathbb{Z}_p), \\ ad_w^3 = 0, \end{cases}$$

where ad_w denotes the adjoint action on the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} . Thus, the exponential map

$$\exp(tw) = 1 + t ad_w + t^2 \frac{ad_w^2}{2}$$

is defined over \mathbb{Z}_p , and $\exp(tw)$ is in K if and only if t is in \mathbb{Z}_p .

PROPOSITION 14.9

Let w be a singular element in $V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, not contained in $pV_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$.

If

$$l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p^{-1} & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix},$$

put $u = \exp(w/p)$. Then ulK is contained in $K\lambda_2(p)K$. The family $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)ulK$ consists of p^6 disjoint single cosets.

If

$$l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & p \end{pmatrix},$$

put $u = \exp(w/p^2)$. Then ulK is contained in $K\lambda_2(p)K$. The family $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)ulK = ulK$ consists of one single coset.

Proof

Since w is $L(\mathbb{Z}_p) \cong \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ conjugated to e_α , we may assume that $w = e_\alpha$, where α is the long basic root. Then ulK is in $K\lambda_2(p)K$ by Lemma 14.7, where we take

$$\begin{cases} \gamma = \alpha, \\ \gamma' = \beta. \end{cases}$$

Finally, the statements concerning the number of single cosets in $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)ulK$ follow from Lemma 14.8. □

In both cases the family $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)ulK$ depends on the choice of w modulo $pV_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$. Since there are $p + 1$ singular lines in $V_1(\mathbb{F}_p)$, each containing $p - 1$ nontrivial elements, we see that the total number of single cosets of the form ulK given by Proposition 14.9 is

$$\begin{cases} p^2 - 1 & \text{if } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & p \end{pmatrix}, \\ p^8 - p^6 & \text{if } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p^{-1} & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix}. \end{cases}$$

By Corollary 13.4, this is equal to the number of single cosets of the form ulK contained in $K\lambda_2(p)K$. In particular, we have obtained all such cosets.

PROPOSITION 14.10

Let t be a unit in \mathbb{Z}_p .

If

$$l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

put $u = x_\beta(t/p)$. Then ulK is contained in $K\lambda_2(p)K$. The family $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)ulK$ consists of p single cosets.

If

$$l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix},$$

put $u = x_\beta(t/p^2)$. Then ulK is contained in $K\lambda_2(p)K$. The family $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)ulK$ consists of p^4 single cosets.

Proof

If we set

$$\begin{cases} \gamma = \beta, \\ \gamma' = \alpha + 3\alpha' \end{cases}$$

in Lemma 14.7, then we see immediately that ulK is in $K\lambda_2(p)K$. Furthermore, since u is in the center of U , the number of single K -cosets in $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)ulK$ is equal to the index of $U(\mathbb{Z}_p) \cap lU(\mathbb{Z}_p)l^{-1}$ in $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ which is given in Proposition 14.2. \square

In both cases the family $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)ulK$ depends on the choice of t modulo $p\mathbb{Z}_p$. As t runs through the $p - 1$ nontrivial classes modulo $p\mathbb{Z}_p$, we see that the total number of single cosets of the form ulK constructed in Proposition 14.10 is

$$\begin{cases} p^2 - p & \text{if } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ p^5 - p^4 & \text{if } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix}. \end{cases}$$

This is not yet equal to the number of single cosets of the form ulK contained in $K\lambda_2(p)K$, which is $p^3 - p$ and $p^6 - p^4$, respectively. The remaining single cosets are constructed in Proposition 14.12. To do so, we need the following lemma characterizing single $L(\mathbb{Z}_p) \cong \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ cosets in terms of the action on V_1 .

LEMMA 14.11

(i) If

$$l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

then there is unique singular line m_l in $V_1(\mathbb{F}_p)$ such that

$$l \cdot pV_1(\mathbb{Z}_p) + V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p) = V_1(m_l).$$

Furthermore, the set of all $t \equiv l$ such that $t \cdot pV_1(\mathbb{Z}_p) + V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p) = V_1(m_l)$ is a single right $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ -coset.

(ii) If

$$l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix},$$

then there is unique singular line m_l in $V_1(\mathbb{F}_p)$ such that

$$l \cdot V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p) + V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p) = V_1(m_l).$$

Furthermore, the set of all $t \equiv l$ such that $t \cdot V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p) + V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p) = V_1(m_l)$ is a single right $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ -coset.

PROPOSITION 14.12

Let w be a singular element in $V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$. Assume that the reduction of w modulo p is not contained in m_l .

If

$$l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

put $u = \exp(w/p)$. Then ulK is in $K\lambda_2(p)K$. The family $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)ulK$ consists of p single cosets.

If

$$l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix},$$

put $u = \exp(w/p^2)$. Then ulK is in $K\lambda_2(p)K$. The family $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)ulK$ consists of p^4 single cosets.

Proof

Recall that $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ acts transitively on the set of singular elements in $V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, with nontrivial reduction modulo p . Thus, we may assume that $w = e_\alpha$. The stabilizer of w acts transitively on singular lines in $V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ not containing e_α . In particular, we can assume that m_l is given by $e_{\alpha+3\alpha'}$. Putting

$$\begin{cases} \gamma = \alpha, \\ \gamma' = -\alpha - 3\alpha' \end{cases}$$

in Lemma 14.7, we see immediately that ulK is contained in $K\lambda_2(p)K$. The number of single cosets in $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)ulK$ is p and p^4 , respectively, by Lemma 14.8. \square

In both cases the family $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)ulK$ depends on the choice of w modulo $pV_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$. Since there are p singular lines in $V_1(\mathbb{F}_p)$ different from m_l and each contains $p - 1$ nontrivial elements, we see that the total number of single cosets of the form ulK given by Proposition 14.12 is

$$\begin{cases} p^3 - p^2 & \text{if } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ p^6 - p^5 & \text{if } l \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix}. \end{cases}$$

These cosets, together with the cosets given in Proposition 14.10, give all single cosets of the form ulK contained in $K\lambda_2(p)K$, by Corollary 13.4.

