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Overconvergent modular symbols and p -adic L -functions

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OVERCONVERGENT MODULAR SYMBOLS AND p -ADIC L -FUNCTIONS

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ABSTRACT. – This paper is a constructive investigation of the relationship between classical modular symbols and overconvergent p -adic modular symbols. Specifically, we give a constructive proof of a *control theorem* (Theorem 1.1) due to the second author [19] proving existence and uniqueness of overconvergent eigenliftings of classical modular eigensymbols of *non-critical slope*. As an application we describe a polynomial-time algorithm for explicit computation of associated p -adic L -functions in this case. In the case of *critical slope*, the control theorem fails to always produce eigenliftings (see Theorem 5.14 and [16] for a salvage), but the algorithm still “succeeds” at producing p -adic L -functions. In the final two sections we present numerical data in several critical slope examples and examine the Newton polygons of the associated p -adic L -functions.

RÉSUMÉ. – Cet article est une exploration constructive des rapports entre les symboles modulaires classiques et les symboles modulaires p -adiques surconvergents. Plus précisément, nous donnons une preuve constructive d’un théorème de contrôle (Théorème 1.1) du deuxième auteur [19] ; ce théorème démontre l’existence et l’unicité des « liftings propres » des symboles propres modulaires classiques de pente non-critique. Comme application, nous décrivons un algorithme en temps polynomial pour le calcul explicite des fonctions L p -adiques associées dans ce cas-là. Dans le cas de pente critique, le théorème de contrôle échoue toujours à produire des « liftings propres » (voir Théorème 5.14 et [16] pour un succédané), mais l’algorithme « réussit » néanmoins à produire des fonctions L p -adiques. Dans les deux dernières sections, nous présentons des données numériques pour plusieurs exemples de pente critique et examinons le polygone de Newton des fonctions L p -adiques associées.

1. Introduction

Fix a prime p , and let $\Gamma \subseteq \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ denote a congruence subgroup of level prime to p . For k a non-negative integer, let $\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ denote the space of locally analytic p -adic distributions

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on \mathbb{Z}_p endowed with the weight k action⁽¹⁾ of $\Gamma_0 := \Gamma \cap \Gamma_0(p)$. In [19], the second author introduced the space of overconvergent modular symbols, $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p))$; this is the space of Γ_0 -equivariant maps from $\Delta_0 := \text{Div}^0(\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q}))$ to $\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p)$:

$$\{\Phi : \Delta_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p) : \Phi(\gamma D) = \Phi(D)|\gamma^{-1} \text{ for } \gamma \in \Gamma_0, D \in \Delta_0\}.$$

The space $\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ admits a surjective map to $\text{Sym}^k(\mathbb{Q}_p^2)$ inducing a Hecke-equivariant map

$$\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p)) \longrightarrow \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\text{Sym}^k(\mathbb{Q}_p^2)),$$

which we refer to as the *specialization map*.

The target of this map is the space of classical modular symbols of level Γ_0 and weight k . By Eichler-Shimura theory, this space is finite-dimensional and contains all systems of Hecke-eigenvalues which occur in the space of classical modular forms of weight $k + 2$ and level Γ_0 . On the other hand, the source of the specialization map $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p))$ is certainly an infinite-dimensional space. Nonetheless, in [19], the following control theorem is given for the specialization map, which can be viewed as an analogue of Coleman's theorem on small slope overconvergent forms being classical (see also [16]).

THEOREM 1.1. – *The specialization map restricted to the subspace where U_p acts with slope strictly less than $k + 1$*

$$\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p))^{(<k+1)} \longrightarrow \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\text{Sym}^k(\mathbb{Q}_p^2))^{(<k+1)}$$

is a Hecke-equivariant isomorphism.

The main goal of this paper is to provide an explicit enough description of these spaces of overconvergent modular symbols to:

1. give a constructive proof of the above theorem (see Theorem 5.12), and
2. perform explicit computations in these spaces, constructing overconvergent Hecke-eigensymbols.

1.1. Explicit description of modular symbols

Our first step in explicitly constructing overconvergent modular symbols is to give a simple description of $\Delta_0 = \text{Div}^0(\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q}))$ as a left $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]$ -module in terms of generators and relations for Γ , any finite index subgroup of $\text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$.

In the case when Γ is torsion-free (which we will assume for the remainder of the introduction), we will be able to find divisors $D_1, D_2, \dots, D_t \in \Delta_0$ such that together with $D_\infty := \{\infty\} - \{0\}$, they generate Δ_0 , and satisfy the single relation

$$\left(\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} - 1\right) D_\infty = \sum_{i=1}^t (1 - \gamma_i^{-1}) D_i$$

for some $\gamma_i \in \Gamma$ (see Theorem 2.6).

To “solve the Manin relations” in such a way that we have only a single relation, we make use of a fundamental domain for the action of Γ on the upper-half plane with a particularly

⁽¹⁾ In this paper, we will consider *right* actions on $\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p)$; moreover, we normalize our weights so that weight 0 corresponds to the trivial action (and thus to weight 2 modular forms).

nice shape; we form a fundamental domain whose interior is connected, and whose boundary is a union of unimodular paths.

Having this single relation in hand, one can construct a symbol $\varphi \in \text{Symb}_\Gamma(V)$, where V is an arbitrary right $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]$ -module, by producing elements $v_1, \dots, v_t, v_\infty$ in V satisfying

$$v_\infty | \Delta = \sum_{i=1}^t v_i | (1 - \gamma_i)$$

where $\Delta = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} - 1$. One simply sets $\varphi(D_i) = v_i$, and then extends to all of Δ_0 .

Note that to be able to write down such elements in V , one needs to be able to solve an equation of the form

$$v_\infty | \Delta = w,$$

which we will refer to as the *difference equation*.

1.2. Distributions, moments, and the difference equation

The span of the functions $\{z^j\}_{j=0}^\infty$ is dense in the space of locally analytic functions on \mathbb{Z}_p . In particular, a distribution $\mu \in \mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ is uniquely determined by the values $\{\mu(z^j)\}_{j=0}^\infty$, its sequence of moments.

Using this description of a distribution by its sequence of moments, one can write down an explicit solution to the difference equation in these spaces of distributions. Specifically, let ν_j be the simple distribution defined by

$$\nu_j(z^r) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } r = j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

and let $\eta_j \in \mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ be defined by

$$\eta_j(z^r) = \begin{cases} \binom{r}{j} b_{r-j} & \text{if } r \geq j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where b_n is the n -th Bernoulli number. We then have (see Lemma 4.4)

$$\frac{\eta_j | \Delta}{j+1} = \nu_{j+1}.$$

One obtains a general solution of the difference equation by combining these basic solutions.⁽²⁾ It is interesting that Bernoulli numbers play such a key role in this solution.

⁽²⁾ The denominators that appear in this solution could potentially cause a problem. It is primarily for this reason that in the text of the paper we work with $\mathcal{D}_k^!$, a larger space of distributions.

1.3. Sketch of a proof of Theorem 1.1

Let φ in $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\text{Sym}^k(\mathbb{Q}_p^2))$ be an eigensymbol of slope strictly less than $k + 1$. By combining our explicit solution of the Manin relations together with our solution of the difference equation, we can explicitly compute an overconvergent modular symbol Ψ lifting φ . To produce an *eigensymbol* lifting φ , we consider the sequence

$$\Psi_n := \frac{\Psi|U_p^n}{\lambda^n}$$

where λ is the U_p -eigenvalue of φ . Since the specialization map is Hecke-equivariant, Ψ_n also lifts φ . Then, using the fact that the valuation of λ is strictly less than $k + 1$, we show that $\{\Psi_n\}$ converges to some symbol Φ , which still lifts φ . By construction, Φ is a U_p -eigensymbol with eigenvalue λ , and is thus the symbol we are seeking.

1.4. Connection with p -adic L -functions

We note that overconvergent Hecke-eigensymbols are directly related to p -adic L -functions. Indeed, let f be a classical modular form on Γ_0 of non-critical slope (*i.e.* with slope strictly less than $k + 1$), and let φ_f denote its corresponding classical modular symbol. As f is assumed to have non-critical slope, by Theorem 1.1, there is a unique symbol Φ_f in $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p))^{(<k+1)}$ which specializes to φ_f . It is proven in [19] that

$$\Phi_f(\{\infty\} - \{0\}) = L_p(f),$$

the p -adic L -function of f (see also Theorem 6.3 in this paper).

Thus, the above proof of Theorem 1.1 can be converted into an algorithm for computing p -adic L -functions. Indeed, starting with a modular form f , using standard methods, one can produce its corresponding modular symbol φ_f . As described above, one lifts φ_f to an overconvergent symbol, and then iterates the operator U_p/λ on this lift. If f is a p -ordinary modular form, then each application of U_p yields an extra digit of p -adic accuracy. Evaluating at the divisor $\{\infty\} - \{0\}$ then gives an approximation to the p -adic L -function.

We note that computing p -adic L -functions of modular forms from their definition (*i.e.* by using Riemann sums) requires evaluating a sum with around p^n terms in order to get n digits of p -adic accuracy. Such an algorithm is exponential in n , and thus cannot be used to compute these L -functions to high accuracy even for small p . The above algorithm is polynomial in n (see [6, Proposition 2.14]), and can be used in practice to compute p -adic L -functions to very high accuracy.

1.5. Approximating distributions

We now describe a systematic method of approximating distributions which one needs in order to carry out the algorithm described above.

Recall that $\mu \in \mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ is uniquely determined by its sequence of moments $\{\mu(z^j)\}$ for $j \geq 0$. To approximate such a distribution, one might hope to keep track of the first M moments, each modulo p^N for some integers $M, N \gg 0$. Unfortunately, this approach cannot be used for our purposes because such approximations are not stable under the matrix actions we are considering; that is, if one has the above data for a distribution μ , one

cannot compute the same data for the distribution $\mu|\gamma$. Indeed, if \mathcal{D}_k^0 denotes subspace of $\mu \in \mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ such that $\mu(z^j) \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ for all j , then

$$\{\mu \in \mathcal{D}_k^0 \mid \mu(z^j) = 0 \text{ for } j \geq M\}$$

is not stable under the action of Γ_0 . However, the subspace

$$\text{Fil}^M(\mathcal{D}_k^0) := \{\mu \in \mathcal{D}_k^0 \mid \mu(z^j) \in p^{M-j}\mathbb{Z}_p\}$$

is stable under our matrix actions (see Proposition 7.1). This means that if one knows $\mu(z^j)$ modulo p^{M-j} for $j = 0, \dots, M-1$, then the same information can be computed for $\mu|\gamma$.

Thus, to compute with distributions, we work in the finite set $\mathcal{D}_k^0/\text{Fil}^M(\mathcal{D}_k^0)$ which is readily represented on a computer.

1.6. Critical slope p -adic L -functions

In [16], a definition of a p -adic L -function is given for a critical slope cuspidal eigenform f which is not in the image of the p -adic θ -operator (see Theorem 5.14). In that paper, it is proven that there is a unique overconvergent Hecke-eigensymbol lifting φ_f , and one defines the p -adic L -function of f to be the value of this symbol at $\{\infty\} - \{0\}$.

In this paper, we carry out numerical experiments for several critical slope forms, and study their associated p -adic L -functions. The zeroes of these L -functions contain some striking patterns, which appear to encode the classical μ - and λ -invariants of the corresponding ordinary p -adic L -function (see Section 9).

Moreover, we carry out some numerical exploration with forms in the image of θ (specifically forms arising from the critical slope p -stabilization of an ordinary CM modular form). From these computations, it appears that there is no overconvergent Hecke-eigensymbol lifting φ_f . However, in the kernel of specialization there is a unique (up to scaling) Hecke-eigensymbol with the same eigenvalues of f in both the plus and minus subspace.

1.7. Applications and further extensions

We mention two examples where the algorithms of this paper were used to compute global points on elliptic curves.

In [6], the case of Stark-Heegner points was studied. Stark-Heegner points are certain p -adically defined points on elliptic curves which are conjectured to be global points defined over ring class fields of real quadratic fields (see [5]). To compute these points one needs to compute the moments of the p -adic L -function of the corresponding elliptic curve.

In practice, in order to correctly recognize a p -adic approximation of a Stark-Heegner point as a global point, one needs to have computed the point to a very high accuracy. For example, by using overconvergent modular symbols, the moments of the 11-adic L -function of $X_0(11)$ were computed modulo 11^{100} , and the following point was found:

$$\begin{aligned} x &= 1081624136644692539667084685116849, \\ y &= -1939146297774921836916098998070620047276215775500 \\ &\quad -450348132717625197271325875616860240657045635493\sqrt{101}. \end{aligned}$$

In contrast, naively using Riemann sums to compute the relevant moments yields an accuracy of at most 11^{10} which is not nearly precise enough to identify the above point.

In [11], the case of rank 1 elliptic curves E/\mathbb{Q} with good supersingular reduction at p was studied. Assuming the p -adic Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer conjecture for *both* p -adic L -functions attached to E , one can relate the derivative of these p -adic L -functions to a point of infinite order in $E(\mathbb{Q})$. Overconvergent modular symbols were then used to compute these derivatives to high enough p -adic accuracy to recognize the corresponding global point. As opposed to the previous example, this is not the best algorithm to compute these points, as classical Heegner points are easier in practice to compute. Nonetheless, it is interesting to see another purely p -adic algorithm which conjecturally computes global points.

We also mention an improvement on the algorithms given in this paper by M. Greenberg in the non-critical slope case. In [7], Greenberg gives an algorithm that sidesteps the need to solve the Manin relations, and thus avoids the need to study the geometry of the fundamental domain for the action of Γ . This improvement allowed for several further generalizations including [20] where this improvement was used to compute Stark-Heegner points attached to elliptic curves E/K where K is an imaginary quadratic fields, and in [14] where constructions of Hecke-eigenclasses for the group $\mathrm{GL}_3(\mathbb{Q})$ were made. In both of these cases, the geometry present was extremely complicated, making a direct solution of the Manin relations a daunting task.

1.8. Outline

In the following section, after setting up the basic definitions of modular symbols, we study a fundamental domain for the action of Γ , and give a geometric solution of the Manin relations. In the third section, we introduce the relevant spaces of p -adic distributions, and in the fourth section, we study the difference equation for these spaces. In the fifth section, we introduce the notion of overconvergent modular symbols, and give a proof of Theorem 1.1. In the sixth section, we study the connection with p -adic L -functions. In the seventh section, we introduce the notion of finite approximation modules which allow for systematic approximations of distributions. In the eighth section, we give algorithms for constructing overconvergent eigensymbols, and report on several examples. In the ninth and final section, the case of critical slope p -adic L -functions is considered, and data on the zeroes of these functions is studied.

2. Modular symbols

2.1. Basic definitions

We begin by introducing the notion of modular symbols as defined in [2]. To this end, let $\Delta_0 := \mathrm{Div}^0(\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q}))$ denote the set of degree zero divisors on $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q})$. Then Δ_0 (the Steinberg module) has the structure of a left $\mathbb{Z}[\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Q})]$ -module where $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Q})$ acts via linear fractional transformations.

Let Γ be a finite index subgroup of $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$, and let V be a right $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]$ -module. We endow the set of additive homomorphisms $\mathrm{Hom}(\Delta_0, V)$ with the structure of a right Γ -module by defining

$$(\varphi|\gamma)(D) := \varphi(\gamma D)|\gamma$$

for $\varphi : \Delta_0 \rightarrow V$, $D \in \Delta_0$ and $\gamma \in \Gamma$.

For φ in $\text{Hom}(\Delta_0, V)$, we say that φ is a V -valued modular symbol on Γ if $\varphi|\gamma = \varphi$ for all $\gamma \in \Gamma$; we denote the space of all V -valued modular symbols by $\text{Symb}_\Gamma(V)$. Thus, for an additive homomorphism $\varphi : \Delta_0 \rightarrow V$,

$$\varphi \in \text{Symb}_\Gamma(V) \iff \varphi(\gamma D) = \varphi(D)|\gamma^{-1} \text{ for all } \gamma \in \Gamma.$$

We remark that if \mathcal{H} denotes the upper-half plane and \widetilde{V} is the associated locally constant sheaf of V on \mathcal{H}/Γ , then there is a canonical isomorphism

$$\text{Symb}_\Gamma(V) \cong H_c^1(\mathcal{H}/\Gamma, \widetilde{V}),$$

provided that the order of any torsion element of Γ acts invertibly on V (see [2, Prop 4.2]). In this paper, we however focus on the explicit description of modular symbols given by maps rather than by cohomology classes.