It remains to deal with $l \equiv 1$. We have two families of single cosets. The first one is analogous to the family of single cosets constructed in Proposition 14.5 for the double coset $K\lambda_1(p)K$. Let

$$n \subset \frac{1}{p}V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)/V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$$

be a plane stable under a Borel subgroup of $L(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}) = \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})$; we call such a plane a singular plane. Let $V_1(n)$ be the corresponding \mathbb{Z}_p -module between $(1/p)V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ and $V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, and let $U(n)$ be the subgroup of U with

$$\begin{cases} U(n) \cap U_2 = \frac{1}{p}U_2(\mathbb{Z}_p), \\ U(n)/U(n) \cap U_2 = V_1(n). \end{cases} \tag{14.13}$$

Let m be the unique singular line contained in n . Then $U(n)$ contains $U(m)$ with index p .

PROPOSITION 14.14

If u lies in $U(n) \setminus U(m)$, then uK is contained in $K\lambda_2(p)K$. The representatives u of the $p^3 - p^2$ nontrivial cosets of $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ in $U(n) \setminus U(m)$ give distinct single cosets uK . As we vary the plane n in $(1/p)V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)/V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, we obtain $p^4 - p^2$ distinct single cosets with $l \equiv 1$.

Proof

We may assume, without loss of generality, that n is given by $(1/p)e_{\alpha+2\alpha'}$ and $(1/p)e_{\alpha+3\alpha'}$. Note that the unique singular line m in n is given by $(1/p)e_{\alpha+3\alpha'}$. Thus, we can assume that

$$u = x_{\alpha+2\alpha'}(t/p)x_{\alpha+3\alpha'}(a/p)x_{2\alpha+3\alpha'}(b/p),$$

where t is some unit in \mathbb{Z}_p and a and b are in \mathbb{Z}_p . Assume first that $b = 0$. Then formula (14.1) implies that

$$KuK = Kh_{\alpha+2\alpha'}(p)x_{-\alpha-2\alpha'}(vp)x_{\alpha+3\alpha'}(a/p)K$$

for some unit v in \mathbb{Z}_p . The Chevalley commutation relations show that the commutator of $x_{-\alpha-2\alpha'}(vp)$ and $x_{\alpha+3\alpha'}(a/p)$ is in K . Since $x_{-\alpha-2\alpha'}(vp)$ is also in K , we see that the above double coset is in fact equal to

$$Kh_{\alpha+2\alpha'}(p)x_{\alpha+3\alpha'}(a/p)K = Kx_{\alpha+3\alpha'}(p^3a)h_{\alpha+2\alpha'}(p)K = Kh_{\alpha+2\alpha'}(p)K.$$

Since $(\alpha + 2\alpha')^\vee$ is conjugated to λ_2 by an element of the Weyl group, we have shown that u lies in $K\lambda_2(p)K$ if $b = 0$. Next, assume that a is a unit and b is any element in \mathbb{Z}_p . Then $x_\alpha(b/a)$ is in K , and the commutator with $x_{\alpha+3\alpha'}(a/p)$ gives $x_{2\alpha+3\alpha'}(b/p)$ (or $x_{2\alpha+3\alpha'}(-b/p)$). Note that the long basic root α is perpendicular to the short root $\alpha + 2\alpha'$. In particular, $x_\alpha(b/a)$ commutes with $x_{\alpha+2\alpha'}(t/p)$. Thus (ignoring the sign),

$$\begin{aligned} Kx_\alpha(b/a)x_{\alpha+2\alpha'}(t/p)x_{\alpha+3\alpha'}(a/p)x_\alpha(-b/a)K \\ = Kx_{\alpha+2\alpha'}(t/p)x_{\alpha+3\alpha'}(a/p)x_{2\alpha+3\alpha'}(b/p)K, \end{aligned}$$

and we have shown that u lies in $K\lambda_2(p)K$ if $b \in p\mathbb{Z}_p$ or if a is a unit. Since the reflection about α fixes $\alpha + 2\alpha'$ and switches $\alpha + 3\alpha'$ and $2\alpha + 3\alpha'$, it follows that u is in $K\lambda_2(p)K$ if $a \in p\mathbb{Z}_p$ or if b is a unit, as well. Combining the two, we have completed the proof that uK lies in the double coset of $\lambda_2(p)$ for all u in $U(n) \setminus U(m)$.

Each of the $p + 1$ singular planes n gives $p^3 - p^2$ distinct single cosets. Hence there are $(p + 1)(p^3 - p^2) = p^4 - p^2$ distinct single cosets in all. \square

PROPOSITION 14.15

Let (m, m') be an ordered pair of distinct singular lines in $V_1(\mathbb{Q}_p)$, such that $m \cap V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ and $m' \cap V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ give distinct singular lines on reduction modulo p . Let w and w' be in $m \cap V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ and $m' \cap V_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, respectively, but not in $pV_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$. Let $u = \exp(w/p)\exp(w'/p)$. Then the family $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)uK$ is in $K\lambda_2(p)K$ and consists of p single cosets. The family $U(\mathbb{Z}_p)uK$ depends on the choice of w and w' modulo $pV_1(\mathbb{Z}_p)$. As we vary the $p(p + 1)$ ordered pairs of distinct singular lines in $V_1(\mathbb{F}_p)$, we have $p^5 - p^4 - p^3 + p^2$ distinct single cosets in all.

Proof

Since $L(\mathbb{Z}_p) \cong \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ acts transitively on the set of ordered pairs of distinct singular lines in $V_1(\mathbb{F}_p)$, we may assume that m is given by e_α and m' by $e_{\alpha+3\alpha'}$. Thus, we may take $u = x_\alpha(t/p)x_{\alpha+3\alpha'}(t'/p)$, where t and t' are units in \mathbb{Z}_p . Note that α and $\alpha + 3\alpha'$ are long roots. Let $\mathrm{SL}_3 \subset G_2$ be the Chevalley subgroup generated by the long root subgroups. Then it is not difficult to check that

$$\mathrm{SL}_3(\mathbb{Z}_p)u\mathrm{SL}_3(\mathbb{Z}_p) = \mathrm{SL}_3(\mathbb{Z}_p)\lambda_2(p)\mathrm{SL}_3(\mathbb{Z}_p),$$

so that u lies in $K\lambda_2(p)K$. Finally, a commutation calculation in U gives

$$U(\mathbb{Z}_p)x_\alpha(t/p)x_{\alpha+3\alpha'}(t'/p)K = \bigcup_{a \pmod{p}} x_\beta(a/p)x_\alpha(t/p)x_{\alpha+3\alpha'}(t'/p)K,$$

a disjoint union of p single cosets.

Next, using the commutation relations in U , it is easy to see that these are disjoint families, as we run through ordered pairs of distinct singular lines in $V_1(\mathbb{F}_p)$. As each

line contains $p-1$ nontrivial elements, we see that we have constructed $p(p+1)(p-1)^2 p = p^5 - p^4 - p^3 + p^2$ single cosets of the form uK in all. \square

Combining the last two propositions, we see that we have constructed $p^5 - p^3$ single cosets. By Corollary 13.4, these are all the single cosets of the form uK in $K\lambda_2(p)K$.

15. Action of Hecke operators on Fourier coefficients

Now we return to the global situation, and we let G be the Chevalley group of type G_2 over \mathbb{Z} . Let t be an element of $G(\mathbb{Q}_p)$, and let $K = G(\mathbb{Z}_p)$. Once we have determined the decomposition of $KtK = \bigcup t_i K$ into right cosets, we can define a Hecke operator t on the space $\mathcal{A}(G)^K$ of automorphic forms on $G(\mathbb{A})$ fixed by K by the formula

$$t|F(g) = \sum_i F(gt_i).$$

Here the t_i are viewed as elements of $G(\mathbb{A})$, which are equal to 1 at all places $v \neq p$. This action satisfies

$$(t_1 \cdot t_2)|F = t_1|(t_2|F).$$

Using strong approximation, we may view an automorphic form F on $G(\mathbb{A})$ fixed by $G(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$ as a function F_∞ on $G(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash G(\mathbb{R})$, given by

$$F_\infty(g_\infty) = F(g_\infty, 1, 1, \dots).$$

In terms of the function F_∞ , the action of the Hecke operator t looks a bit different. By strong approximation again, we may find an element s in $G(\mathbb{Q})$ which satisfies

$$\begin{cases} s_l \text{ is in } G(\mathbb{Z}_l) & \text{if } l \neq p, \\ s_p K = tK & \text{in } G(\mathbb{Q}_p). \end{cases} \quad (15.1)$$

Similarly, we can find elements s_i that approximate t_i in the above sense. The elements s and s_i are unique up to right multiplication by $G(\mathbb{Z})$, and viewing them in $G(\mathbb{R})$, we obtain a decomposition

$$G(\mathbb{Z})sG(\mathbb{Z}) = \bigcup s_i G(\mathbb{Z}). \quad (15.2)$$

We then have the formula

$$t|F_\infty(g_\infty) = \sum_i F_\infty(s_i^{-1}g_\infty)$$

for the action of the Hecke operator t on $F_\infty : G(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash G(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. Indeed, there is no

loss of generality in taking t and t_i to be the p -adic components of s and s_i . Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 t|F_\infty(g_\infty) &= t|F(g_\infty, 1, 1, \dots) \\
 &= \sum_i F(g_\infty, 1, 1, \dots, (s_i)_p, \dots) \\
 &= \sum_i F(s_i^{-1} \cdot (g_\infty, 1, 1, \dots, (s_i)_p, \dots)) \\
 &\quad \text{(since } F \text{ is left } G(\mathbb{Q})\text{-invariant)} \\
 &= \sum_i F(s_i^{-1} \cdot g_\infty, 1, 1, \dots) \quad \text{(since } s_i \in G(\mathbb{Z}_i) \text{ for all } i \neq p) \\
 &= \sum_i F_\infty(s_i^{-1} g_\infty).
 \end{aligned}$$

Now let $f : \pi_k \otimes \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}(G)$ be a modular form of weight k , so that the image of f is contained in the subspace of $\mathcal{A}(G)$ fixed by $G(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$. For $v \in \pi_k$, let $F = f(v) \in \mathcal{A}(G)$, which we henceforth regard as a function on $G(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash G(\mathbb{R})$ by restriction. We can now define an action of the Hecke operator $t \in G(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ on f by

$$(t|f)(v) = t|F : G(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash G(\mathbb{R}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}.$$

If χ is a character of $U(\mathbb{R})$ trivial on $U(\mathbb{Z})$, then we have defined the Fourier coefficient $c_\chi(t|f)$. Our goal is to express $c_\chi(t|f)$ in terms of the Fourier coefficients of f .

Let s and $s_i \in G(\mathbb{Q})$ be related to t and $t_i \in G(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ as in (15.1), so that we have a decomposition

$$G(\mathbb{Z})sG(\mathbb{Z}) = \bigcup_i s_i G(\mathbb{Z}).$$

It is now convenient to group the single $G(\mathbb{Z})$ -cosets according to the $U(\mathbb{Z})$ -orbits in which they lie, where $U(\mathbb{Z})$ acts by left multiplication on $G(\mathbb{Z})sG(\mathbb{Z})/G(\mathbb{Z})$. Since $G(\mathbb{Q}) = P(\mathbb{Q}) \cdot G(\mathbb{Z})$ by a result of Borel, we first write

$$G(\mathbb{Z})sG(\mathbb{Z}) = \bigcup_i U(\mathbb{Z})p_i G(\mathbb{Z}) = \bigcup_i \mathcal{O}_i,$$

where $p_i = u_i l_i$, with $u_i \in U(\mathbb{Q})$ and $l_i \in L(\mathbb{Q})$. Each $\mathcal{O}_i = U(\mathbb{Z})p_i G(\mathbb{Z})$ can further be decomposed into the union of $U_2(\mathbb{Z})$ -orbits:

$$\mathcal{O}_i = \bigcup_j U_2(\mathbb{Z})p_{ij} G(\mathbb{Z}) = \bigcup_j \mathcal{O}_{ij},$$

where $p_{ij} = v_j p_i$ with $v_j \in U(\mathbb{Z})$. Finally, we write each \mathcal{O}_{ij} as a union of single $G(\mathbb{Z})$ -cosets

$$\mathcal{O}_{ij} = \bigcup_k z_k p_{ij} G(\mathbb{Z})$$

with $z_k \in U_2(\mathbb{Z})$. Each $\mathcal{O}_{ij}/G(\mathbb{Z})$ is thus a homogeneous space for $U_2(\mathbb{Z})$, and the stabilizer of $p_{ij}G(\mathbb{Z})$ is $U_2(\mathbb{Z}) \cap l_i U_2(\mathbb{Z}) l_i^{-1}$. In particular, the number

$$m_i = \#\{\text{single } G(\mathbb{Z})\text{-cosets in } \mathcal{O}_{ij}\} = \#U_2(\mathbb{Z})/U_2(\mathbb{Z}) \cap l_i U_2(\mathbb{Z}) l_i^{-1}$$

depends only on i and not on j .