The modules V considered in this paper will have the addition structure of a right action by $S_0(p)$ where

$$S_0(p) := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in M_2(\mathbb{Z}) \text{ such that } (a, p) = 1, p|c \text{ and } ad - bc \neq 0 \right\}.$$

Given this additional structure, one can define a Hecke-action on $\text{Symb}_\Gamma(V)$; if ℓ is a prime, then the Hecke operator T_ℓ is given by the double coset $\Gamma \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \ell \end{pmatrix} \Gamma$. For example, if $\Gamma = \Gamma_0(N)$ and $\ell \nmid N$, then

$$\varphi|T_\ell = \varphi| \begin{pmatrix} \ell & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \sum_{a=0}^{\ell-1} \varphi| \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a \\ 0 & \ell \end{pmatrix}.$$

If $q|N$, we write U_q for T_q , and we have

$$\varphi|U_q = \sum_{a=0}^{q-1} \varphi| \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a \\ 0 & q \end{pmatrix}.$$

We further remark that when $\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ normalizes Γ , this matrix acts as an involution on $\text{Symb}_\Gamma(V)$. When 2 acts invertibly on V , we then have a natural decomposition

$$\text{Symb}_\Gamma(V) \cong \text{Symb}_\Gamma(V)^+ \oplus \text{Symb}_\Gamma(V)^-$$

into ± 1 -eigenspaces for this action.

2.2. The Manin relations

In this section, we review the Manin relations which give a description of Δ_0 as a $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]$ -module in terms of generators and relations. In subsequent sections, we will “solve the Manin relations” and give a simple presentation of Δ_0 ; when Γ is torsion-free this presentation will have only one relation.

Let $\text{GL}_2^+(\mathbb{Q})$ denote the subgroup of $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Q})$ consisting of matrices with positive determinant. If $\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \text{GL}_2^+(\mathbb{Q})$, we denote by $[\gamma]$ the singular 1-chain in the extended upper half-plane \mathcal{H}^* represented by the (oriented) geodesic path joining $\frac{a}{c}$ to $\frac{b}{d}$. We call any such 1-chain a *modular path* and any finite formal sum of such modular paths, a *modular 1-chain*. We denote the \mathbb{Z} -module of all such modular chains by

$$Z_1 = Z_1(\mathcal{H}^*, \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q})),$$

which we regard as the module of 1-cycles in \mathcal{H}^* relative to $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q})$, the boundary of \mathcal{H}^* .

The group $\mathrm{PGL}_2^+(\mathbb{Q})$ acts on Z_1 via fractional linear transformation on \mathcal{H}^* ; hence Z_1 is naturally a $\mathrm{PGL}_2^+(\mathbb{Q})$ -module. If $\beta, \gamma \in \mathrm{GL}_2^+(\mathbb{Q})$, then we have

$$\beta \cdot [\gamma] = [\beta\gamma].$$

The boundary map gives a surjective $\mathrm{PGL}_2^+(\mathbb{Q})$ -morphism

$$\partial : Z_1 \longrightarrow \Delta_0.$$

Note that two modular chains c and c' are homologous if $\partial c = \partial c'$. Thus, ∂ induces a $\mathrm{PGL}_2^+(\mathbb{Q})$ -isomorphism from the one-dimensional relative homology of the pair $(\mathcal{H}^*, \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q}))$ to the Steinberg module Δ_0 :

$$\partial : H_1(\mathcal{H}^*, \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q}); \mathbb{Z}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \Delta_0.$$

Let $G = \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$. A modular path of the form $[\gamma]$ with $\gamma \in G$ is called a *unimodular path*, and any finite formal sum of such unimodular paths is called a *unimodular 1-chain*. Using continued fractions it is easy to see (and is a well-known result of Manin [12]) that every modular chain is homologous to a unimodular chain. Moreover, G acts transitively on the collection of unimodular paths as the map

$$\begin{aligned} G &\rightarrow Z_1 \\ \gamma &\mapsto [\gamma] \end{aligned}$$

is a bijection from G to the set of unimodular paths in Z_1 . Extending by linearity, we obtain a G -morphism $\mathbb{Z}[G] \rightarrow Z_1$, and composing with the boundary map ∂ , we obtain a surjective G -morphism

$$d : \mathbb{Z}[G] \longrightarrow \Delta_0.$$

It is a result of Manin [12] that $\ker(d)$ is the left ideal

$$I = \mathbb{Z}[G](1 + \tau + \tau^2) + \mathbb{Z}[G](1 + \sigma)$$

where σ is the two-torsion element $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and τ is the three-torsion element $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$. These are the well-known Manin relations. Thus, d induces an isomorphism

$$\Delta_0 \cong \mathbb{Z}[G]/I.$$

Using this isomorphism, we can give a description of Δ_0 as a $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]$ -module in terms of generators and relations. Indeed, note that $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ is a free $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]$ -module; a basis is given by a complete set of right coset representatives of $\Gamma \backslash G$, say g_1, \dots, g_r . The ideal I then gives $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]$ -relations between these generators. For instance,

$$g_i(1 + \sigma) = g_i + g_i\sigma = g_i + \gamma_{ij}g_j \in I$$

for some j and some $\gamma_{ij} \in \Gamma$. The triangle relations similarly yield three-term $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]$ -relations on the g_i .

2.3. Fundamental domains

Let Γ be a finite index subgroup of $G = \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ without any three-torsion. In this section, we describe an explicit method for producing a fundamental domain \mathcal{F} for the action of Γ on \mathcal{H}^* which has a particularly nice shape. Namely, all of the vertices of \mathcal{F} will be cusps and its boundary will be a union of unimodular paths. This precise description of \mathcal{F} will enable us (in the following section) to prove that the Manin relations are essentially equivalent to the single relation $\partial\mathcal{F} = 0$ when Γ is torsion-free.

DEFINITION 2.1. – For $\Gamma \subseteq G$, a *fundamental domain* for the action of Γ on \mathcal{H}^* is a region $\mathcal{F} \subseteq \mathcal{H}^*$ such that

1. \mathcal{F} is closed and \mathcal{F}° (the interior of \mathcal{F}) is connected;
2. for each $\gamma \in \Gamma$, $\gamma\mathcal{F}^\circ \cap \mathcal{F}^\circ$ is empty;
3. $\bigcup_{\alpha \in \Gamma} \alpha\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{H}^*$.

If the region \mathcal{F} only satisfies the first two conditions, we call this region a *potential fundamental domain* for Γ .

Consider the ideal triangle T whose vertices are 0 , $\rho = (1 + \sqrt{-3})/2$, and ∞ , which is a fundamental domain for G . The matrix $\tau = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ is an order three matrix which fixes ρ , sends 0 to 1 , and 1 to ∞ . Thus, $R = T \cup \tau T \cup \tau^2 T$ is an ideal triangle with vertices 0 , 1 and ∞ . The translates of R under G tile \mathcal{H}^* (since R contains a fundamental domain for G). We will build a fundamental domain for Γ out of translates of R .

LEMMA 2.2. – Let Γ be a subgroup of G without any three-torsion, and let

$$\mathcal{F} = \alpha_1 R \cup \dots \cup \alpha_r R \subseteq \mathcal{H}^*$$

be a potential fundamental domain for the action of Γ . For $\alpha \in G$, the following are equivalent:

1. $\mathcal{F} \cup \alpha R$ is not a fundamental domain for Γ .
2. Every point in αR is Γ -equivalent to some point in \mathcal{F} .
3. For some i and r , $\alpha_i \tau^r \alpha^{-1} \in \Gamma$.

Proof. – The proof of this lemma is straightforward. One needs to assume that Γ has no three-torsion as otherwise it is possible that αR is itself not a potential fundamental domain. Indeed $\alpha\tau\alpha^{-1}$ has order three and fixes a point in the interior of αR (namely $\alpha\rho$). \square

THEOREM 2.3. – If Γ is a finite index subgroup of $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ without any three-torsion, then there exists a fundamental domain \mathcal{F} for the action of Γ on \mathcal{H}^* of the form

$$\mathcal{F} = \alpha_1 R \cup \dots \cup \alpha_n R.$$

In particular, there exists a fundamental domain all of whose vertices are cusps and whose boundary is a union of unimodular paths.

Proof. – Since Γ has no three-torsion, R is a potential fundamental domain for Γ . Furthermore, since Γ has finite index in G , there exists some *maximal* potential domain for Γ of the form $\mathcal{F} := \alpha_1 R \cup \dots \cup \alpha_n R$.

Consider any triangle αR which abuts on the region \mathcal{F} . Since \mathcal{F} is maximal, $\mathcal{F} \cup \alpha R$ is not a potential fundamental domain. Thus, by part (2) of Lemma 2.2, every point of αR is Γ -equivalent to some point in \mathcal{F} . In particular, there is some open neighborhood $U \subseteq \mathcal{H}$ of $\mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{H}$ such that each point of U is Γ -equivalent to some point in \mathcal{F} .

Let $Z = \bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \gamma \mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{H}$. This is a closed set as any union of Γ -translates of R is closed. Moreover, this is also an open set as $Z = \bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \gamma U$. Since \mathcal{H} is connected, we have $Z = \mathcal{H}$. Hence, $\bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \gamma \mathcal{F} = \mathcal{H}^*$, and \mathcal{F} is a fundamental domain for Γ . \square

REMARK 2.4. – The proof of Theorem 2.3 shows that any maximal potential fundamental domain for Γ of the form $\alpha_1 R \cup \dots \cup \alpha_n R$ is actually a fundamental domain. Using Lemma 2.2, one can explicitly form such a fundamental domain. We illustrate this for $\Gamma := \text{im}(\Gamma_0(5) \rightarrow \text{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}))$ (which has no three-torsion since 5 is a prime congruent to 2 mod 3.)

Starting with R , note that the two triangles abutting R to the left and right are Γ -equivalent to R since $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma_0(5)$. The triangle directly below R equals αR with $\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$. One verifies that $\tau^r \alpha^{-1} \notin \Gamma_0(5)$ for $r = 0, 1, 2$ and, thus, by Lemma 2.2, $R \cup \alpha R$ is a potential fundamental domain.

The two triangles directly below $R \cup \alpha R$ are given by βR and δR where $\beta = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\delta = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$. One checks that $\alpha \tau \beta^{-1}$ and $\alpha \tau^2 \delta^{-1}$ are both in $\Gamma_0(5)$. Hence, $R \cup \alpha R$ is a maximal potential fundamental domain, and thus a fundamental domain for Γ .

2.4. Solving the Manin relations

In this section, we use the explicit description of a fundamental domain for the action of Γ on \mathcal{H}^* given in Theorem 2.3 to completely solve the Manin relations for Γ a finite index subgroup of $\text{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ with no three-torsion.

Let $\mathcal{F} = \alpha_1 R \cup \dots \cup \alpha_n R$ be a fundamental domain for Γ . Assume (for convenience) that Γ contains the element $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$, and fix \mathcal{F} to be a fundamental domain with its left (resp. right) boundary equal to the path connecting ∞ to -1 (resp. to 0).

Let \mathcal{E} be the set of all oriented unimodular paths passing through the interior of \mathcal{F} together with all the oriented unimodular paths contained in $\partial \mathcal{F}$ where $\partial \mathcal{F}$ is orientated clockwise. Thus, each interior path is counted twice (once for each orientation) and each boundary edge is counted only once.

LEMMA 2.5. – *Any oriented unimodular path is Γ -equivalent to a unique element of \mathcal{E} .*

Proof. – This lemma follows from the fact that \mathcal{F} is a fundamental domain for the action of Γ . \square

From Section 2.2, we have an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow I \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[G] \rightarrow \Delta_0 \rightarrow 0$$

of left $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]$ -modules. If we set J (resp. \mathcal{U}) to be the image of I (resp. $\mathbb{Z}[G]$) in Z_1 under $[\cdot]$, we then have

$$0 \rightarrow J \rightarrow \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \Delta_0 \rightarrow 0.$$

Thus, Δ_0 is given by \mathcal{U} modulo the relations that the three sides of a triangle sum to zero and that reversing the orientation of a path introduces a minus sign. We now give a simple presentation of Δ_0 as a left $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]$ -module taking advantage of its more geometric description as \mathcal{U}/J .

By Lemma 2.5, the elements of \mathcal{E} form a basis of \mathcal{U} as a $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]$ -module. Denote by $\partial\mathcal{E}$ the set of paths in \mathcal{E} that are contained in $\partial\mathcal{F}$. We first claim that the elements of $\partial\mathcal{E}$ generate \mathcal{U}/J over $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]$. Indeed, if $v \in \mathcal{E} - \partial\mathcal{E}$ is oriented from right to left (resp. left to right), then v is equivalent mod J to the sum of the paths in $\partial\mathcal{E}$ sitting below v (resp. above v) since these paths taken together with v form a loop.

The elements in $\partial\mathcal{E}$ modulo J are not independent over $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]$. Indeed, one obvious relation that they satisfy is

$$\sum_{e \in \partial\mathcal{E}} e \in J.$$

Also, for $u \in \mathcal{U}$, let \bar{u} denote u with its orientation reversed. Then, $e + \bar{e} \in J$ for any $e \in \partial\mathcal{E}$. Moreover, by Lemma 2.5, \bar{e} is Γ -equivalent to a unique element $e' \in \partial\mathcal{E}$. Thus, reversing orientation induces an action on $\partial\mathcal{E}$ which decomposes $\partial\mathcal{E}$ into orbits of size one and two. Note that $\{\infty, 0\}$ and $\{-1, \infty\}$ form an orbit of size two since

$$\overline{\{\infty, 0\}} = \{0, \infty\} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \{-1, \infty\}.$$

We set $e_\infty = \{\infty, 0\}$ and $e_\infty^* = \{-1, \infty\}$. Similarly, we enumerate the other two element orbits, and write e_i and e_i^* for the elements of the i -th orbit of size two. For the one element orbits, we label them by e'_1, \dots, e'_s .

In this notation, $\bar{e}_i = \gamma_i e_i^*$ for some $\gamma_i \in \Gamma$, and hence

$$e_i^* + \gamma_i^{-1} e_i \in J.$$

Also, $\bar{e}'_i = \gamma'_i e'_i$ for some $\gamma'_i \in \Gamma$, and hence

$$(\gamma'_i + 1)e_i \in J.$$

Note that γ'_i has order two since reversing orientation is an involution. Also, one can check that s , the number of single element orbits, is equal to the number of conjugacy classes of elements of order two in Γ ; in particular, if Γ has no two-torsion, then these additional relations do not appear.

The relations $e_i^* + \gamma_i^{-1} e_i \in J$ imply that \mathcal{U}/J is generated by $e_1, \dots, e_t, e_\infty, e'_1, \dots, e'_s$ over $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]$. Moreover, the relation $\partial\mathcal{F} = 0$ written in terms of these generators takes the form

$$\sum_{e \in \partial\mathcal{E}} e = \left(1 - \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}\right) e_\infty + \sum_{i=1}^t (1 - \gamma_i^{-1}) e_i + \sum_{i=1}^s e'_i \in J.$$

For i between 1 and t , let $D_i = \partial(e_i)$ and let $D_\infty = \partial(e_\infty)$. Also, set $D'_i = -\partial(e'_i)$ for i between 1 and s . We then have the following theorem.

THEOREM 2.6. – *Let Γ be a finite index subgroup of $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ without any three-torsion. Then Δ_0 is generated as a $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]$ -module by $D_1, \dots, D_t, D_\infty, D'_1, \dots, D'_s$. Moreover, the relations satisfied by these divisors are generated by*

$$\sum_{i=1}^t (\gamma_i^{-1} - 1)D_i + \sum_{i=1}^s D'_i = \left(\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} - 1 \right) D_\infty$$

and

$$(1 + \gamma'_i)D'_i = 0$$

for i between 1 and s .

Proof. – We have already verified that these divisors generate and satisfy these relations since we verified the analogous statements in \mathcal{U}/J . Moreover, working backwards through the preceding arguments, one can see that these relations are equivalent to the relations occurring in J . \square

This complete description of Δ_0 as a $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]$ -module yields the following corollary. In what follows, let $\Delta = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} - 1$ denote the difference operator.

COROLLARY 2.7. – *Let Γ be a finite index subgroup of $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ without three-torsion, and let V be an arbitrary right Γ -module. Let $v_1, \dots, v_t, v_\infty, v'_1, \dots, v'_s$ be elements of V such that*

$$v_\infty | \Delta = \sum_{i=1}^t v_i | (\gamma_i - 1) + \sum_{i=1}^s v'_i$$

and, for i between 1 and s ,

$$v'_i | (1 + \gamma'_i) = 0.$$

Then there is a unique modular symbol $\varphi \in \mathrm{Symb}_\Gamma(V)$ such that for each i

$$\varphi(D_i) = v_i \text{ and } \varphi(D'_i) = v'_i.$$

Conversely, every modular symbol $\varphi \in \mathrm{Symb}_\Gamma(V)$ arises in this manner.

We recall that if Γ has no elements of order two, then $s = 0$.

2.5. The case of three-torsion

In constructing the fundamental domain \mathcal{F} , we needed to assume that Γ has no elements of order three. We now sketch what occurs when such torsion elements are present in $\Gamma \subsetneq G$.

Recall that R is the ideal triangle with vertices $0, 1$ and ∞ . The key fact that we used when building \mathcal{F} out of translates of R was that for $\alpha \in \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$, we have that αR is a potential fundamental domain if and only if $\alpha \tau \alpha^{-1} \notin \Gamma$. Now when the three-torsion element $\alpha \tau \alpha^{-1}$ is present in Γ , we will not want to include all of αR , but instead only “one-third” of it.

Indeed, recall that R is the union of $T, \tau T$ and $\tau^2 T$ where T is the ideal triangle with vertices $0, 1$ and ρ . Assume we have a potential fundamental domain of the form $\alpha_1 R \cup \dots \cup \alpha_n R$ and that we are considering whether or not to extend this domain past the edge e to the triangle αR . If $\alpha \tau \alpha^{-1} \notin \Gamma$, we extend our fundamental domain by including all of αR . However, if $\alpha \tau \alpha^{-1} \in \Gamma$, we extend our potential fundamental domain by only

including the unique triangle of αT , $\alpha\tau T$ and $\alpha\tau^2 T$ that contains the edge e . Continuing in this manner would lead to a domain

$$\mathcal{F} = \alpha_1 R \cup \dots \cup \alpha_n R \cup \beta_1 T \cup \dots \cup \beta_r T$$

that is a maximal potential fundamental domain of this form. As in Theorem 2.3, we have that such a domain is necessarily a fundamental domain for the action of Γ . These considerations yield the following theorem.

THEOREM 2.8. – *Let Γ any finite index subgroup of $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$. Then there exists a fundamental domain \mathcal{F} for the action of Γ on \mathcal{H}^* of the form*

$$\mathcal{F} = \alpha_1 R \cup \dots \cup \alpha_n R \cup \beta_1 T \cup \dots \cup \beta_r T$$

for $\alpha_i, \beta_i \in \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$.

One can check that the triangles $\beta_i T$ are in one-to-one correspondence with pairs of conjugacy classes of three-torsion elements; two conjugacy classes are paired if the inverse of any element of one class appears in the other class.

We now consider how this change in the shape of the fundamental domain \mathcal{F} affects our solution of the Manin relations. We first need to make an alteration to the definition of $\partial\mathcal{E}$; namely, $\partial\mathcal{E}$ should not only contain all elements of \mathcal{E} that are contained in $\partial\mathcal{F}$, but also the unique edge of each triangle $\beta_i T$ that is not contained in $\partial\mathcal{F}$. These addition edges should be oriented from right to left.

If e''_i is the exceptional edge that corresponds to $\beta_i T$, then the three-term relation involving e''_i is simply that the sum of the three edges of $\beta_i R$ equals 0. The matrix $\gamma''_i = \beta_i \tau \beta_i^{-1}$ fixes a point in the interior of $\beta_i R$, and thus permutes the edges of this triangle. This three-term relation thus becomes

$$e''_i + \gamma''_i e''_i + (\gamma''_i)^2 e''_i = (1 + \gamma''_i + (\gamma''_i)^2) e''_i \in J.$$

Set $D''_i = -\partial(e''_i)$ for i between 1 and r .

Following the same arguments as in Section 2.2 yields the following two results.

THEOREM 2.9. – *Let $\Gamma \subsetneq \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ be a proper finite index subgroup. Then Δ_0 is generated as a $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]$ -module by $D_1, \dots, D_t, D_\infty, D'_1, \dots, D'_s, D''_1, \dots, D''_r$. Moreover, the relations satisfied by these divisors are generated by*

$$\sum_{i=1}^t (\gamma_i^{-1} - 1) D_i + \sum_{i=1}^s D'_i + \sum_{i=1}^r D''_i = \left(\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} - 1 \right) D_\infty,$$

for i between 1 and s ,

$$(1 + \gamma'_i) D'_i = 0,$$

and, for i between 1 and r ,

$$(1 + \gamma''_i + (\gamma''_i)^2) D''_i = 0.$$

Proof. – We point out that the condition that $\Gamma \neq \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ is needed to ensure that the divisors D'_i and D''_j are all distinct. Indeed, if two such divisors were equal, this would imply that Γ contains $\alpha\sigma\alpha^{-1}$ and $\alpha\tau\alpha^{-1}$ for some $\alpha \in G$. But then Γ is conjugate to $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ and thus equal to $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$. \square

COROLLARY 2.10. – *Let $\Gamma \subsetneq \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ be a proper finite index subgroup, and let V be an arbitrary right Γ -module. Let $v_1, \dots, v_t, v_\infty, v'_1, \dots, v'_s, v''_1, \dots, v''_r \in V$ be such that*

$$v_\infty | \Delta = \sum_{i=1}^t v_i | (\gamma_i - 1) + \sum_{i=1}^s v'_i + \sum_{i=1}^r v''_i,$$

for i between 1 and s ,

$$v'_i | (1 + \gamma'_i) = 0$$

and, for i between 1 and r ,

$$v''_i | (1 + \gamma'_i + (\gamma''_i)^2) = 0.$$

Then there is a unique modular symbol $\varphi \in \mathrm{Symb}_\Gamma(V)$ such that

$$\varphi(D_i) = v_i, \varphi(D'_i) = m'_i \text{ and } \varphi(D''_i) = m''_i.$$

Conversely, every modular symbol $\varphi \in \mathrm{Symb}_\Gamma(V)$ arises in this manner.

2.6. Computing with modular symbols in practice

The results of the previous sections can be used in practice to compute efficiently with V -valued modular symbols for V some right Γ -module as long as one can efficiently compute the action of Γ on V . Namely, Corollary 2.7 tells us that a modular symbol $\varphi \in \mathrm{Symb}_\Gamma(V)$ is determined by its value on a finite set of divisors. We now describe how to compute the value of φ on any degree zero divisor from the data of the values of φ on a generating set of divisors.

First note that since Δ_0 is generated by divisors of the form $\{\frac{a}{c}\} - \{\frac{b}{d}\}$, it suffices to work with these two-term divisors. Then Manin's continued fraction algorithm (see [12]) allows us to write such a divisor as a sum of divisors arising from unimodular paths. Therefore, it suffices to be able to compute φ on divisors arising from unimodular paths.

Let $[g]$ be some unimodular path with $g \in \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$. This path is Γ -equivalent to some path in \mathcal{E} by Lemma 2.5. Explicitly, if $\mathcal{E} = \{[g_1], \dots, [g_r]\}$ with $g_i \in \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$, then the g_i form a complete set of right coset representatives for Γ/G . Thus, for some i (which is easily computed), we have that $g = \gamma g_i$ with $\gamma \in \Gamma$. We then have

$$\varphi(d(g)) = \varphi(d(\gamma g_i)) = \varphi(d(g_i)) | \gamma^{-1}$$

and, hence, to compute φ on any divisor it suffices to be able to compute the value of φ on the divisors arising from elements of \mathcal{E} .

Finally, the constructions that lead up to Theorem 2.6 give an explicit way of writing any $e \in \mathcal{E}$ as a linear combination of our generators over $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma]$. Thus, it suffices to compute the value of φ on these generators as desired.

3. Distributions

Overconvergent modular symbols are modular symbols which take values in certain p -adic spaces of distributions. In this section, we review the basic theory of these distribution spaces.

3.1. Definitions

For each $r \in |\mathbb{C}_p^\times|$, let

$$B[\mathbb{Z}_p, r] = \{z \in \mathbb{C}_p \mid \text{there exists some } a \in \mathbb{Z}_p \text{ with } |z - a| \leq r\}.$$

Then $B[\mathbb{Z}_p, r]$ is the \mathbb{C}_p -points of a \mathbb{Q}_p -affinoid variety. For example, if $r \geq 1$ then $B[\mathbb{Z}_p, r]$ is the closed disc in \mathbb{C}_p of radius r around 0. If $r = \frac{1}{p}$ then $B[\mathbb{Z}_p, r]$ is the disjoint union of the p discs of radius $\frac{1}{p}$ around the points $0, 1, \dots, p-1$.

Let $\mathbf{A}[r]$ denote the \mathbb{Q}_p -Banach algebra of \mathbb{Q}_p -affinoid functions on $B[\mathbb{Z}_p, r]$. For example, if $r \geq 1$

$$\mathbf{A}[r] = \left\{ f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n \in \mathbb{Q}_p[[z]] \text{ such that } \{|a_n| \cdot r^n\} \rightarrow 0 \right\}.$$

The norm on $\mathbf{A}[r]$ is given by the supremum norm. That is, if $f \in \mathbf{A}[r]$ then

$$\|f\|_r = \sup_{z \in B[\mathbb{Z}_p, r]} |f(z)|_p.$$

For $r_1 > r_2$, there is a natural restriction map $\mathbf{A}[r_1] \rightarrow \mathbf{A}[r_2]$ that is injective, completely continuous, and has dense image. We define

$$\mathcal{A}(\mathbb{Z}_p) = \varprojlim_{s>0} \mathbf{A}[s] \text{ and } \mathcal{A}^\dagger(\mathbb{Z}_p, r) = \varprojlim_{s>r} \mathbf{A}[s].$$

(Note that these direct limits are taken over sets with no smallest element and therefore are not vacuous.)

We endow each of these spaces with the inductive limit topology. Then $\mathcal{A}(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ is naturally identified with the space of locally analytic \mathbb{Q}_p -valued functions on \mathbb{Z}_p while $\mathcal{A}^\dagger(\mathbb{Z}_p, r)$ is identified with the space of \mathbb{Q}_p -overconvergent functions on $B[\mathbb{Z}_p, r]$. Note that there are natural continuous inclusions

$$\mathcal{A}^\dagger(\mathbb{Z}_p, r) \hookrightarrow \mathbf{A}[r] \hookrightarrow \mathcal{A}(\mathbb{Z}_p).$$

Moreover, the image of each of these maps is dense in its target space.

The p -adic distributions modules studied in this paper are dual to these topological vector spaces. Namely, set $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, $\mathbf{D}[r]$ and $\mathcal{D}^\dagger(\mathbb{Z}_p, r)$ to be the space of continuous \mathbb{Q}_p -linear functionals on $\mathcal{A}(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, $\mathbf{A}[r]$, and $\mathcal{A}^\dagger(\mathbb{Z}_p, r)$ respectively, each endowed with the strong topology. Equivalently,

$$\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{Z}_p) = \varprojlim_{s>0} \mathbf{D}[s] \text{ and } \mathcal{D}^\dagger(\mathbb{Z}_p, r) = \varprojlim_{s>r} \mathbf{D}[s],$$

each endowed with the projective limit topology.

Note that $\mathbf{D}[r]$ is a Banach space under the norm

$$\|\mu\|_r = \sup_{\substack{f \in \mathbf{A}[r] \\ f \neq 0}} \frac{|\mu(f)|}{\|f\|_r}$$

for $\mu \in \mathbf{D}[r]$. On the other hand, $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ (resp. $\mathcal{D}^\dagger(\mathbb{Z}_p, r)$) has its topology defined by the family of norms $\{\|\cdot\|_s\}$ for $s \in |\mathbb{C}_p^\times|$ with $s > 0$ (resp. $s > r$). Dualizing yields continuous linear injective maps

$$\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{Z}_p) \hookrightarrow \mathbf{D}[r] \hookrightarrow \mathcal{D}^\dagger(\mathbb{Z}_p, r).$$

To ease notation, we write \mathbf{D} for $\mathbf{D}[1]$ and \mathcal{D}^\dagger for $\mathcal{D}^\dagger(\mathbb{Z}_p, 1)$.

3.2. An explicit description of \mathbf{D} and \mathcal{D}^\dagger

In what follows, we will primarily be interested in the distribution modules $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, \mathbf{D} and \mathcal{D}^\dagger . We are obliged to study $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ as this is the natural space where p -adic L -functions live. We also study the larger spaces of distribution \mathbf{D} and \mathcal{D}^\dagger as one has a bit more freedom in these spaces to perform certain constructions. In this subsection, we give a concrete description of the latter two spaces in terms of moments of distributions.

To this end, note that the sequence of functions $\{z^j\}_{j=0}^\infty$ is dense in $\mathbf{A}[r]$ for $r \geq 1$. Thus, any element of \mathcal{D}^\dagger is determined by its values on powers of z (i.e. by its moments). We therefore have an injective map

$$\mathcal{D}^\dagger \xrightarrow{M} \prod_{j=0}^{\infty} \mathbb{Q}_p$$

which sends μ to the sequence $\{\mu(z^j)\}_{j=0}^\infty$.

The following proposition establishes that the only obstruction to constructing a distribution by specifying its moments is a growth condition on the sequence of moments.

PROPOSITION 3.1. – 1. *The image of M equals*

$$\left\{ \{c_j\} \in \prod_{j=0}^{\infty} \mathbb{Q}_p \text{ where } |c_j| \text{ is } O(r^j) \text{ as } j \rightarrow \infty \text{ for each } r > 1 \right\}.$$

2. *The map M restricts to give an isomorphism of Banach spaces between \mathbf{D} and the space of bounded sequences in \mathbb{Q}_p (under the sup norm).*

Proof. – For the first part, let $\mu \in \mathcal{D}^\dagger$ and fix $r > 1$. Then

$$|\mu(z^j)| \leq \|z^j\|_r \cdot \|\mu\|_r = r^j \cdot \|\mu\|_r,$$

and hence $|\mu(z^j)|$ is $O(r^j)$ as $j \rightarrow \infty$.

Conversely, let $\{c_j\}$ be some \mathbb{Q}_p -sequence that is $O(r^j)$ for every $r > 1$. Let f be in $\mathcal{A}^\dagger(\mathbb{Z}_p, 1)$ with $f = \sum_j a_j z^j$, and define a distribution $\mu \in \mathcal{D}^\dagger$ by $\mu(f) = \sum_j a_j c_j$. This sum converges as $f \in \mathbf{A}[r]$ for some $r > 1$, and hence $\{|a_j| \cdot r^j\} \rightarrow 0$ as $j \rightarrow \infty$. Since $M(\mu) = \{c_j\}$, the first claim is proven.

The second claim follows similarly. Note that

$$\|\mu\|_1 = \sup_{\substack{f \in \mathbf{A}[1] \\ f \neq 0}} \frac{|\mu(f)|}{\|f\|_1} = \sup_{j \geq 0} \frac{|\mu(z^j)|}{\|z^j\|_1} = \sup_{j \geq 0} |c_j| = \|\{c_j\}\|. \quad \square$$

3.3. The action of $\Sigma_0(p)$

Let

$$\Sigma_0(p) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in M_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) \text{ such that } p \nmid a, p \mid c \text{ and } ad - bc \neq 0 \right\}$$

be the p -adic version of $S_0(p)$. For each non-negative integer k , we define a weight k action of $\Sigma_0(p)$ on $\mathbf{A}[r]$ by

$$(\gamma \cdot_k f)(z) = (a + cz)^k \cdot f\left(\frac{b + dz}{a + cz}\right)$$

where $\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \Sigma_0(p)$ and $f \in \mathbf{A}[r]$. Then $\Sigma_0(p)$ acts on $\mathbf{D}[r]$ on the right by

$$(\mu|_k \gamma)(f) = \mu(\gamma \cdot_k f)$$

where $\mu \in \mathbf{D}[r]$.

These two actions induce actions on $\mathcal{A}(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, $\mathcal{A}^\dagger(\mathbb{Z}_p, r)$, $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, and $\mathcal{D}^\dagger(\mathbb{Z}_p, r)$. To emphasize the role of k in this action, we sometimes write k in the subscript, i.e. $\mathcal{A}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, $\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, etc.