We are now ready to compute the Fourier coefficient $c_\chi(t|f)$. Consider first the constant term of $t|F$ along U_2 . For $u \in U(\mathbb{R})$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (t|F)_{U_2}(u) &= \int_{U_2(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash U_2(\mathbb{R})} (t|F)(zu) dz \\ &= \sum_{i,j} \int_{U_2(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash U_2(\mathbb{R})} \sum_k F(p_{ij}^{-1} z_k^{-1} zu) dz \\ &= \sum_{i,j} I_{ij}. \end{aligned}$$

Consider the Fourier expansion of F along U_2 :

$$F(g) = \sum_{\psi} F_{\psi}(g), \quad g \in G(\mathbb{R}),$$

where ψ runs through the characters of $U_2(\mathbb{R})$ trivial on $U_2(\mathbb{Z})$ and

$$F_{\psi}(g) = \int_{U_2(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash U_2(\mathbb{R})} F(zg) \cdot \overline{\psi(z)} dz.$$

Then for fixed i, j ,

$$\begin{aligned} I_{ij} &= \int_{U_2(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash U_2(\mathbb{R})} \sum_k \sum_{\psi} \psi(p_{ij}^{-1} z p_{ij}) \psi(p_{ij}^{-1} z_k^{-1} p_{ij}) F_{\psi}(p_{ij}^{-1} u) dz \\ &= \int_{U_2(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash U_2(\mathbb{R})} \sum_{\psi} (p_{ij} \cdot \psi)(z) F_{\psi}(p_{ij}^{-1} u) \cdot \left(\sum_k (p_{ij} \cdot \psi)(z_k) \right) dz. \end{aligned}$$

Since

$$\sum_k (p_{ij} \cdot \psi)(z_k) = \begin{cases} m_i & \text{if } p_{ij} \cdot \psi \text{ is trivial on } U_2(\mathbb{Z}), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

we deduce that

$$I_{ij} = m_i \cdot F_{U_2}(p_{ij}^{-1} u),$$

and hence,

$$(t|F)_{U_2}(u) = \sum_{i,j} m_i \cdot F_{U_2}(p_{ij}^{-1} u).$$

We can now regard F_{U_2} and $(t|F)_{U_2}$ as functions on $L(\mathbb{R}) \cdot V_1(\mathbb{R}) \cong P(\mathbb{R})/U_2(\mathbb{R})$. Then we have the Fourier expansion

$$F_{U_2}(g) = \sum_{\psi} F_{U_2, \psi}(g), \quad g \in L(\mathbb{R}) \cdot V_1(\mathbb{R}),$$

where ψ runs through the characters of $V_1(\mathbb{R})$ trivial on $V_1(\mathbb{Z})$. Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} (t|F)_{\chi}(1) &= \int_{V_1(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash V_1(\mathbb{R})} (t|F)_{U_2}(v) \cdot \overline{\chi(v)} \, dv \\ &= \sum_i m_i \cdot \int_{V_1(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash V_1(\mathbb{R})} \sum_j F_{U_2}(p_i^{-1} v_j^{-1} v) \cdot \overline{\chi(v)} \, dv \\ &= \sum_i m_i \cdot \int_{V_1(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash V_1(\mathbb{R})} \sum_j \sum_{\psi} (l_i \cdot \psi)(v_j^{-1}) \cdot (l_i \cdot \psi)(v) \\ &\quad \cdot F_{U_2, \psi}(p_i^{-1}) \cdot \overline{\chi(v)} \, dv \\ &= \sum_i m_i \cdot \int_{V_1(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash V_1(\mathbb{R})} \sum_{\psi} F_{U_2, \psi}(p_i^{-1}) \cdot (l_i \cdot \psi)(v) \cdot \overline{\chi(v)} \\ &\quad \cdot \left(\sum_j (l_i \cdot \psi)(v_j^{-1}) \right) \, dv. \end{aligned}$$

Since

$$\sum_j (l_i \cdot \psi)(v_j^{-1}) = \begin{cases} \#V_1(\mathbb{Z}) / (V_1(\mathbb{Z}) \cap l_i V_1(\mathbb{Z}) l_i^{-1}) & \text{if } l_i \cdot \psi \text{ is trivial on } V_1(\mathbb{Z}), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

and

$$n_i = m_i \cdot \#V_1(\mathbb{Z}) / (V_1(\mathbb{Z}) \cap l_i V_1(\mathbb{Z}) l_i^{-1})$$

is the number of single $G(\mathbb{Z})$ -cosets in $U(\mathbb{Z}) p_i G(\mathbb{Z})$, we deduce that

$$(t|F)_{\chi}(1) = \sum_i n_i \cdot F_{l_i^{-1} \chi}(l_i^{-1}) \cdot \chi(u_i^{-1}), \quad (15.3)$$

where $F_{l_i^{-1} \chi}$ is equal to zero unless $l_i^{-1} \cdot \chi$ is trivial on $U(\mathbb{Z})$.

To relate these computations to the notion of Fourier coefficients defined in Section 8, let us fix a character χ_0 of $U(\mathbb{R})$ with $\Delta(\chi_0) > 0$, and a basis element l_0 in $\text{Hom}_{U(\mathbb{R})}(\pi_k, \mathbb{C}(\chi_0))$. Choose any $g \in L(\mathbb{R})$ such that $\chi = g \cdot \chi_0$. If $l_{f, \chi}$ denotes the linear functional on π_k defined by

$$l_{f, \chi} : v \mapsto f(v)_{\chi}(1) = \int_{U(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash U(\mathbb{R})} f(v)(u) \cdot \overline{\chi(u)} \, du,$$

then recall from (8.3) that $c_\chi(f)$ is defined by

$$l_{f,\chi} = c_\chi(f) \cdot (\lambda_k(g) \cdot gl_0).$$

Now consider the linear functional

$$L_i : v \mapsto f(v)_{l_i^{-1}\chi}(l_i^{-1}),$$

which is an element of $\text{Hom}_{U(\mathbb{R})}(\pi_k, \mathbb{C}(\chi))$. A simple calculation shows that

$$L_i = c_{l_i^{-1}\chi}(f) \cdot \lambda_k(l_i)^{-1} \cdot (\lambda_k(g) \cdot gl_0). \tag{15.4}$$

From (15.3) and (15.4), we deduce that

$$l_{t|f,\chi} = \left(\sum_i n_i \cdot \lambda_k(l_i)^{-1} \cdot \chi(u_i)^{-1} \cdot c_{l_i^{-1}\chi}(f) \right) \cdot (\lambda_k(g) \cdot gl_0),$$

and thus, we have the following.

PROPOSITION 15.5

Suppose that

$$G(\mathbb{Z})_s G(\mathbb{Z}) = \bigcup_i U(\mathbb{Z})u_i l_i G(\mathbb{Z})$$

with $u_i \in U(\mathbb{Q})$ and $l_i \in L(\mathbb{Q})$. Then

$$c_\chi(t|f) = \sum_i n_i \cdot \lambda_k(l_i)^{-1} \cdot \chi(u_i)^{-1} \cdot c_{l_i^{-1}\chi}(f),$$

where

$$n_i = \#\{\text{single } G(\mathbb{Z})\text{-cosets in } U(\mathbb{Z})u_i l_i G(\mathbb{Z})\},$$

and $c_{l_i^{-1}\chi}(f)$ is equal to zero unless $l_i^{-1}\chi$ is trivial on $U(\mathbb{Z})$.

Now fix a prime p , and consider the local Hecke algebra \mathcal{H}_p at p . As we mentioned before,

$$\mathcal{H}_p \cong R(\widehat{G}) \cong \mathbb{C}[\chi_1, \chi_2]$$

as \mathbb{C} -algebras, with χ_1 and χ_2 the two fundamental representations of the complex Lie group $\widehat{G} = G_2(\mathbb{C})$. In the remainder of this section, we use Proposition 15.5 and the results of Section 14 to obtain explicit formulas for the action of the Hecke operators χ_1 and χ_2 on the Fourier coefficients of modular forms in M_k .

Let A be a cubic ring with p -depth zero, corresponding to a character χ . Set $A_i = \mathbb{Z} + p^i A$, which has p -depth i and corresponds to the character $\chi_i = \begin{pmatrix} p^i & \\ & p^i \end{pmatrix} \cdot \chi$. Let f be a modular form of weight k , and let $c_i(f)$ be the Fourier coefficient of f corresponding to A_i . To avoid issues about orientation, we assume for simplicity that the weight k is even. Then we have the following.

PROPOSITION 15.6

Let f be a modular form of even weight k , and let A_i be the chain of cubic rings as above. If $i \geq 1$, then

$$c_i(\chi_1|f) = p^{2k-1}c_{i-1}(f) + p^{k-1} \sum_{A_i \subset B \subset A_{i-1}} c_B(f) + c_i(f) \\ + p^{-k} \sum_{A_{i+1} \subset B \subset A_i} c_B(f) + p^{1-2k}c_{i+1}(f),$$

where the inclusions of rings are proper. If $i = 0$, then

$$c_0(\chi_1|f) = p^{k-1} \sum_{A \subset_p B} c_B(f) + p^{-1}(n_A - 1)c_0(f) \\ + p^{-k} \sum_{A_1 \subset B \subset A} c_B(f) + p^{1-2k}c_1(f),$$

where n_A is the number of rings B such that $A_1 \subset B \subset A$.

Proof

As we have noted before,

$$\chi_1|f = \frac{1}{p^3}(c[\lambda_1(p)]|f + f).$$

In Propositions 14.2 and 14.5, we have determined the decomposition of $G(\mathbb{Z}_p)\lambda_1(p)G(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ into single $G(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ -cosets. Since the single coset representatives obtained there lie in $G(\mathbb{Z}[1/p])$, they serve as representatives for the single $G(\mathbb{Z})$ -cosets in $G(\mathbb{Z})\lambda_1(p)G(\mathbb{Z})$ in view of (15.1) and (15.2). Moreover, the proofs of the propositions furnish us with a decomposition

$$G(\mathbb{Z})\lambda_1(p)G(\mathbb{Z}) = \bigcup_i U(\mathbb{Z})u_i l_i G(\mathbb{Z})$$

and provide us with the number n_i of single $G(\mathbb{Z})$ -cosets in each $U(\mathbb{Z})u_i l_i G(\mathbb{Z})$. Indeed, the representatives for the $(U(\mathbb{Z}), G(\mathbb{Z}))$ -cosets in $G(\mathbb{Z})\lambda_1(p)G(\mathbb{Z})$ can be taken to be

- $\begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & p \end{pmatrix}$;
- a set S_2 of representatives for the $p + 1$ single cosets in $GL_2(\mathbb{Z})\begin{pmatrix} p & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix}GL_2(\mathbb{Z})$;
- a set S_1 of representatives for the $p + 1$ single cosets in $GL_2(\mathbb{Z})\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix}GL_2(\mathbb{Z})$;
- $\begin{pmatrix} p^{-1} & \\ & p^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$;
- a set S^* of representatives for the $p - 1$ nontrivial cosets of $U(\mathbb{Z})$ in U^* ;

- for each of the $p + 1$ singular lines $m \subset (1/p)V_1(\mathbb{Z})/V_1(\mathbb{Z})$, a set S_m of representatives for the $p - 1$ nontrivial cosets of U^* in $U(m)$.

Here the groups U^* and $U(m)$ over \mathbb{Z} are defined analogously as the corresponding groups over \mathbb{Z}_p introduced before Lemma 14.3 and in (14.4).