3.4. Finite-dimensional quotients

For an integer $k \geq 0$, consider

$$V_k = \text{Sym}^k(\mathbb{Q}_p^2),$$

the space of homogeneous polynomials of degree k in X and Y with coefficients in \mathbb{Q}_p . We endow the space V_k with the structure of a right $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ -module by

$$(P|_\gamma)(X, Y) = P((X, Y) \cdot \gamma^*) = P(dX - cY, -bX + aY)$$

where $\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$ and $P \in V_k$.

We note that by Eichler-Shimura theory, V_k -valued modular symbols are intimately related to classical modular forms.

For $D_k = \mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, \mathbf{D}_k or \mathcal{D}_k^\dagger , there is an $\Sigma_0(p)$ -equivariant map

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_k : D_k &\rightarrow V_k \\ \mu &\mapsto \int (Y - zX)^k d\mu(z) \end{aligned}$$

where the integration takes place coefficient by coefficient. This map induces a map from D_k -valued modular symbols to V_k -valued modular symbols. A careful study of this specialization map will be made in Section 5.

4. Forming modular symbols

Let Γ denote some congruence subgroup of level N , and set $\Gamma_0 = \Gamma \cap \Gamma_0(p)$ with p some prime not dividing N . Let V denote a right $\mathbb{Z}[\Gamma_0]$ -module. By Corollary 2.10, to write down a V -valued modular symbol for Γ_0 , we need to be able to solve equations of the form

$$v|(1 + \sigma) = 0, \quad v|(1 + \tau + \tau^2) = 0, \quad \text{and } v|\Delta = w$$

for $v, w \in V$. Recall that $\Delta = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} - 1$ while σ and τ have orders two and three respectively.

The first two equations are easy to explicitly solve in any Γ_0 -module V (where 2 and 3 act invertibly) while the last equation (the difference equation) is more subtle and its solution will depend heavily upon the module V . For $V = \mathcal{D}_k^\dagger$, we give an explicit solution to this equation in Section 4.2.

4.1. Torsion equations

Assume 2 acts invertibly on V . Then

$$V \xrightarrow{\sim} V^{\sigma=1} \oplus V^{\sigma=-1}$$

$$v \mapsto \frac{1}{2} (v|(1 + \sigma), v|(1 - \sigma))$$

is an isomorphism since σ acts as an involution on V .

Similarly, if 3 acts invertibly on V ,

$$V \xrightarrow{\sim} V^{\tau=1} \oplus V^{1+\tau+\tau^2=0}$$

$$v \mapsto \frac{1}{3} (v|(1 + \tau + \tau^2), v|(2 - \tau - \tau^2))$$

is an isomorphism. These observations establish the following proposition.

PROPOSITION 4.1. – 1. *If 2 acts invertibly on V , then*

$$\{v \in V : v|(1 + \sigma) = 0\} = V|(1 - \sigma).$$

2. *If 3 acts invertibly on V , then*

$$\{v \in V : v|(1 + \tau + \tau^2) = 0\} = V|(2 - \tau - \tau^2).$$

4.2. The difference equation

We begin with the case of $V = V_k$.

PROPOSITION 4.2. – *Consider $\Delta : V_k \rightarrow V_k$. We have that*

1. $\ker(\Delta)$ equals $\mathbb{Q}_p \cdot X^k$;
2. $\text{im}(\Delta)$ is generated by the monomials $X^k, X^{k-1}Y, \dots, XY^{k-1}$.

Thus, for each $P \in V_k$ whose coefficient of Y^k is zero, there exists $Q \in V_k$ such that

$$Q|\Delta = P.$$

Moreover, Q is unique up to the addition of a constant multiple of X^k .

Proof. – Let Q be in V_k with $Q|\Delta = 0$. Then $Q(X, Y - X) = Q(X, Y)$, and thus $Q(1, Y - 1) = Q(1, Y)$. Therefore, as a polynomial in Y , $Q(1, Y)$ is a constant; this implies that $Q(X, Y) = cX^k$ for some $c \in \mathbb{Q}_p$ as claimed.

For the second part, a simple computation shows that the coefficient of Y^k of $Q|\Delta$ always vanishes, and thus, $\text{im}(\Delta)$ is contained in the span of the monomials $X^i Y^j$ with $j \neq k$. As $\ker(\Delta)$ is one-dimensional, we have that $\text{im}(\Delta)$ is k -dimensional, and this inclusion is an equality. \square

We next consider the case of $V = \mathcal{D}_k^\dagger$.

LEMMA 4.3. – *The map $\Delta : \mathcal{D}_k^\dagger \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_k^\dagger$ is injective.*

Proof. – Let $\mu \in \ker(\Delta)$ be a non-zero distribution, and let n be the smallest non-negative integer such that $\mu(z^n) \neq 0$. Since $\mu| \Delta = 0$, we have

$$\mu(z^{n+1}) = \mu((z-1)^{n+1}),$$

and thus

$$\mu(z^{n+1}) = \mu(z^{n+1}) + (-1)^{n+1}(n+1)\mu(z^n)$$

since $\mu(z^j) = 0$ if $j < n$. Hence, $\mu(z^n) = 0$, and this contradiction implies that μ is identically zero. \square

Note that

$$(\mu| \Delta)(\mathbf{1}) = (\mu| \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix})(\mathbf{1}) - \mu(\mathbf{1}) = 0$$

where $\mathbf{1}$ is the constant function with value 1. Thus, $\text{im}(\Delta)$ is contained in the set of distributions with total measure zero. We will see that this inclusion is in fact an equality.

To this end, we begin by solving the difference equation

$$\mu| \Delta = \nu_j$$

where $\nu_j \in \mathbf{D}_k$ is the simple distribution defined by

$$\nu_j(z^r) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } r = j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

In the following lemma, we write down explicit distributions that solve this equation; interestingly, the moments of these distributions are given by Bernoulli numbers.

LEMMA 4.4. – Let $\eta_j \in \mathbf{D}_k$ be defined by

$$\eta_j(z^r) = \begin{cases} \binom{r}{j} b_{r-j} & \text{if } r \geq j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where b_n is the n -th Bernoulli number. Then,

$$\eta_j| \Delta = (j+1) \cdot \nu_{j+1}.$$

Proof. – For $r \geq j \geq 0$ we compute:

$$(\eta_j| \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix})(z^r) = \eta_j((z+1)^r) = \sum_{i=0}^r \binom{r}{i} \eta_j(z^i) = \sum_{i=j}^r \binom{r}{i} \binom{i}{j} b_{i-j}.$$

But, for $r \geq j$, we have the following identity of Bernoulli numbers:

$$\sum_{i=j}^r \binom{r}{i} \binom{i}{j} b_{i-j} = \begin{cases} \binom{r}{j} b_{r-j} + (j+1) & \text{if } r = j+1 \\ \binom{r}{j} b_{r-j} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Thus

$$(\eta_j| \Delta)(z^r) = (\eta_j| \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix})(z^r) - \eta_j(z^r) = \begin{cases} j+1 & \text{if } r = j+1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

which implies $\eta_j| \Delta = (j+1)\nu_{j+1}$ as claimed. \square

THEOREM 4.5. – For any $\nu \in \mathcal{D}_k^\dagger$ of total measure zero, there exists a unique $\mu \in \mathcal{D}_k^\dagger$ such that

$$\mu|_{\Delta} = \nu.$$

Proof. – Define a distribution μ by

$$\mu = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{\nu(z^j)}{j} \cdot \eta_{j-1}.$$

Note that μ evaluated at any monomial makes sense as only finitely many terms are non-zero. Further, by the von Staudt-Clausen theorem and Proposition 3.1, μ extends to a distribution in \mathcal{D}_k^\dagger as the values $\mu(z^j)$ are $O(r^j)$ for all $r > 1$.

By Lemma 4.4,

$$\mu|_{\Delta} = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{\nu(z^j)}{j} \cdot \eta_{j-1}|_{\Delta} = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \nu(z^j) \cdot \eta_j = \nu$$

as claimed. (Note that the last equality uses the fact that ν has total measure zero.) The uniqueness of μ follows from Lemma 4.3. \square

REMARK 4.6. – The proof of Theorem 4.5 is completely explicit as the elements η_j are given explicitly by Lemma 4.4. Also note that if $\nu \in \mathbf{D}_k$, it may not be true that $\mu \in \mathbf{D}_k$ because of the presence of denominators in the above formula. It is primarily for this reason that we are forced to consider \mathcal{D}_k^\dagger in this paper.

5. Overconvergent modular symbols

Let $D_k := \mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, \mathbf{D}_k or \mathcal{D}_k^\dagger ; we refer to $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(D_k)$ as a space of overconvergent modular symbols (endowed with the weight k action). These spaces of overconvergent modular symbols naturally map to the space of classical modular symbols. Indeed, there is a natural $\Sigma_0(p)$ -equivariant map (introduced in Section 3.4) given by

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_k : D_k &\rightarrow V_k \\ \mu &\mapsto \int (Y - zX)^k d\mu(z) \end{aligned}$$

where the integration takes place coefficient by coefficient. This induces a map

$$\rho_k^* : \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(D_k) \rightarrow \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(V_k)$$

which we refer to as the *specialization map*. Note that ρ_k^* is Hecke-equivariant as ρ_k is $\Sigma_0(p)$ -equivariant. In the following, we study the question of lifting classical modular symbols with respect to this map.

5.1. Explicit lifts of classical symbols

THEOREM 5.1. – *The specialization map*

$$\rho_k^* : \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{D}_k^\dagger) \rightarrow \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(V_k)$$

is surjective.

Proof. – Throughout this proof, we will be using the notation of Section 2.4.

For each $\varphi \in \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(V_k)$, we wish to find $\Phi \in \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{D}_k^\dagger)$ such that $\rho_k^*(\Phi) = \varphi$. To define Φ , by Corollary 2.10, it suffices to give the values of Φ on $D_1, \dots, D_t, D_\infty, D'_1, \dots, D'_s, D''_1, \dots, D''_r$ subject to certain relations.

Defining $\Phi(D_i)$ is easy for $i < \infty$; simply pick any $\mu_i \in \mathcal{D}_k^\dagger$ such that $\rho_k(\mu_i) = \varphi(D_i)$. To define $\Phi(D'_i)$, we need to find μ'_i such that

$$\rho_k(\mu'_i) = \varphi(D'_i) \text{ and } \mu'_i|(1 + \sigma) = 0.$$

To do this, pick any $\nu'_i \in \mathcal{D}_k^\dagger$ such that $\rho_k(\nu'_i) = \varphi(D'_i)$ and set

$$\mu'_i = \frac{1}{2}\nu'_i|(1 - \sigma).$$

Since μ'_i is in the image of $1 - \sigma$, it is automatically killed by $1 + \sigma$. Moreover, since $\varphi(D'_i)|\sigma = -\varphi(D'_i)$, we have that

$$\rho_k(\mu'_i) = \frac{1}{2}\rho_k(\nu'_i|(1 - \sigma)) = \frac{1}{2}(\varphi(D'_i) - \varphi(D'_i)|\sigma) = \varphi(D'_i).$$

We define $\Phi(D''_i)$ similarly.

Then set

$$\nu_\infty = \sum_{i=1}^t \mu_i|(\gamma_i - 1) + \sum_{i=1}^s \mu'_i + \sum_{i=1}^r \mu''_i.$$

All that is left is to find $\mu_\infty \in \mathcal{D}_k^\dagger$ such that μ_∞ lifts $\varphi(D_\infty)$ and $\mu_\infty|\Delta = \nu_\infty$. To this end, first note that ν_∞ has total measure zero. Indeed

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_k(\nu_\infty) &= \sum_{i=1}^t \rho_k(\mu_i)|(\gamma_i - 1) + \sum_{i=1}^s \rho_k(\mu'_i) + \sum_{i=1}^r \rho_k(\mu''_i) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^t \varphi(D_i)|(\gamma_i - 1) + \sum_{i=1}^s \varphi(D'_i) + \sum_{i=1}^r \varphi(D''_i) \\ &= \varphi(D_\infty)|\Delta \end{aligned}$$

as φ is a modular symbol. Hence, $\rho_k(\nu_\infty) \in \text{im}(\Delta)$. By Proposition 4.2, the coefficient of Y^k of $\rho_k(\nu_\infty)$ vanishes, and thus ν_∞ has total measure zero.

Theorem 4.5 then yields a unique $\mu_\infty \in \mathcal{D}_k^\dagger$ satisfying $\mu_\infty|\Delta = \nu_\infty$. However, μ_∞ need not lift $\varphi(D_\infty)$. Indeed, from this construction we only know that

$$\rho_k(\mu_\infty)|\Delta = \varphi(D_\infty)|\Delta.$$

Since $\ker(\Delta) = \mathbb{Q}_p X^k$ (see Proposition 4.2), we have that $\rho_k(\mu_\infty) - \varphi(D_\infty) = cX^k$ for some $c \in \mathbb{Q}_p$. Thus, the k -th moment of μ_∞ is possibly taking on the wrong value.

To remedy this problem, one can make use of the great flexibility in our choice of the μ_i . By modifying these distributions, one can change the value of $\mu_\infty(z^k)$ to any value in \mathbb{Q}_p ,

and still have that $\mu_\infty|_\Delta = \nu_\infty$. In particular, one can force $\rho_k(\mu_\infty)$ to equal $\varphi(D_\infty)$. We leave the details to the interested reader.

Then, by Corollary 2.10, there is a unique modular symbol Φ defined by

$$\Phi(D_\infty) = \mu_\infty, \quad \Phi(D_i) = \mu_i, \quad \Phi(D'_i) = \mu'_i \text{ and } \Phi(D''_i) = \mu''_i,$$

which by construction lifts φ . □

REMARK 5.2. – 1. The proof of this theorem is completely explicit in that the values of Φ on a generating set of divisors is described explicitly in terms of the corresponding values of φ .

2. In practice, if one is lifting a non-Eisenstein eigensymbol, one does not need to go through the extra process, mentioned at the end of the above proof, to force the value at D_∞ to work out correctly. Indeed, the first half of the above proof produces an overconvergent modular symbol Ψ such that if $\psi := \rho_k^*(\Psi) - \varphi$, then $\psi(D_i) = \psi(D'_i) = \psi(D''_i) = 0$ for $i < \infty$ and $\psi(D_\infty) = cX^k$. A simple computation shows that ψ is an Eisenstein symbol; that is, $\psi|_{T_\ell} = (\ell^{k+1} + 1)\psi$. Thus, the symbol $\Phi := \Psi|_{(T_\ell - (\ell^{k+1} + 1))}$ is a lift of $(a_\ell - (\ell^{k+1} + 1))\varphi$. As long as φ is not an Eisenstein symbol (at ℓ), then one can rescale to get an overconvergent lift of φ .

3. For a direct cohomological proof of the above theorem, see [16].

The following lemma will allow us to show that one can lift classical modular symbols to \mathbf{D}_k -valued modular symbols. In what follows, let $\beta(a, p)$ denote the matrix $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & a \\ 0 & p \end{pmatrix}$.

LEMMA 5.3. – *If $\mu \in \mathcal{D}_k^\dagger$, then $\mu|\beta(a, p) \in \mathbf{D}_k$. If $\Phi \in \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{D}_k^\dagger)$, then $\Phi|_{U_p} \in \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathbf{D}_k)$.*

Proof. – We have

$$(\mu|\beta(a, p))(z^j) = \mu((a + pz)^j) = \sum_{r=0}^j \binom{j}{r} a^{j-r} p^r \mu(z^r).$$

Proposition 3.1 implies that $\{p^r \mu(z^r)\}$ is bounded, and thus $\mu|\beta(a, p) \in \mathbf{D}_k$.

For the second part of the lemma,

$$(\Phi|_{U_p})(D) = \sum_{a=0}^{p-1} \Phi(\beta(a, p)D) |\beta(a, p),$$

which lies in \mathbf{D}_k by the first part of the lemma. □

COROLLARY 5.4. – *We have that*

$$\rho_k^* : \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathbf{D}_k) \rightarrow \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(V_k)$$

is surjective.