From this and Proposition 15.5, we deduce that for $i \geq 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} c_i(t|f) &= p^{2k-1}c_{i-1}(f) + p^{k-1} \sum_{l \in S_2} c_{l^{-1}\chi_i}(f) + c_i(f) \\ &\quad + p^{-k} \sum_{l \in S_1} c_{l^{-1}\chi_i}(f) + p^{1-2k}c_{i+1}(f). \end{aligned}$$

It remains to see that there are bijections

$$\{\text{cubic rings } A_i \subset B \subset A_{i-1}\} \longleftrightarrow \{l \in S_2 : l^{-1}\chi_i \text{ is trivial on } U(\mathbb{Z})\}$$

and

$$\{\text{cubic rings } A_{i+1} \subset B \subset A_i\} \longleftrightarrow \{l \in S_1 : l^{-1}\chi_i \text{ is trivial on } U(\mathbb{Z})\}.$$

In view of the correspondence between binary cubic forms over \mathbb{Z} and the characters of $U(\mathbb{R})$ which are trivial on $U(\mathbb{Z})$, the required bijections follow from Proposition 5.7.

When $i = 0$, the only added subtlety is in the determination of the coefficient

$$\frac{1}{p^3} \left(1 + \#S^* + p \sum_m \sum_{u \in S_m} \chi(u) \right)$$

of $c_A(f)$. Regarding χ as a character on $U(m)/U^*$, we see that

$$\sum_{u \in S_m} \chi(u) = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if the restriction of } \chi \text{ to } U(m) \text{ is nontrivial,} \\ p - 1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

On the other hand, if m corresponds to the line $l = (x_0 : y_0)$ in $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{F}_p)$, and χ corresponds to the binary cubic form $q(x, y)$, then the triviality of the restriction of χ on $U(m)$ is equivalent to $q(x_0, y_0) = 0 \pmod{p}$. Hence, by Proposition 5.4, the number of m for which χ is trivial on $U(m)$ is equal to the number of rings B such that $A_1 \subset B \subset A$, and the proposition is proved. \square

COROLLARY 15.7

Assume that A/pA is a field. Then

$$c_A(\chi_1|f) = -\frac{1}{p}c_A(f) + p^{1-2k}c_{A_1}(f).$$

Furthermore, for every cubic ring B such that $A_2 \subset B \subset A_1$,

$$c_B(\chi_1|f) = p^{k-1}c_{A_1}(f) + p^{-k}c_{A_2}(f) + p^{1-2k}c_{B_1}(f).$$

Proof

This follows from the Proposition 15.6 and Corollary 5.6. \square

Similarly, using Propositions 14.6, 14.9, 14.10, 14.12, 14.14, and 14.15, we can compute $c_i(\chi_2|f)$ in terms of the Fourier coefficients of f . We omit the proof and simply state the result.

PROPOSITION 15.8

If $i \geq 2$, then

$$c_i(\chi_2|f) = c_i(\chi_1|f) + p^{3k-2} \sum_{A_{i-1} \subset B \subset A_{i-2}} c_B(f) + p^{-1} \sum_{A_{i+1} \subset C \subset A_{i-1}} c_C(f) \\ + p^{-1} c_i(f) + p^{1-3k} \sum_{A_{i+2} \subset B \subset A_{i+1}} c_B(f).$$

Here each C is a ring such that $C/A_{i+1} \cong \mathbb{Z}/p^2\mathbb{Z}$.

When $i = 0$ or 1 , the formulas expressing $c_i(\chi_2|f)$ in terms of the Fourier coefficients of f are more complicated. We highlight only the case when A/pA is a field.

COROLLARY 15.9

Assume that A/pA is a field. Then

$$\begin{cases} c_0(\chi_2|f) = \left(\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{p^2}\right)c_0(f) - p^{-2k}c_1(f) + p^{1-3k} \sum_{A_2 \subset B \subset A_1} c_B(f), \\ c_1(\chi_2|f) = -p^{2k-2}c_0(f) + \left(1 + \frac{1}{p}\right)c_1(f) + p^{1-2k}c_2(f) \\ \quad + \sum_{A_3 \subset B \subset A_2} p^{1-3k}c_B(f). \end{cases}$$

Proof

The formula for $c_1(\chi_2|f)$ follows from Proposition 15.5 and the results of the previous section, as soon as we show that there are no rings $A_2 \subset C \subset A$ such that $C/A_2 \cong \mathbb{Z}/p^2\mathbb{Z}$. Let $B = C \cap A_1$. Then $A_2 \subset B \subset A_1$ and B is contained in C with index p . By Corollary 5.6, C must be A_1 . This is a contradiction. Similar, even easier, considerations can be used to deal with $c_A(\chi_2|f)$. The corollary is proved. \square

16. Gorenstein coefficients

Let $f \in M_k$ be a nonzero eigenform for the spherical Hecke algebra. In this section we show that the Fourier coefficient $c_A(f)$ is nonzero for some Gorenstein ring A . Together with Proposition 8.4, this implies that if f is a nonzero cuspidal Hecke eigenform, then f is completely determined by its Hecke eigenvalues and its Gorenstein coefficients. This is the analog of the classical result that if $f(z) = \sum_{n \geq 1} a_n(f)e^{2\pi inz}$

is a nonzero cuspidal Hecke eigenform, then $a_1(f) \neq 0$. The proof of this statement is based on the formulas for the action of Hecke operators on $a_n(f)$. Indeed, the formula for each local operator T_p is

$$a_n(T_p|f) = a_{n/p}(f) + p^{-k}a_{pn}(f),$$

which shows that the coefficients $a_n(f)$ can be recovered from $a_1(f)$ and the Hecke eigenvalues. Our proof is based on the same idea, exploiting the formulas for the Hecke operators χ_1 and χ_2 obtained in Section 15.

Let A be a totally real cubic ring, so that the cubic algebra $E = A \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ is étale. For every prime integer p , we define an equivalence relation between cubic rings in E as follows: $A \sim_p B$ if the intersection of A and B is contained in both A and B with index a power of p . This is equivalent to saying that $A \otimes \mathbb{Z}_l = B \otimes \mathbb{Z}_l$ as subrings of $E \otimes \mathbb{Q}_l$ for all $l \neq p$. We stress that \sim_p is not an equivalence relation on the set of isomorphism classes of cubic rings; in particular, it is possible for B_1 and $B_2 \subset E$ to be abstractly isomorphic as cubic rings but nonequivalent under \sim_p . For example, if $A = \mathbb{Z}^3$, and l is a prime different from p , then the three cubic rings between A and $\mathbb{Z} + lA$ are abstractly isomorphic but nonequivalent under \sim_p .