Proof. – Let $\varphi \in \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(V_k)$. Without loss of generality, we may assume that φ is in a generalized eigenspace for U_p with eigenvalue $\lambda \neq 0$. Let φ' be some element of $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(V_k)$ such that $\varphi'|_{U_p} = \varphi$. Then, by Theorem 5.1, there is some $\Psi' \in \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{D}_k^\dagger)$ lifting φ' . Set $\Phi := \Psi'|_{U_p}$ which is in $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathbf{D}_k)$ by Lemma 5.3. Moreover, Φ lifts φ as

$$\rho_k^*(\Phi) = \rho_k^*(\Psi'|_{U_p}) = \varphi'|_{U_p} = \varphi. \quad \square$$

5.2. The ordinary subspace of an operator

In this section, we discuss generalities about the slope zero subspace of an operator. We will ultimately apply this theory to the operator U_p/p^h to recover a subspace of modular symbols of slope h . The results of this section are a very special case of the Riesz decomposition arising from a completely continuous operator (see [18]).

LEMMA 5.5. – *Let X be an abelian group and $u : X \rightarrow X$ a homomorphism with finite image. Then there exists a unique decomposition*

$$X = X^{\text{ord}} \oplus X^{\text{nil}}$$

such that u is invertible on X^{ord} and nilpotent on X^{nil} . Moreover, X^{ord} is a finite set.

Proof. – For any element $x \in X$, consider the sequence, $\{x, ux, u^2x, \dots\}$. Since u has finite image, this sequence will eventually become periodic; denote by $N(x)$ the length of this period. Set X^{ord} equal to the subgroup of $x \in X$ such that this sequence is *purely* periodic; that is,

$$X^{\text{ord}} := \{x \in X : u^j x = x \text{ for some } j > 0\}.$$

Clearly, u acts invertibly on X^{ord} , and since the image of u is finite, X^{ord} is finite. Set X^{nil} equal to the subgroup of X consisting of all elements killed by some power of u .

For any $x \in X$, the sequence $\{u^{N(x)j}(x)\}$ eventually stabilizes; denote by x^{ord} this stable value. If $x^{\text{nil}} = x - x^{\text{ord}}$, we have that $u^{N(x)j}$ kills x^{nil} for j large enough and thus $x^{\text{nil}} \in X^{\text{nil}}$. Therefore, since $X^{\text{ord}} \cap X^{\text{nil}} = \{0\}$, we have $X = X^{\text{ord}} \oplus X^{\text{nil}}$. \square

Let K/\mathbb{Q}_p be a finite extension, and let \mathcal{O} denote the ring of integers of K .

PROPOSITION 5.6. – *Let V be a Banach space over K , and let $u : V \rightarrow V$ be a completely continuous operator that preserves some bounded \mathcal{O} -submodule $L \subseteq V$ such that $L \otimes K = V$. Then there is a unique decomposition of Banach spaces*

$$V = V^{\text{ord}} \oplus V^{\text{nil}}$$

where u is topologically nilpotent on V^{nil} , invertible on V^{ord} , and such that $\{u^{-n}\}$ forms a bounded sequence of operators on V^{ord} . Moreover, the space V^{ord} has finite dimension over K , and the projection $V \rightarrow V^{\text{ord}}$ is given by $x \mapsto \varprojlim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u^{n!}x$.

Proof. – Since u is a completely continuous operator, u has finite image in $L/p^n L$ for any n . In particular, by the previous lemma, we have a decomposition

$$L/p^n L = (L/p^n L)^{\text{ord}} \oplus (L/p^n L)^{\text{nil}}$$

for each n . Moreover, the natural projection maps respect this decomposition on every level. Thus, if we define

$$L^{\text{ord}} := \varprojlim_n (L/p^n L)^{\text{ord}} \text{ and } L^{\text{nil}} := \varprojlim_n (L/p^n L)^{\text{nil}},$$

we get the decomposition

$$L = L^{\text{ord}} \oplus L^{\text{nil}}.$$

Tensoring by K then yields the desired decomposition.

Note that since $(L/pL)^{\text{ord}}$ is finite, by Nakayama's lemma, L^{ord} has finite rank over \mathcal{O} , and thus V^{ord} is finite dimensional over K . The remaining properties of the decomposition follow from the corresponding properties of the decomposition at each finite level. \square

5.3. Forming overconvergent eigensymbols

Let $\varphi \in \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(V_k) \otimes K$ be an eigensymbol for the full Hecke-algebra of slope h where K is some finite extension of \mathbb{Q}_p containing the system of eigenvalues attached to φ . Let λ denote the eigenvalue of U_p acting on φ ; note that $\text{ord}_p(\lambda) = h$ where h lies between 0 and $k + 1$. Set

$$X_\varphi := (\rho_k^*)^{-1}(K \cdot \varphi) \subseteq \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathbf{D}_k) \otimes K.$$

(In particular, X_φ contains the kernel of specialization.)

PROPOSITION 5.7. – *There is a unique decomposition*

$$X_\varphi \cong X_\varphi^{(=h)} \oplus X_\varphi^{(>h)}$$

where $\lambda^{-1}U_p$ is topologically nilpotent on $X_\varphi^{(>h)}$, invertible on $X_\varphi^{(=h)}$ and such that $\{\lambda^n U_p^{-n}\}$ forms a bounded sequence of operators on $X_\varphi^{(=h)}$. Moreover, $X_\varphi^{(=h)}$ is finite-dimensional over K .

Proof. – Let $u := \lambda^{-1}U_p$. By Proposition 5.6, it suffices to show that there is some lattice of X_φ preserved by u . Let X_φ^0 be the unit ball of X_φ , and let

$$Y_\varphi = \left\{ \Phi \in X_\varphi^0 : \|\Phi(D)(z^j)\| \leq p^{-(h-j)} \text{ for } 0 \leq j \leq [h], D \in \Delta_0 \right\}.^{(3)}$$

Let Φ be any symbol in Y_φ ; we will check that $\Phi|u \in Y_\varphi$. To see that $\Phi|u \in X_\varphi^0$, we compute

$$\begin{aligned} (\Phi|u)(D)(z^r) &= \lambda^{-1} \cdot \sum_{a=0}^{p-1} (\Phi(D_a)|\beta(a,p))(z^r) \\ &= \lambda^{-1} \cdot \sum_{a=0}^{p-1} \Phi(D_a)((a+pz)^r) \\ &= \lambda^{-1} \cdot \sum_{a=0}^{p-1} \sum_{j=0}^r a^{r-j} p^j \Phi(D_a)(z^j) \end{aligned}$$

where $D_a = \beta(a,p)D$. By our assumption that $\Phi \in Y_\varphi$, we have that

$$\|p^j \Phi(D_a)(z^j)\| \leq p^{-h}.$$

Thus,

$$\|(\Phi|u)(D)(z^r)\| \leq p^h \cdot p^{-h} \leq 1,$$

and $\|\Phi|u\| \leq 1$.

To check that $\Phi|u \in Y_\varphi$, note that if Ψ_1 and Ψ_2 are two symbols in X_φ^0 such that $\rho_k^*(\Psi_1) = \rho_k^*(\Psi_2)$, then $\Psi_1 \in Y_\varphi$ if and only if $\Psi_2 \in Y_\varphi$. Since

$$\rho_k^*(\Phi|u) = \lambda^{-1} \rho_k^*(\Phi)|U_p = \rho_k^*(\Phi),$$

⁽³⁾ In the course of the proof, we will see that the unit ball of X_φ is not necessarily preserved by u which is the reason we are using this smaller space.

$\Phi \in Y_\varphi$ implies $\Phi|u \in Y_\varphi$.

Hence, Y_φ is preserved by u and our proposition follows from Proposition 5.6. \square

REMARK 5.8. – By carefully following the above proof, we will see in Section 8.2 that one can apply $\lambda^{-1}U_p$ to our representation of an element of X_φ without losing any accuracy even in the case when λ is not a unit. Maintaining a constant accuracy will be essential in our applications since projecting to the slope h subspace requires iterating the operator u .

THEOREM 5.9. – *If $\varphi \in \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(V_k) \otimes K$ is a Hecke-eigensymbol, then there exists a non-zero Hecke-eigensymbol $\Phi \in \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathbf{D}_k) \otimes K$ with the same system of eigenvalues as φ .*

Proof. – Let h be the slope of φ and set $X_\varphi := (\rho_k^*)^{-1}(K \cdot \varphi)$. By Corollary 5.4 and Proposition 5.7, we have a surjective map

$$X_\varphi^{(=h)} \oplus X_\varphi^{(>h)} \rightarrow K \cdot \varphi.$$

Note that ρ_k^* kills $X_\varphi^{(>h)}$ as φ has slope h , and thus

$$X_\varphi^{(=h)} \rightarrow K \cdot \varphi$$

is surjective. The source and (of course) the target of this map are finite-dimensional over K . Thus, the following lemma from linear algebra establishes our theorem. \square

LEMMA 5.10. – *Let V and W be finite-dimensional vector spaces over a field K . Let $\{T_i : V \rightarrow W\}$ be a countable family of commuting operators, and let $\psi : V \rightarrow W$ be a surjective linear map equivariant for each T_i . Then any K -valued system of eigenvalues for the family $\{T_i\}$ occurring in W also occurs in V .*

Proof. – Let $w \in W$ be some simultaneous eigenvector for the T_i . Replacing W with $K \cdot w$ and V with $\psi^{-1}(K \cdot w)$, we may assume that W is one-dimensional. As the T_i commute, we have $V = \bigoplus_j V_j$ with each V_j a simultaneous pseudo-eigenspace for the family $\{T_i\}$. Since ψ is non-zero, one of the V_j must have the same system of eigenvalues as W . Lastly, since these eigenvalues are in K , there is some bonafide eigenvector in V giving rise to these eigenvalues. \square

REMARK 5.11. – One cannot in general find a $\{T_i\}$ -eigenvector that maps to w . The set of all such eigenvectors with the same eigenvalues as w might lie entirely within the kernel of ψ . It is for this reason that in Theorem 5.9 we cannot conclude solely from linear algebra that there is an overconvergent eigensymbol that *lifts* φ .

5.4. Comparison theorems

The following theorem is proven by the second author in [19]—see also [16, Theorem 5.3]. We offer the following “constructive” proof of this theorem.

THEOREM 5.12. – *The composition*

$$\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p))^{(<k+1)} \longrightarrow \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathbf{D}_k)^{(<k+1)} \xrightarrow{\rho_k^*} \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(V_k)^{(<k+1)}$$

is an isomorphism. That is, the specialization map restricted to the subspace where U_p acts with slope strictly less than $k + 1$ is an isomorphism.

Proof. – The first map is an isomorphism by [16, Lemma 5.2], and thus we concentrate on the second map.

We have

$$(\Phi|_{U_p})(D)(z^r) = \sum_{a=0}^{p-1} \Phi(D_a) ((a + pz)^r) = \sum_{a=0}^{p-1} \sum_{j=0}^r \binom{r}{j} a^{r-j} p^j \Phi(D_a)(z^j)$$

where $D_a = \beta(a, p)D$. For Φ in the kernel of specialization, $\Phi(D_a)(z^j) = 0$ for $j \leq k$, and the right hand side above is divisible by p^{k+1} . Thus, U_p acts on the kernel of specialization with slope at least $k + 1$. In particular, ρ_k^* is injective when restricted to the subspace where U_p acts with slope less than $k + 1$.

The surjectivity of ρ_k^* now follows from Theorem 5.9. Indeed, let φ be a Hecke-eigensymbol in $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(V_k)^\pm \otimes \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p$ with slope $h < k + 1$. By the above arguments, the surjective map in the proof of Theorem 5.9,

$$X_\varphi^{(=h)} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p \cdot \varphi,$$

is also injective. Thus, the overconvergent symbol Φ of Theorem 5.9 specializes to a non-zero multiple of φ . Hence, the specialization map is an isomorphism after extending scalars to $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p$, and thus is an isomorphism before extending scalars. \square

REMARK 5.13. – The proof of Theorem 5.9 is essentially constructive. For any Hecke-eigensymbol $\varphi \in \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(V_k)$ of slope $h < k + 1$, one lifts φ to some overconvergent symbol in $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{D}_k^\dagger)$. This lifting is explicitly described in Theorem 5.1. To get a lifting in $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathbf{D}_k)$ (and thus in X_φ) one applies $\lambda^{-1}U_p$ as described in Corollary 5.4. Let Φ denote this lifting. Then the projection of Φ to $X_\varphi^{(=h)}$ is given by $\Phi^0 := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Phi|_{u^n!}$, which is the overconvergent symbol we are seeking.

In [16], the following theorem on the critical slope subspace of $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathbf{D}_k)$ is established. (Here critical slope means slope $k + 1$.) In the statement of the theorem, θ_k denotes the θ -operator on overconvergent modular forms which takes forms of weight $-k$ to forms of weight $k + 2$. Further, the subscript of (f) denotes the pseudo-eigenspace with the same Hecke-eigenvalues as f .

THEOREM 5.14. – *Let f be an eigenform of $S_{k+2}(\Gamma_0, \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p)$ with slope $k + 1$. Then*

$$\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathbf{D}_k)_{(f)} \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(V_k)_{(f)}$$

is an isomorphism if and only if $f \notin \text{im}(\theta_k)$.

REMARK 5.15. – 1. Applying the algorithm described in Remark 5.13 when the slope of φ is exactly $k + 1$ yields a symbol Φ^0 of slope $k + 1$ which lifts φ and that, by Proposition 5.7, has a finite-dimensional Hecke span. It is then just an exercise in linear algebra to produce a Hecke-eigensymbol Φ with the same Hecke-eigenvalues as φ .

2. If f is the critical slope p -stabilization of a p -ordinary CM modular form, then f is in the image of θ_k (see [4, Proposition 7.1]). Thus, by Theorem 5.14, the specialization map is not an isomorphism on f -isotypic subspaces. In Section 8.4, numerical data will be presented that suggests that up to scaling there is a unique Hecke-eigensymbol in $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathbf{D}_k)_{(f)}^\pm$. However, this symbol appears to be in the kernel of specialization.

6. The connection to p -adic L -functions

6.1. An aside on distributions

The space of distributions $\mathbf{D}[r]$ is naturally a Banach space with norm $\|\cdot\|_r$ as defined in Section 3. Since $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ lies inside of $\mathbf{D}[r]$ for every $r > 0$, $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ inherits a family of norms $\{\|\cdot\|_r\}$ satisfying $\|\mu\|_{r_1} \geq \|\mu\|_{r_2}$ for $r_1 \leq r_2$. It is natural to classify distributions $\mu \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ by the growth of $\|\mu\|_r$ as $r \rightarrow 0^+$.

DEFINITION 6.1. – For $\mu \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, we say that μ is h -admissible if $\|\mu\|_r$ is $O(r^{-h})$ as $r \rightarrow 0^+$.

LEMMA 6.2. – If $\Phi \in \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{Z}_p))$ is a U_p -eigensymbol of slope h , then all of the values of Φ are h -admissible distributions.

Proof. – Let λ denote the U_p -eigenvalue of Φ . For a positive real number r , a positive integer n , and $D \in \Delta_0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\Phi(D)\|_{\frac{r}{p^n}} &= |\lambda|^{-n} \|(\Phi|U_p^n)(D)\|_{\frac{r}{p^n}} \\ &\leq |\lambda|^{-n} \max_{0 \leq a \leq p^n - 1} \|\Phi(\beta(a, p^n)D)|\beta(a, p^n)\|_{\frac{r}{p^n}} \\ &\leq |\lambda|^{-n} \max_{0 \leq a \leq p^n - 1} \|\Phi(\beta(a, p^n)D)\|_r \\ &\leq |\lambda|^{-n} \|\Phi\|_r. \end{aligned}$$

The second to last inequality follows from the fact that for any $\mu \in \mathbf{D}[r]$ and any $\gamma \in \Sigma_0(p)$ with $\det(\gamma) = p^n$, we have

$$\|\mu|\gamma\|_{\frac{r}{p^n}} \leq \|\mu\|_r.$$

The above inequalities imply that $\Phi(D)$ is h -admissible. \square

6.2. p -adic L -functions

Fix an embedding of $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$ into $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p$, and let f be a normalized eigenform in $S_{k+2}(\Gamma, \overline{\mathbb{Q}}) \subseteq S_{k+2}(\Gamma, \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p)$ with slope $h < k + 1$. The p -adic L -function of f is the h -admissible p -adic distribution $\mu_f \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{Z}_p^\times)$ which satisfies the following interpolation property: if χ is a finite order character of \mathbb{Z}_p^\times with conductor p^n , and j is an integer between 0 and k , then

$$(1) \quad \mu_f(z^j \cdot \chi) = \frac{1}{\alpha^n} \cdot \frac{p^{n(j+1)}}{(-2\pi i)^j} \cdot \frac{j!}{\tau(\chi^{-1})} \cdot \frac{L(f, \chi^{-1}, j+1)}{\Omega_f^\pm}$$

where α is the U_p -eigenvalue of f , $\tau(\chi^{-1})$ is a Gauss sum, and Ω_f^\pm are complex periods. Since $h < k + 1$ and μ_f is h -admissible, the above interpolation property uniquely determines μ_f .