PROPOSITION 16.1

If the Fourier coefficients of f vanish for all rings of p -depth less than or equal to 1 in a \sim_p equivalence class, then they vanish for all rings in the \sim_p equivalence class.

Proof

The proof is by induction on the depth. Assume that we have proved the vanishing for all rings of p -depth less than or equal to i (with $i \geq 1$). Let $A_{i+1} = \mathbb{Z} + p^{i+1}A$ be a ring of p -depth $i + 1$. Acting by the Hecke operator χ_1 on $c_{A_i}(f)$ and using the induction assumption, we obtain

$$0 = p^{k-1} \sum_{A_i \subset B \subset A_{i-1}} c_B(f) + p^{-k} \sum_{A_{i+1} \subset B \subset A_i} c_B(f) + p^{1-2k} c_{A_{i+1}}(f).$$

Thus, to show that $c_{A_{i+1}}(f) = 0$ we need to show that the first two summands on the right-hand side are zero. Vanishing of the first sum is proved in the following lemma.

LEMMA 16.2

Assume that Fourier coefficients of f vanish for all rings of p -depth less than or equal to i in the \sim_p class of A . Then

$$\sum_{A_i \subset B \subset A_{i-1}} c_B(f) = 0.$$

Proof

Since $i \geq 1$, the ring A_{i-1} exists. Acting by the Hecke operator χ_1 on $c_{A_{i-1}}$ and using the assumption of the lemma, it follows that

$$0 = p^{k-1} \sum_{A_{i-1} \subset B \subset A_{i-2}} c_B(f) + p^{-k} \sum_{A_i \subset B \subset A_{i-1}} c_B(f).$$

By Proposition 5.5, the p -depth of each B in the first sum lies between $i-3$ and i . In particular, $c_B(f) = 0$ by the assumption of the lemma. The lemma follows. \square

It remains to show vanishing of the second sum. This is much harder, however, and is accomplished in the following lemma.

LEMMA 16.3

Assume that Fourier coefficients of f vanish for all rings of p -depth less than or equal to i in the \sim_p class of A . Then

$$\sum_{A_{i+1} \subset B \subset A_i} c_B(f) = 0.$$

Proof

The idea this time is to use the operator χ_2 on $c_{A_{i-1}}$. After taking into account the induction assumption, we obtain

$$0 = p^{-1} \sum_{A_i \subset C \subset A_{i-2}} c_C(f) + p^{1-3k} \sum_{A_{i+1} \subset B \subset A_i} c_B(f),$$

where, as usual, the first sum is taken over all C such that C/A_i is cyclic of order p^2 . Obviously, to prove the lemma, we need to show that the first summand is zero. By intersecting each C with A_{i-1} , the first summand can be rewritten as

$$\sum_{A_i \subset C \subset A_{i-2}} c_C(f) = \sum_{A_i \subset B \subset A_{i-1}} \sum_{B \subset_p C} c_C(f) - n_i c_{A_{i-1}}(f),$$

where n_i is the number of cubic rings between A_i and A_{i-1} . Moreover, $c_{A_{i-1}}(f) = 0$ by the induction assumption, so it remains to show that the double sum on the right-hand side is zero. By Proposition 5.5, the p -depth of each B between A_i and A_{i-1} lies between $i-2$ and $i+1$. Next, assume that B has positive p -depth. Then, the ring B_{-1} such that $B = \mathbb{Z} + pB_{-1}$ exists and has p -depth at most i . Applying the Hecke operator χ_1 to $c_{B_{-1}}(f)$ and using the induction assumption, it follows that

$$0 = p^{k-1} \sum_{B_{-1} \subset_p C} c_C(f) + p^{-k} \sum_{C \subset_p B_{-1}} c_C(f) + p^{1-2k} c_B(f).$$

We claim that the first sum on the right-hand side is zero. By Proposition 5.5, any ring C containing B_{-1} with index p has p -depth less than or equal to $i + 1$. It can be $i + 1$ only when B_{-1} has p -depth i . In that case we can apply Lemma 16.2 to B_{-1} to show that the sum is zero. Otherwise, each individual term $c_C(f)$ is zero. In any case, the claim follows.

In the second sum we can replace $C \subset_p B_{-1}$ by $B \subset_p C$ since the rings C contained in B_{-1} with index p are precisely the rings containing B with index p . Summing the above equation over all B between A_i and A_{i-1} such that p -depth of B is positive, we obtain

$$0 = p^{-k} \sum_{A_i \subset B_+ \subset A_{i-1}} \sum_{B_+ \subset_p C} c_C(f) + p^{1-2k} \sum_{A_i \subset B_+ \subset A_{i-1}} c_{B_+}(f),$$

where the subscript $+$ denotes that the sum is taken over rings B with positive p -depth. However, if B has p -depth zero, and $B \subset_p C$, then C has p -depth less than or equal to 1. Thus, $c_B(f) = c_C(f) = 0$ by the assumption of the proposition, and this implies that we can remove the subscript $+$ in the previous equation. Now, since the second sum is zero by Lemma 16.2, the first sum has to be zero as well. The lemma follows. □

We have thus completed the proof of Proposition 16.1. □

We now show that the vanishing of the Fourier coefficients of f for all rings of p -depth zero in a given \sim_p -class implies vanishing of all Fourier coefficients in the \sim_p -class. In view of Proposition 16.1, it suffices to show that $c_{A_1}(f) = 0$ for all cubic rings A of p -depth zero in the given \sim_p equivalence class. The idea is similar to the one used in the proof of Proposition 16.1. The necessary modifications of the proof are based on the following proposition.

PROPOSITION 16.4

Each \sim_p equivalence class of cubic rings contains a unique maximal element A_{\max} .