The above p -adic L -function can be constructed by first defining a distribution on locally polynomial functions of degree less than or equal to k . Explicitly, this distribution is given by

$$(2) \quad \mu_f^\pm(z^j \cdot \mathbf{1}_{a+p^n\mathbb{Z}_p}) = \frac{1}{\alpha^n} \cdot \left(\int_\infty^{a/p^n} (-p^n z + a)^j f(z) dz \pm \int_\infty^{-a/p^n} (p^n z + a)^j f(z) dz \right) \frac{\pi i}{\Omega_f^\pm}$$

for each integer j between 0 and k . One proves that μ_f^\pm extends to unique h -admissible distribution in $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{Z}_p^\times)$ (see [1, 13, 21]). The p -adic L -function of f is then the distribution $\mu_f := \mu_f^+ + \mu_f^-$.

6.3. p -adic L -functions and Hecke-eigensymbols

In what follows, we sketch an alternative construction of this p -adic L -function through overconvergent modular symbols. To this end, we first note that the f -isotypic subspace of $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(V_k)^\pm \otimes \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p$ is one-dimensional. Let φ_f^\pm be a generator of this space, normalized so that φ_f^\pm takes on only integral values and at least one unit value. Explicitly, φ_f^\pm can be defined by

$$\varphi_f^\pm(\{r\} - \{s\}) = \left(\int_r^s f(z)(zX + Y)^k dz \pm (-1)^k \int_{-r}^{-s} f(z)(zX - Y)^k dz \right) \frac{\pi i}{\Omega_f^\pm}$$

where the periods Ω_f^\pm are appropriately chosen. By definition, φ_f^\pm is a Hecke-eigensymbol with the same system of eigenvalues as f .

Since we are assuming that f is non-critical, Theorem 5.12 implies that there is a unique overconvergent modular symbol $\Phi_f^\pm \in \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{Z}_p))^\pm$ which specializes to the symbol φ_f^\pm . We then have the following relationship between $\Phi_f := \Phi_f^+ + \Phi_f^-$ and the p -adic L -function of f .

PROPOSITION 6.3. – *For f of slope strictly less than $k + 1$, we have*

$$\Phi_f(\{\infty\} - \{0\})|_{\mathbb{Z}_p^\times} = \mu_f,$$

the p -adic L -function of f computed with respect to the periods Ω_f^\pm .

Proof. – By Lemma 6.2, $\Phi_f^\pm(\{\infty\} - \{0\})$ is an h -admissible distribution with $h < k + 1$. Thus, to check the equality of this proposition, it suffices to see that $\Phi_f^\pm(\{\infty\} - \{0\})$ and μ_f^\pm agree on locally polynomial functions of degree less than $k + 1$.

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_f^\pm(\{\infty\} - \{0\}) &= \alpha^{-n}(\Phi_f^\pm|_{U_p^n})(\{\infty\} - \{0\}) \\ &= \alpha^{-n} \sum_{a=0}^{p^n-1} \Phi_f^\pm(\{\infty\} - \{a/p^n\})|\beta(a, p^n) \end{aligned}$$

where α is the U_p -eigenvalue of Φ_f^\pm . For any distribution $\mu \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, the support of $\mu|\beta(a, p^n)$ is contained in $a + p^n\mathbb{Z}_p$. Thus, for $0 \leq j \leq k$,

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_f^\pm(\{\infty\} - \{0\})(z^j \cdot \mathbf{1}_{a+p^n\mathbb{Z}_p}) &= \alpha^{-n} \left(\Phi_f^\pm(\{\infty\} - \{a/p^n\})|\beta(a, p^n) \right)(z^j \cdot \mathbf{1}_{a+p^n\mathbb{Z}_p}) \\ &= \alpha^{-n} \Phi_f^\pm(\{\infty\} - \{a/p^n\})((p^n z + a)^j). \end{aligned}$$

Then, using the fact that $\rho_k^*(\Phi_f^\pm) = \varphi_f^\pm$, a direct computation finds that

$$\Phi_f^\pm(\{\infty\} - \{a/p^n\})(Q(z)) = \left(\int_\infty^{a/p^n} Q(-z)f(z) dz \pm \int_\infty^{-a/p^n} Q(z)f(z) dz \right) \frac{\pi i}{\Omega_f^\pm}$$

where $Q(z)$ is any polynomial of degree less than or equal to k . Taking $Q(z) = (p^n z + a)^j$ yields

$$\begin{aligned} & \Phi_f^\pm(\{\infty\} - \{0\})(z^j \cdot \mathbf{1}_{a+p^n\mathbb{Z}_p}) \\ &= \alpha^{-n} \Phi_f^\pm(\{\infty\} - \{a/p^n\})((p^n z + a)^j) \\ &= \alpha^{-n} \left(\int_\infty^{a/p^n} (-p^n z + a)^j f(z) dz \pm \int_\infty^{-a/p^n} (p^n z + a)^j f(z) dz \right) \frac{\pi i}{\Omega_f^\pm}. \end{aligned}$$

Comparing with (2), we see that $\Phi_f^\pm(\{\infty\} - \{0\})$ and μ_f^\pm agree on locally polynomial functions of degree less than or equal to k . As both distributions are h -admissible with $h < k + 1$, they must be equal and the proposition follows. \square

6.4. The critical slope case

We now consider the case where f has slope equal to $k + 1$. In this case, the interpolation property (1) does not uniquely determine a $(k + 1)$ -admissible distribution. Moreover, the distribution defined on locally polynomial functions of degree less than $k + 1$ in (2) does not uniquely extend to a distribution in $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{Z}_p)$.

In light of Proposition 6.3, we make the following definition of the p -adic L -function of a critical slope form.

DEFINITION 6.4. – Let f be an eigenform in $S_k(\Gamma, \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p)$ of slope $k + 1$ which is not in the image of θ_k . Let Φ_f be the unique overconvergent eigensymbol (of Theorem 5.14) which specializes to $\varphi_f^+ + \varphi_f^-$. We define the p -adic L -function of f to be

$$\mu_f := \Phi_f(\{\infty\} - \{0\})|_{\mathbb{Z}_p^\times} \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{Z}_p^\times).$$

The following proposition describes the interpolation property of this critical p -adic L -function. It is a formal consequence of the fact that Φ_f is a U_p -eigensymbol lifting $\varphi_f^+ + \varphi_f^-$ as in Proposition 6.3.

PROPOSITION 6.5. – Let f and μ_f be as above, and let β denote the U_p -eigenvalue of f . If χ is a finite order character of \mathbb{Z}_p^\times with conductor p^n and j is an integer between 0 and k , then

$$(3) \quad \mu_f(z^j \cdot \chi) = \frac{1}{\beta^n} \cdot \frac{p^{n(j+1)}}{(-2\pi i)^j} \cdot \frac{j!}{\tau(\chi^{-1})} \cdot \frac{L(f, \chi^{-1}, 1)}{\Omega_f^\pm}.$$

Examples of these critical p -adic L -functions (especially their zeroes) will be given in Section 8.4.

7. Finite approximation modules

In this section, we describe a systematic method of approximating distributions, which will be used to carry out explicit computations in spaces of overconvergent modular symbols.

7.1. A $\Sigma_0(p)$ -stable filtration on distributions

Let

$$\mathbf{D}_k^0 = \{\mu \in \mathbf{D}_k \mid \mu(x^j) \in \mathbb{Z}_p \text{ for all } j \geq 0\}$$

denote the set of distributions with integral moments. By Proposition 3.1, this subspace is the unit ball of \mathbf{D}_k under $\|\cdot\|_1$. A first guess on how to form an approximation of an element $\mu \in \mathbf{D}_k^0$ is to fix two integers M and N , and consider the first M moments of μ modulo p^N . Unfortunately, these approximations are not stable under the action of $\Sigma_0(p)$; that is, given such an approximation of μ , one cannot compute the corresponding approximation of $\mu|_\gamma$ to the same accuracy. Indeed, the collection of subspaces

$$\{\mu \in \mathbf{D}_k^0 \mid \mu(z^j) = 0 \text{ for } j \leq M\}$$

is not in general $\Sigma_0(p)$ -stable. Instead, we consider larger subspaces which produce a filtration of \mathbf{D}_k^0 compatible with the action of $\Sigma_0(p)$.

PROPOSITION 7.1. – *The subspace*

$$\text{Fil}^M \mathbf{D}_k^0 = \{\mu \in \mathbf{D}_k^0 \text{ such that } \mu(z^j) \in p^{M-j} \mathbb{Z}_p\}$$

is a $\Sigma_0(p)$ -module under the weight k action for $k \geq 0$.

Proof. – Let $\mu \in \text{Fil}^M \mathbf{D}_k^0$. For $j \leq M$, we must show that p^{M-j} divides $(\mu|_\gamma)(z^j)$. We compute

$$\begin{aligned} (\mu|_\gamma)(z^j) &= \mu((a + cz)^{k-j}(b + dz)^j) \\ &= \mu\left(\left(\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \binom{k-j}{m} a^{k-j-m} c^m z^m\right) \left(\sum_{m=0}^j \binom{j}{m} b^{j-m} d^m z^m\right)\right) \\ &= \mu\left(\sum_{s=0}^{\infty} c_s z^s\right) = \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} c_s \mu(z^s), \end{aligned}$$

for some $c_s \in \mathbb{Z}_p$. Since $\mu \in \text{Fil}^M(\mathbf{D}_k^0)$, we have that $\mu(z^s)$ is divisible by p^{M-s} . Moreover, an easy computation with the explicit formula above yields that c_s is divisible by p^{s-j} . Thus, the above sum is divisible by p^{M-j} as desired. \square

LEMMA 7.2. – *The filtration $\{\text{Fil}^M \mathbf{D}_k^0\}$ on \mathbf{D}_k^0 is separated and complete.*

Proof. – This is clear from the definitions and from Proposition 3.1. \square

7.2. Approximating distributions

We now use the filtration $\{\text{Fil}^M \mathbf{D}_k^0\}$ to systematically approximate distributions.

DEFINITION 7.3. – For $M > k$, we define the M -th finite approximation module of \mathbf{D}_k^0 to be

$$\mathcal{F}_k(M) := \mathbf{D}_k^0 / \text{Fil}^M(\mathbf{D}_k^0).$$

PROPOSITION 7.4. – We have that $\mathcal{F}_k(M)$ is a $\Sigma_0(p)$ -module and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}_k(M) &\simeq (\mathbb{Z}/p^M\mathbb{Z}) \times (\mathbb{Z}/p^{M-1}\mathbb{Z}) \times \cdots \times (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}) \\ \bar{\mu} &\mapsto (\mu(z^j) + p^{M-j}\mathbb{Z}_p)_j \end{aligned}$$

is an isomorphism. In particular, $\mathcal{F}_k(M)$ is a finite set.

Proof. – Since $\text{Fil}^M(\mathbf{D}_k^0)$ is a $\Sigma_0(p)$ -module, $\mathcal{F}_k(M)$ is also a $\Sigma_0(p)$ -module. The fact that this map is an isomorphism follows directly from the definition of the filtration and Proposition 3.1. \square

By the above proposition, we can approximate $\mu \in \mathbf{D}_k^0$ with a finite amount of data by taking its image in $\mathcal{F}_k(M)$. Moreover, by Lemma 7.2, μ is determined by its image in $\mathcal{F}_k(M)$ for every M .

A downside to this description of $\mathcal{F}_k(M)$ is that it only allows us to approximate distributions with integral moments. However, as we saw in solving the difference equation $\mu|_{\Delta} = \nu$, it will be important to be able to work with distributions whose coefficients are not integral (not even bounded!). To remedy this problem, consider the space:

$$\mathcal{K}_0 = \{ \mu \in \mathcal{D}^\dagger(\mathbb{Z}_p, p) \mid p^j \mu(z^j) \in \mathbb{Z}_p \}.$$

Note that by definition $\mathbf{D}_k^0 \cap p^M \mathcal{K}_0 = \text{Fil}^M(\mathbf{D}_k^0)$. This gives the following alternate description of $\mathcal{F}_k(M)$:

$$\mathcal{F}_k(M) \cong \mathbf{D}_k^0 / (\mathbf{D}_k^0 \cap p^M \mathcal{K}_0) \cong (\mathbf{D}_k^0 + p^M \mathcal{K}_0) / p^M \mathcal{K}_0.$$

The following section will use this description of $\mathcal{F}_k(M)$ to approximate solutions to the difference equation.

7.3. Difference equation in $\mathcal{F}_k(M)$

Theorem 4.5 gives an explicit solution to the difference equation $\mu|_{\Delta} = \nu$ in \mathcal{D}_k^\dagger which required division by powers of p . Following the same approach in $\mathcal{F}_k(M)$ leads to mild difficulties since p does not act invertibly on $\mathcal{F}_k(M)$. To remedy this problem, we will need to assume that ν is divisible by a small power of p . The following lemma keeps track of the denominators that appear from solving the difference equation in \mathcal{D}_k^\dagger ; from this lemma, it will be easy to describe how to solve the difference equation in $\mathcal{F}_k(M)$.

LEMMA 7.5. – Let $\mu \in \mathcal{D}_k^\dagger$ such that $\mu|_{\Delta} = \nu \in \mathbf{D}_k^0$. If $m, M \geq 0$ are integers for which $p^m > M + 1$, then

$$p^m \mu \in \mathbf{D}_k^0 + p^M \mathcal{K}_0.$$

Proof. – From the explicit construction of Theorem 4.5, we know that μ equals a sum of terms of the form $\eta_j/(j+1)$ scaled by integral coefficients. Thus, to prove the lemma, it suffices to prove that if $p^m > M + 1$, then

$$p^m \cdot \frac{1}{j+1} \cdot \eta_j \in \mathbf{D}_k^0 + p^M \mathcal{K}_0$$

for all $j \geq 0$. For this, it suffices to show that for all integers n, j with $n \geq j \geq 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{p^m}{j+1} \binom{n}{j} b_{n-j} &\in \mathbb{Z}_p \text{ if } n < M, \\ p^n \cdot \frac{p^m}{j+1} \binom{n}{j} b_{n-j} &\in p^M \mathbb{Z}_p \text{ if } n \geq M. \end{aligned}$$

In the first case, $p^m > M + 1 > j + 1$ and thus, $\text{ord}_p(p^m/(j+1)) \geq 1$. The assertion then follows from the von Staudt-Clausen theorem.

In the second case, write $n = M + r$ with $r \geq 0$ and so $p^{m+r} > M + 1 + r = n + 1$. Thus $\text{ord}_p(p^{m+r}/(j+1)) \geq 1$ for every $j \geq 0$ with $j \leq n$. Again, from the von Staudt-Clausen theorem, it follows that

$$\frac{p^{m+r}}{j+1} \binom{n}{j} b_{n-j} \in \mathbb{Z}_p,$$

and consequently that

$$p^n \cdot \frac{p^m}{j+1} \binom{n}{j} b_{n-j} = p^M \cdot \frac{p^{m+r}}{j+1} \binom{n}{j} b_{n-j} \in p^M \mathbb{Z}_p. \quad \square$$

COROLLARY 7.6. – *If $\nu \in p^m \mathcal{F}_k(M)$ has total measure zero with $p^m > M + 1$, then there exists $\mu \in \mathcal{F}_k(M)$ such that $\mu|_{\Delta} = \nu$.*

Proof. – First lift ν to some element $\tilde{\nu}$ of $p^m \mathbf{D}_k^0$ with total measure zero. Then, solving the difference equation yields $\tilde{\mu} \in \mathcal{D}_k^{\dagger}$ such that $\tilde{\mu}|_{\Delta} = \tilde{\nu}$. By Lemma 7.5, we have that $\tilde{\mu} \in \mathbf{D}_k^0 + p^M \mathcal{K}_0$ as $\tilde{\nu}$ is divisible by p^m . Since

$$\mathcal{F}_k(M) \cong (\mathbf{D}_k^0 + p^M \mathcal{K}_0)/p^M \mathcal{K}_0,$$

we can project $\tilde{\mu}$ to some element μ in $\mathcal{F}_k(M)$, and we have $\mu|_{\Delta} = \nu$ as desired. \square

8. Computing Hecke-eigenlifts

8.1. Lifting symbols

We begin by describing approximations of elements in V_k which are compatible with our approximations of distributions (relative to ρ_k). To this end, let L_k denote the image of \mathbf{D}_k^0 under ρ_k in V_k .⁽⁴⁾ For $M > k$, let $\text{Fil}^M(L_k)$ denote the image of $\text{Fil}^M(\mathbf{D}_k^0)$, and set

$$L_k(M) = L_k / \text{Fil}^M(L_k).$$

By construction, the map ρ_k reduces to give a map $\mathcal{F}_k(M) \xrightarrow{\bar{\rho}_k} L_k(M)$, which in turn induces

$$\bar{\rho}_k^* : \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{F}_k(M)) \rightarrow \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(L_k(M)).$$

LEMMA 8.1. – *Let $\varphi \in p^{m+1} \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(L_k)$ with $p^m > M + 1$. Then, there exists $\Phi \in \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathbf{D}_k^0 + p^M \mathcal{K}_0)$ such that $\rho_k^*(\Phi) = \varphi$.*

⁽⁴⁾ Note that L_k is in general smaller than $\text{Sym}^k(\mathbb{Z}_p^2)$ because of the presence of binomial coefficients in the definition of ρ_k .

Proof. – Theorem 5.1 guarantees the existence of $\Phi \in \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{D}_k^\dagger)$ lifting φ . By following through the explicit proof of this theorem, we will see that Φ can be constructed to take values in $\mathbf{D}_k^0 + p^M \mathcal{K}_0$ when φ is divisible by p^m . Indeed, we can take $\Phi(D_i)$ in $p^{m+1} \mathbf{D}_k^0$ and $\Phi(D'_i), \Phi(D''_i)$ in $p^m \mathbf{D}_k^0$.⁽⁵⁾ Then, in forming $\Phi(D_\infty)$, one needs to solve the difference equation $\mu_\infty | \Delta = \nu_\infty$ with $\nu_\infty \in p^m \mathbf{D}_k^0$. By Corollary 7.6, the solution to this equation is in $\mathbf{D}_k^0 + p^M \mathcal{K}_0$ as desired. \square

COROLLARY 8.2. – *Let $\varphi \in \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(L_k(M))$ be in the image of $p^m \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(L_k)$. If $p^m > M + 1$, then there exists $\Phi \in \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{F}_k(M))$ which lifts φ . Moreover, $\Phi|U_p$ is in the image of $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathbf{D}_k^0)$.*

Proof. – The first part follows from the previous lemma together with the description of $\mathcal{F}_k(M)$ as $\mathbf{D}_k^0 + p^M \mathcal{K}_0 / p^M \mathcal{K}_0$. The second part follows from the fact that $\mathcal{K}_0 | \beta(a, p) \subseteq \mathbf{D}_k^0$ as in Lemma 5.3. \square

8.2. The operator $\lambda^{-1}U_p$

In this subsection, we will make sense of the operator $\lambda^{-1}U_p$ on a certain subspace of $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{F}_k(M))$ (even in the case when λ is not a unit).

Let φ be an eigensymbol. As in Proposition 5.7, let $X_\varphi = (\rho_k^*)^{-1}(K \cdot \varphi) \subseteq \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathbf{D}_k) \otimes K$, and let

$$Y_\varphi = \left\{ \Phi \in X_\varphi^0 : \|\Phi(D)(z^j)\| \leq p^{-(h-j)} \text{ for } 0 \leq j \leq [h], D \in \Delta_0 \right\}$$

where X_φ^0 is the unit ball of X_φ . Recall that it was shown in Proposition 5.7 that the operator $\lambda^{-1}U_p$ maps Y_φ to Y_φ . The following lemma will enable us to descend this operator to $\mathcal{F}_k(M)$ -valued modular symbols.

LEMMA 8.3. – *If $\Phi \in Y_\varphi \cap \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\text{Fil}^M \mathbf{D}_k^0)$, then $\Phi|U_p \in \lambda \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\text{Fil}^M \mathbf{D}_k^0)$.*

Proof. – We must show that $(\Phi|U_p)(D)(z^j)$ is divisible by $p^{M-j+\text{ord}_p(\lambda)}$. If $D_a = \beta(a, p)D$, we have

$$(4) \quad (\Phi|U_p)(D)(z^j) = \sum_{a=0}^{p-1} \Phi(D_a)((a + pz)^j) = \sum_{a=0}^{p-1} \sum_{r=0}^j \binom{r}{j} a^{j-r} p^r \Phi(D_a)(z^r).$$

Since Φ takes values in $\text{Fil}^M \mathbf{D}_k^0$, $\Phi(D_a)(z^r)$ is divisible by p^{M-r} , and thus the entire sum is divisible by p^M . Thus, if $j \geq \text{ord}_p(\lambda)$, we have proven the desired divisibility.

For $j < \text{ord}_p(\lambda) \leq k + 1$, the needed divisibility follows from the fact that $\rho_k^*(\Phi)$ is an eigensymbol. Indeed, since $\rho_k^*(\Phi|U_p) = \lambda \rho_k^*(\Phi)$, we have that

$$\text{ord}_p((\Phi|U_p)(D)(z^j)) = \text{ord}_p(\Phi(D)(z^j)) + \text{ord}_p(\lambda) \geq M - j + \text{ord}_p(\lambda)$$

as desired. \square

Let $Y_{\varphi, M}$ denote the image of Y_φ in $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{F}_k(M))$. The above lemma, together with Proposition 5.7, shows that the operator $\lambda^{-1}U_p$ descends to give a map

$$\lambda^{-1}U_p : Y_{\varphi, M} \rightarrow Y_{\varphi, M}.$$

⁽⁵⁾ One could take the exponent here to be $m + 1$ as long as $p \neq 2, 3$.

REMARK 8.4. – One must take care in computing $\lambda^{-1}\Phi|U_p$ for $\Phi \in Y_{\varphi, M}$. If $j \geq \text{ord}_p(\lambda)$, one can simply divide Equation (4) by λ to compute $\lambda^{-1}(\Phi|U_p)(D)(z^j)$. Indeed, in this equation, the terms $p^r \Phi(D_a)(z^r)$ are accurate modulo p^M . Hence, division by λ yields a value that is accurate modulo $p^{M-\text{ord}_p(\lambda)}$ and thus modulo p^{M-j} .

However, if $j < \text{ord}_p(\lambda) \leq k + 1$, one must proceed differently. Instead, note that the value of $\lambda^{-1}(\Phi|U_p)(D)(z^j)$ is the coefficient of $\binom{k}{j} Y^j X^{k-j}$ in $\lambda^{-1} \rho_k^*(\Phi|U_p)(D) = \rho_k^*(\Phi)(D)$ which is readily computed from the symbol Φ .

8.3. Explicitly forming overconvergent Hecke-eigensymbols

Let f be an eigenform in $S_k(\Gamma_0)$, and let $\varphi = \varphi_f^\pm$ be the associated modular symbol. In this section, we give an algorithm that produces an eigensymbol in $Y_{\varphi, M} \subseteq \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{G}_k(M))$ with the same Hecke-eigenvalues as φ .

1) *Solve the Manin relations for Γ* : Construct a fundamental domain \mathcal{G} for the action of Γ on \mathcal{H} as in Theorems 2.3 and 2.8. The proof of these theorems are explicit as is explained in Remark 2.4. From \mathcal{G} , one extracts divisors $\{D_i\}$, $\{D'_i\}$ and $\{D''_i\}$ as in Theorems 2.6 and 2.9 such that any element of $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(M)$ is uniquely determined by its values on these divisors.

2) *Form the modular symbol φ_f in $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(L_k(M))$* : Constructing such a modular symbol is standard.

3) *Lift φ to an $\mathcal{G}_k(M)$ -valued symbol*: By Corollary 7.6, there exists some symbol Φ in $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{G}_k(M))$ lifting $p^{m+1}\varphi$ where $p^m > M + 1$. To form such a lift, follow the explicit proof of Theorem 5.1. Explicit equations for solving the difference equation are given in Theorem 4.5. Note that no denominators will be produced through this process because of the factor of p^{m+1} .

4) *Project to the slope h subspace*: First replace Φ with $\Phi|U_p$ to ensure that this symbol is in the image of $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathbf{D}_k^0)$ (as opposed to $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{D}_k^\dagger)$). Then find r such that $p^r \Phi$ is in $Y_{\varphi, M}$. By Section 8.2, there is a well-defined operator $\lambda^{-1}U_p$ acting on $Y_{\varphi, M}$ which can be explicitly computed by Remark 8.4. If $h < k + 1$, iterate this operator on Φ until the result stabilizes (which is guaranteed to happen by Theorem 5.12). If $h = k + 1$, apply the operator $\lambda^{-1}U_p$ to Φ many times.⁽⁶⁾

5) *Form the Hecke-eigensymbol*: If $h < k + 1$, the stable symbol of the preceding step is the sought after Hecke-eigensymbol. If $h = k + 1$, consider $\Psi = \Phi - \lambda^{-1}\Phi|U_p$ which is in the kernel of $\bar{\rho}_k^*$. Since Ψ has finite slope, its Hecke-span has dimension independent of M , and thus can be considered small relative to M . By linear algebra, find a polynomial $g(T) \in \mathbb{Z}[T]$ of small degree such that $\Psi|g(U_p) = 0$. Then $\Phi' := \Phi|g(U_p)$ is a λ -eigensymbol for U_p .

The symbol Φ' need not be a Hecke-eigensymbol for the full Hecke-algebra. To remedy this, consider a prime $\ell \neq p$, and let $\Psi_\ell = \Phi' - a_\ell \Phi'|T_\ell$. Then repeat the above procedure to annihilate Ψ_ℓ . Repeat this process for other primes until one arrives at an eigensymbol for the whole Hecke-algebra.

REMARK 8.5. – 1. In practice, the vast majority of time needed to carry out the above algorithm is taken up by the projection of Φ to the slope h subspace.

⁽⁶⁾ In all examples we tried, M applications of $\lambda^{-1}U_p$ sufficed. However, in general this need not be the case. Indeed, if some ‘‘eigencomponent’’ of Φ had slope between $k + 1$ and $k + 2$ more applications of this operator would be needed. If the following step fails to produce an eigensymbol, return to this step and iterate $\lambda^{-1}U_p$ more times.

2. The constructed eigensymbol specializes to some multiple of φ_f . However, as explained in Remark 5.11, this multiple might be zero. In the notation of the above algorithm, when one is killing off Ψ (resp. Ψ_ℓ), it is possible that $f(\lambda)$ (resp. $f(a_\ell)$) vanishes. Applying $f(U_p)$ (resp. $f(T_\ell)$) will then cause the resulting symbol to specialize to zero.

8.4. Examples of critical slope overconvergent modular symbols

Using the algorithms described in the previous section, we numerically explored the slope one subspace of $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathbf{D}_k)$ with $k = 0$ and $\Gamma_0 = \Gamma_0(Np)$, for various values of N and p . (These computation were carried out in MAGMA [3] on William Stein's MECCAH cluster.)

EXAMPLE 8.6 ($N = 11$ and $p = 3$). – For $\Gamma_0 = \Gamma_0(33)$, the slope one subspace of $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathbb{Q}_3)$ is three-dimensional. Indeed, let $f = \sum_n a_n q^n$ be the modular form corresponding to the elliptic curve $X_0(11)$. If α and β are the two roots of $x^2 - a_3x + 3$, we can order them so that

$$0 = \text{ord}_p(\alpha) < \text{ord}_p(\beta) = 1.$$

(Note that $X_0(11)$ is ordinary at 3, and thus a_3 is a 3-adic unit.) By p -stabilizing, we see that there are two modular forms f_α and f_β of level 33 with the same eigenvalues as f away from 3, and at 3 we have

$$f_\alpha|U_3 = \alpha f_\alpha \text{ and } f_\beta|U_3 = \beta f_\beta.$$

So the eigenform f_β is of slope one, and thus gives rise to two modular symbols $\varphi_\beta^\pm \in \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathbb{Q}_3)^\pm$ such that

$$\varphi_\beta^\pm|T_\ell = a_\ell \cdot \varphi_\beta^\pm, \quad \varphi_\beta^\pm|U_{11} = \varphi_\beta^\pm, \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi_\beta^\pm|U_3 = \beta \cdot \varphi_\beta^\pm.$$

The third dimension of $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathbb{Q}_3)^{(\neq 1)}$ comes from a critical slope Eisenstein symbol. That is, there is a symbol $\varphi_{\text{eis}} \in \text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathbb{Q}_3)^+$ such that

$$\varphi_{\text{eis}}|T_\ell = (\ell + 1) \cdot \varphi_{\text{eis}}, \quad \varphi_{\text{eis}}|U_{11} = \varphi_{\text{eis}}, \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi_{\text{eis}}|U_3 = 3 \cdot \varphi_{\text{eis}}.$$

The hypotheses of Theorem 5.14 are met for the modular form f_β . We are therefore guaranteed that there exists an overconvergent Hecke-eigensymbol Φ_β^\pm lifting φ_β^\pm . Numerically, we were able to find this symbol (for both choices of sign) in $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{F}_k(M))$ for M around 100. We also found a Hecke-eigensymbol Φ_{eis}^+ in $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{F}_k(M))^+$ which specializes to φ_{eis} .

These three lifts do not account for all of the symbols in the slope one subspace of $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{F}_k(M))$. The second author and Vincent Pasol further analyzed the kernel of specialization, and identified a three-dimensional subspace of eigensymbols. Namely, there was a symbol Φ_{eis}^- in $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{F}_k(M))^-$ such that $\rho_k^*(\Phi_{\text{eis}}^-) = 0$ and such that

$$\Phi_{\text{eis}}^-|T_\ell = (\ell + 1) \cdot \Phi_{\text{eis}}^-, \quad \Phi_{\text{eis}}^-|U_{11} = \Phi_{\text{eis}}^-, \quad \text{and} \quad \Phi_{\text{eis}}^-|U_3 = 3 \cdot \Phi_{\text{eis}}^-.$$

There were also two slope one Hecke-eigensymbols in the kernel of specialization whose eigenvalues appeared to lie in a degree two extension of \mathbb{Q}_3 . For example, the characteristic polynomial of U_3 acting on the span of these two symbols was congruent to

$$x^2 + 6501x + 4248 \pmod{3^8}.$$

The roots of this polynomial are defined over $\mathbb{Q}_3(\sqrt{-3})$.

The presence of these last two symbols can be explained by Hida theory. First note that the Hida algebra of tame level $\Gamma_0(11)$ with $p = 3$ has rank 2 over weight space. (There are exact two p -ordinary forms on $\Gamma_0(33)$, and they are congruent mod p .) Specializing the Hida algebra to weight 0 (i.e. $k = -2$) yields a two-dimensional space of overconvergent modular forms of weight 0 and level 33. The image under the p -adic theta operator of this two-dimensional space corresponds to the above two-dimensional space found in the kernel of specialization.⁽⁷⁾

EXAMPLE 8.7 ($N = 11$ and $p = 5$). – In this case, the slope one subspace of $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ is again three-dimensional with one dimension coming from an Eisenstein symbol and the other two dimensions coming from the slope one 5-stabilization of the modular form attached to $X_0(11)$. We point out this example in particular because $X_0(11)$ has rational 5-torsion, and thus its associated modular form is congruent to an Eisenstein series mod 5. In particular, the residual representation associated to this modular form is reducible.

Numerically, we again found Hecke-eigensymbols lifting all three of these symbols in $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{F}_k(M))$. Note that the standard 5-adic L -function of $X_0(11)$ has a positive μ -invariant. We will see that this seems to have a profound affect on the zeroes of the 5-adic L -function of the corresponding slope one form.