Proof

We define A_{\max} in $A \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ by specifying its localizations in $A \otimes \mathbb{Q}_l$ for all primes l . For l not equal to p , we insist that the localization be equal to $A \otimes \mathbb{Z}_l$ for any ring A in the equivalence class. For $l = p$, we insist that the localization be equal to the integral closure of \mathbb{Z}_p in $A \otimes \mathbb{Q}_p$. Since $A \otimes \mathbb{Q}_p$ is étale over \mathbb{Q}_p , the integral closure is free of rank 3 over \mathbb{Z}_p and is maximal for this property. The above construction shows that A_{\max} is the unique ring in the \sim_p equivalence class which minimizes the power of p in the discriminant and thus that it is the unique maximal element in the \sim_p equivalence class of A . □

Let $f \in M_k$ be a Hecke eigenform. We now show that the vanishing of the Fourier coefficients of f for all rings of p -depth zero in a given equivalence class implies the vanishing of all coefficients in the class. We first show the following.

PROPOSITION 16.5

Let A be a p -depth zero ring in the \sim_p equivalence class of A_{\max} . If the Fourier coefficients of f for all rings of p -depth zero in the equivalence class of A_{\max} vanish, then $c_{A_i}(f) = 0$ for $i = 1, 2$.

Proof

The idea is to prove this statement for $A = A_{\max}$ and then use induction on the index of A in A_{\max} . Since the arguments are repetitive, we do the proof for $A = A_{\max}$ and the induction step at the same time.

LEMMA 16.6

Let B be a ring containing A with index p or contained in A with index p . Then $c_B(f) = 0$.

Proof

If $A = A_{\max}$, then there are no rings containing it, and every ring B between A and A_1 has depth zero. Otherwise, B_{-1} would exist and would contain A_{\max} with index p , which is a contradiction.

Induction step. A ring B containing A with index p can have p -depth 1. In that case, $B = \mathbb{Z} + pB_0$, where B_0 has p -depth zero. Since the index of B_0 in A_{\max} is smaller than the index of A , the induction hypothesis implies that $c_{B_0}(f) = 0$. Similarly, any ring B between A_1 and A has p -depth at most 2. Hence, either B has p -depth zero and $c_B(f) = 0$ by the assumption, or $B = \mathbb{Z} + p^i B_0$ for some $1 \leq i \leq 2$, in which case $c_B(f) = 0$ by the induction assumption since the index of B_0 in A_{\max} is less than that of A . \square

Now Proposition 15.6 (acting by the Hecke operator χ_1 on $c_A(f)$) and Lemma 16.6 imply that

$$c_{A_1}(f) = 0. \tag{16.7}$$

LEMMA 16.8

We have

$$\sum_{A_1 \subset C} c_C(f) = 0,$$

where the sum is taken over all rings C such that $C/A_1 = \mathbb{Z}/p^2\mathbb{Z}$.

Proof

Since $A/A_1 = (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^2$, C is not contained in A . Thus, if $A = A_{\max}$, there are no such rings C .

Induction step. Let $B = A \cap C$. Then $A_1 \subset B \subset A$. By Proposition 5.5, the p -depth of B is at most 2. Since $B \subset_p C$, the p -depth of C could be at most 3, which happens only if B has p -depth 2. Thus, if B has p -depth less than 2, then C has p -depth less than 3, and the induction hypothesis implies that $c_C(f) = 0$, just as in Lemma 16.6. Now assume that B has p -depth 2. Then the ring B_{-1} exists, and we can apply the operator χ_1 to $c_{B_{-1}}(f)$. By the induction hypothesis, the formula reduces to

$$p^{k-1} \sum_{B_{-1} \subset_p C} c_C(f) + p^{-k} \sum_{B \subset_p C} c_C(f) = 0.$$

The rings C in the first sum have p -depths less than 3. Therefore, the coefficients $c_C(f)$ vanish by the induction hypothesis, again just as in Lemma 16.6. The second sum therefore also vanishes, and the lemma follows. (The sum also includes the term $c_A(f)$, which is zero.) \square

LEMMA 16.9

We have

$$\sum_{A_2 \subset B \subset A_1} c_B(f) = 0.$$

Proof

Consider the action of the Hecke operator χ_2 on $c_A(f)$. Using the formula given in Proposition 15.5, one obtains the desired result from (16.7), Lemma 16.6, and Lemma 16.8. \square

Now Proposition 15.6 (acting by the Hecke operator χ_1 on $c_{A_1}(f)$) and Lemma 16.9 imply that

$$c_{A_2}(f) = 0. \tag{16.10}$$

In view of (16.7) and (16.10), Proposition 16.5 is proved completely. \square

Moreover, Propositions 16.5 and 16.1 imply the following corollary.

COROLLARY 16.11

If the Fourier coefficients of f vanish for all rings of p -depth zero in a \sim_p equivalence class, then they vanish for all rings in the \sim_p equivalence class.

We are now ready to prove that cuspidal Hecke eigenforms are determined by their Gorenstein coefficients and Hecke eigenvalues.

THEOREM 16.12

Let f be a Hecke eigenform. If $c_A(f) = 0$ for all Gorenstein rings A , then all the Fourier coefficients of f vanish. In particular, if f is a nonzero cuspidal Hecke eigenform, then f has a nonzero Gorenstein coefficient.

Proof

Suppose that there exists a totally real cubic ring A such that $c_A(f) \neq 0$. Let $E = A \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ which is a cubic étale algebra over \mathbb{Q} .

Pick an ordering of primes p_1, p_2, \dots , and let X_k be the set of cubic rings in E with trivial p_l -depth for all $l > k$. Clearly, X_0 is the set of all Gorenstein rings in E , and every cubic ring in E is contained in some X_k for a sufficiently large k . Furthermore, X_k is a union of \sim_{p_k} conjugacy classes, and the set of all elements in X_k of p_k -depth zero is precisely X_{k-1} . Using induction on k , Corollary 16.11 implies that the Fourier coefficients of f vanish for all cubic rings in E . This is a contradiction, and the first statement of the theorem is proved. The second statement follows from this and Proposition 8.4. \square

Acknowledgment. We wish to thank Nolan Wallach for keeping us informed of his work.

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Gan
Department of Mathematics, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey 08544, USA;
wgan@math.princeton.edu

Gross
Department of Mathematics, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138, USA;
gross@math.harvard.edu

Savin
Department of Mathematics, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112, USA;
savin@math.utah.edu