EXAMPLE 8.8 ($N = 32$ and $p = 5$). – Again the slope one subspace of $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ is three-dimensional with one dimension coming from an Eisenstein symbol and the other two dimensions coming from the 5-stabilization of the modular form attached to the elliptic curve $X_0(32)$. In this case, the critical slope eigenform arising from this elliptic curve does not satisfy the hypotheses of Theorem 5.14. Indeed, as $X_0(32)$ has CM, [4, Proposition 7.1] implies that this eigenform is in the image of the p -adic theta operator.

Unlike the previous examples, we were not able to find a Hecke-eigensymbol in $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{F}_k(M))$ lifting the classical symbol arising from this CM curve. However, numerically, we found a Hecke-eigensymbol in $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{F}_k(M))^{\pm}$ with the same eigenvalues as the classical symbol, but whose specialization was zero. Furthermore, it appeared that up to scaling and choice of sign, there was a unique Hecke-eigensymbol in $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{F}_k(M))^{\pm}$ with these eigenvalues. If this observation is true, one could define the p -adic L -function of this slope one cuspform to be the value of this symbol at $\{\infty\} - \{0\}$. However, such a p -adic L -function would not interpolate special values of L -series since by construction it vanishes at all finite order characters.

9. p -adic L -functions and Data

By Proposition 6.3, the p -adic L -function of a modular form f is given by $\mu_f := \Phi_f(\{\infty\} - \{0\})$ where Φ_f is the overconvergent modular symbol lifting $\varphi_f^+ + \varphi_f^-$. The results of the proceeding section give an algorithm to compute Φ_f and thus μ_f . In this section, we describe how to get a handle on the zeroes of such a distribution and, at the end, we give examples of the zeroes of several critical slope p -adic L -functions.

⁽⁷⁾ Note that the above observations imply that this Hida algebra cannot be free over Λ as both eigenforms of level 33 and weight 2 have Fourier coefficients in \mathbb{Z}_p , while the corresponding eigenforms in weight 0 have Fourier coefficients in a quadratic extension of \mathbb{Z}_p . See [9] for more details on this example.

9.1. Power series representations of distributions

Let $\mu \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{Z}_p^\times)$ be any locally analytic distribution on \mathbb{Z}_p^\times . By integrating, we can view μ as a function on $\text{Hom}_{\text{cont}}(\mathbb{Z}_p^\times, \mathbb{C}_p^\times)$. Since $\mathbb{Z}_p^\times \cong (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^\times \times (1 + p\mathbb{Z}_p)$, by choosing a topological generator γ of $1 + p\mathbb{Z}_p$, we can identify $\text{Hom}_{\text{cont}}(\mathbb{Z}_p^\times, \mathbb{C}_p^\times)$ with $p - 1$ copies of the open unit disc around 0 each indexed by a character of $(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^\times$. Concretely, for ψ a character of $(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^\times$ and w in the open unit disc around 0, we have a character $\chi_{\psi,w}$ on \mathbb{Z}_p^\times defined by

$$\chi_{\psi,w}(z) = \psi(z) \cdot (w + 1)^{\log_\gamma \langle z \rangle}$$

where $\langle \cdot \rangle$ is the projection of \mathbb{Z}_p^\times onto $1 + p\mathbb{Z}_p$ and $\log_\gamma(z) = \frac{\log_p(z)}{\log_p(\gamma)}$ for z a 1-unit.

Thus, for each fixed character ψ , μ gives rise to a function on the open unit disc. If we write this function as $L_p(\mu, \psi, w)$, then

$$\begin{aligned} L_p(\mu, \psi, w) &= \int_{\mathbb{Z}_p^\times} \chi_{\psi,w}(z) d\mu(z) = \int_{\mathbb{Z}_p^\times} \psi(z) \cdot (w + 1)^{\log_\gamma \langle z \rangle} d\mu(z) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{Z}_p^\times} \psi(z) \left(\sum_{n \geq 0} \binom{\log_\gamma \langle z \rangle}{n} w^n \right) d\mu(z) \\ &= \sum_{n \geq 0} \left(\int_{\mathbb{Z}_p^\times} \psi(z) \binom{\log_\gamma \langle z \rangle}{n} d\mu(z) \right) w^n. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $L_p(\mu, \psi, w)$ is in fact a rigid analytic function on the open unit disc (in the variable w).

9.2. Distributions arising from modular symbols

Let Φ be an overconvergent U_p -eigensymbol in $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_0}(\mathcal{D}_k(\mathbb{Z}_p))$ with eigenvalue λ , and let μ denote the restriction of $\Phi(\{\infty\} - \{0\})$ to \mathbb{Z}_p^\times . We now discuss how to compute the coefficients of $L_p(\mu, \psi, w)$ in terms of the modular symbol Φ .

From the proceeding section, we have that the n -th coefficient of $L_p(\mu, \psi, w)$ is

$$\int_{\mathbb{Z}_p^\times} \psi(z) \binom{\log_\gamma \langle z \rangle}{n} d\mu(z) = \sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \psi(a) \int_{a+p\mathbb{Z}_p} \binom{\log_\gamma(z \cdot \{a\}^{-1})}{n} d\mu.$$

Since

$$\log_\gamma(z \cdot \{a\}^{-1}) = \frac{1}{\log_p(\gamma)} \cdot \sum_{j \geq 1} \frac{(-1)^{j+1}}{j} \left(\frac{z}{\{a\}} - 1 \right)^j,$$

we have that

$$\binom{\log_\gamma(z \cdot \{a\}^{-1})}{n} = \sum_{j \geq 1} c_j^{(n)} \left(\frac{z}{\{a\}} - 1 \right)^j$$

for some elements $c_j^{(n)} \in \mathbb{Q}_p$. In particular, the n -th coefficient of $L_p(\mu, \psi, w)$ equals

$$(5) \quad \sum_{j \geq 1} c_j^{(n)} \left(\sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \psi(a) \{a\}^{-j} \int_{a+p\mathbb{Z}_p} (z - \{a\})^j d\mu \right).$$

To compute these integrals on $a + p\mathbb{Z}_p$, note that since Φ is a U_p -eigensymbol, we have that

$$\Phi = \frac{1}{\lambda} \Phi|U_p = \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_{a=0}^{p-1} \Phi \left| \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a \\ 0 & p \end{pmatrix} \right.$$

For any distribution $\nu \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, $\nu \left| \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a \\ 0 & p \end{pmatrix} \right.$ has support inside of $a + p\mathbb{Z}_p$. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{a+p\mathbb{Z}_p} (z - \{a\})^j d\mu &= \Phi(D_\infty) (\mathbf{1}_{a+p\mathbb{Z}_p}(z) \cdot (z - \{a\})^j) \\ &= \frac{1}{\lambda} ((\Phi \left| \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a \\ 0 & p \end{pmatrix} \right.) (D_\infty)) (\mathbf{1}_{a+p\mathbb{Z}_p}(z) \cdot (z - \{a\})^j) \\ &= \frac{1}{\lambda} \Phi(D_a) ((a - \{a\}) + pz)^j \\ &= \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_{r=0}^j \binom{j}{r} (a - \{a\})^{j-r} p^r \cdot \Phi(D_a)(z^r) \end{aligned}$$

where $D_a = \{\frac{a}{p}\} - \{\infty\}$. This last expression is simply a linear combination of the moments of $\Phi(D_a)$. Thus, we have succeeded in expressing the power series $L_p(\mu, \psi, w)$ in terms of the symbol Φ .

In practice, the values $\Phi(D_a)(z^r)$ are easy to compute once the symbol Φ is known. Indeed, one uses Manin's continued fraction algorithm to express $\Phi(D_a)$ in terms of the values of Φ on our generating set of divisors. Moreover, these distributions are simply stored by their sequence of moments.

Another practical point to consider is how many terms in (5) one needs to sum to achieve a desired level of accuracy. To answer this, note that

$$p^{j - \text{ord}_p(\lambda)} \quad \text{divides} \quad \int_{a+p\mathbb{Z}_p} (z - \{a\})^j d\mu$$

as is seen from the above computation since a and $\{a\}$ are congruent mod p . The constants $c_j^{(n)}$ are independent of Φ , and their p -adic valuations are easily computed. Thus, one can bound the size of the tail-end of the series in (5) to make an appropriate error estimate.

Using these error estimates, one could then add up enough terms to ensure that the coefficients of the approximation have the same p -adic valuation as the coefficients of $L_p(f, \lambda, \psi, w)$. Knowing these p -adic valuations, one can then compute the newton polygon of these power series, and thus the slopes of their zeroes.

9.3. Twists

Let Φ be an overconvergent modular symbol for the group $\Gamma_0(Np)$, and let χ be some quadratic character of conductor m with $p \nmid m$. Define a new symbol by

$$\Phi_\chi = \sum_{b \pmod{m}} \chi(b) \cdot \Phi \left| \begin{pmatrix} 1 & b/m \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right.$$

which is invariant under the group $\Gamma_0(Npm^2)$ (and possibly invariant under a larger group if $(N, m) \neq 1$).

If Φ is a U_p -eigensymbol with eigenvalue λ , one has that Φ_χ is a U_p -eigensymbol with eigenvalue $\chi(p)\lambda$. In particular,

$$\mu_\chi := \Phi_\chi(\{\infty\} - \{0\}) = \sum_{b \pmod{m}} \chi(b) \cdot \Phi(\{b/m\} - \{\infty\}) \Big| \begin{pmatrix} 1 & b/m \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus, the power series $L_p(\mu_\chi, \psi, w)$ is computable using the formulae of the previous section.

9.4. Data of critical slope p -adic L -functions

Using the methods described in the previous sections, we computed the newton polygons of the critical slope p -adic L -functions attached to $X_0(11)$ for $p = 3, 5$, $X_0(14)$ for $p = 3$ and $X_0(32)$ for $p = 3$. Moreover, we did the same computation for quadratic twists with conductor of size less than 200.

We begin by analyzing the data for $X_0(11)$ and $p = 3$. The following table lists the slopes of the zeroes of the critical slope p -adic L -function twisted by quadratic characters of conductor D . (Here, and in the remainder of the section, we are fixing our tame character ψ to be trivial.)

D	zeroes and their slopes
1	6 of slope $\frac{1}{3}$, 12 of slope $\frac{1}{12}$, 36 of slope $\frac{1}{36}$, ...
5	2 of slope $\frac{1}{2}$, 6 of slope $\frac{1}{6}$, 14 of slope $\frac{1}{14}$, 36 of slope $\frac{1}{36}$, ...
8	1 of slope ∞ , 2 of slope $\frac{1}{2}$, 4 of slope $\frac{1}{4}$, 12 of slope $\frac{1}{12}$, 36 of slope $\frac{1}{36}$, ...
13	1 of slope ∞ , 2 of slope $\frac{1}{2}$, 4 of slope $\frac{1}{4}$, 12 of slope $\frac{1}{12}$, 36 of slope $\frac{1}{36}$, ...
17	1 of slope ∞ , 6 of slope $\frac{1}{3}$, 12 of slope $\frac{1}{12}$, 36 of slope $\frac{1}{36}$, ...
28	1 of slope ∞ , 2 of slope $\frac{1}{2}$, 6 of slope $\frac{1}{3}$, 16 of slope $\frac{1}{16}$, 36 of slope $\frac{1}{36}$, ...

Note that in each example the zeroes of larger slope behave erratically while the ones of smaller slope begin to settle down. Indeed, all of these p -adic L -functions have 36 zeroes of slope $\frac{1}{36}$ and, in fact, each also had 108 zeroes of slope $\frac{1}{108}$.

Since the slopes of the zeroes close enough to the boundary appear to be stabilizing, it makes sense to ask how many “extra” zeroes there are of large slope. The following table gives a running total of the number of zeroes of each p -adic L -function as we take larger and larger discs about the origin inside of the unit disc. Each time there is a break in the newton polygon, we include the new tally of zeroes in the table. The last column is the difference between the total number of zeroes and smallest total number of zeroes appearing in the table.

D	number of zeroes in expanding discs	“extra” zeroes
1	6, 18, 54, 162	0
5	2, 8, 22, 58, 166	4
8	1, 3, 7, 19, 55, 163	1
13	1, 3, 7, 19, 55, 163	1
17	1, 7, 19, 55, 163	1
28	1, 3, 9, 25, 61, 169	7

It is natural to guess that these extra zeroes are somehow related to the ordinary p -adic L -function attached to these curves. Indeed, in each of these examples, the number of extra zeroes is exactly equal to the λ -invariant (i.e. the number of zeroes) of the p -adic L -function of the ordinary p -stabilization of this curve.⁽⁸⁾

Moreover, this pattern repeated itself for all twists with $-200 < D < 200$ and D prime to 3. Precisely, we found that if $r_n = (p^n(p-1))^{-1}$, the number of zeroes in the open disc of radius p^{-r_n} equaled

$$(6) \quad p^{n-1}(p-1) + \lambda_D$$

for n large enough (i.e. $n \geq 3$) where λ_D is the λ -invariant of the ordinary p -adic L -function of $X_0(11)$ twisted by the quadratic character of conductor D .

We repeated this experiment for $X_0(14)$ with $p = 3$ for discriminants between -200 and 200 . We found the same results with the number of zeroes in increasing discs being given by (6).

In repeating the experiment for $X_0(11)$ with $p = 5$, we observed something new. When twisting by characters with negative discriminants we observed the same behavior as described by (6). However, when twisting by characters with positive discriminants, the behavior was remarkably different. The following table illustrates this.

D	zeroes and their slopes
1	4 of slope $\frac{1}{4}$, 20 of slope $\frac{1}{20}$, 100 of slope $\frac{1}{100}$, ...
8	1 of slope ∞ , 4 of slope $\frac{1}{4}$, 20 of slope $\frac{1}{20}$, 100 of slope $\frac{1}{100}$, ...
12	2 of slope 1, 4 of slope $\frac{1}{4}$, 20 of slope $\frac{1}{20}$, 100 of slope $\frac{1}{100}$, ...
13	1 of slope ∞ , 4 of slope $\frac{1}{4}$, 20 of slope $\frac{1}{20}$, 100 of slope $\frac{1}{100}$, ...
17	1 of slope ∞ , 4 of slope $\frac{1}{4}$, 20 of slope $\frac{1}{20}$, 100 of slope $\frac{1}{100}$, ...

In this case, the pattern of 4 zeroes of slope $\frac{1}{4}$, 20 zeroes of slope $\frac{1}{20}$ and 100 zeroes of slope $\frac{1}{100}$ appears in every example. Note that the zeroes of the p -adic log have the same slopes as those appearing in this table. However, it is not possible that the p -adic logarithm divides these p -adic L -functions because of their interpolation property. Such a divisibility would

⁽⁸⁾ See [15] for data on the Iwasawa invariants of ordinary p -adic L -functions.

translate into the vanishing at 1 of the associated complex L -series twisted by any character of p -power order and conductor, which violates a theorem of Rohrlich [17].

From the data collected for all real quadratic twists of conductor less than 200, we observed that the number of zeroes of these twisted p -adic L -functions in the open disc of radius p^{-r_n} equals

$$p^n - 1 + \epsilon_D$$

where ϵ_D is some non-negative integer. At present, we have no interpretation of the constants ϵ_D .

However, we have a guess as to why the behavior in this example is different from the previous ones. The curve $X_0(11)$ at $p = 5$ has a non-zero μ -invariant. This is also true of any real quadratic twist [10, Theorem 1.3], but not true of any imaginary quadratic twist [8, Proposition 5.7]. Moreover, the previous examples with $p = 3$ all conjecturally have zero μ -invariant. It thus appears that the non-vanishing of μ of an ordinary p -adic L -function has an affect on the zeroes of the associated critical slope p -adic L -function.

Our last example comes from the $X_0(32)$ with $p = 5$. This example is fundamentally different from the proceeding ones since the corresponding critical slope eigensymbol appears to be in the kernel of specialization. Thus, the associated power series of its p -adic L -function vanishes at $\zeta_n - 1$ for all n , where ζ_n is a primitive p^n -th root of unity. In particular, these p -adic L -functions are divisible by the p -adic log. We must then have that the number of zeroes of twists of this p -adic L -functions in the open disc of radius p^{-r_n} equals

$$p^n + \epsilon_D.$$

Since these p -adic L -functions are divisible by \log_p and are $O(\log_p)$, it is natural to consider their quotient which is an Iwasawa function (up to a power of p). Our first guess as to what this Iwasawa function could be was the p -adic L -function attached to the ordinary p -stabilization of this curve. However, this is not the case since $\epsilon_D \neq \lambda_D$ for many values of D . At present, we again have no interpretation of the constants ϵ_D .

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