

The  $\theta$ -function  $\theta(z) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} e(n^2 z)$  is a weight  $1/2$ , level 4 modular function; i.e.  $\theta|_{1/2} \gamma = \theta \quad \forall \gamma \in \Gamma(4)$ .

It is not just a function  $\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  but a holomorphic function: The series converges uniformly on  $\{z \in \mathcal{H} : \text{Im } z \geq \delta\}$  for all  $\delta > 0$ .

It also satisfies a growth property:

Let  $\gamma \in GL_2^+(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $z = x+iy \in \mathcal{H}$ , then

$$\text{Im } \gamma z = \det \gamma \cdot \frac{y}{|cz+d|^2}.$$

So, if  $f$  is a modular function of weight  $k$ , level  $q$ , then

$z = x+iy \mapsto F(z) := y^{k/2} |f(z)|$  is  $\Gamma(q)$ -invariant.

Indeed,  $|j_{1/2}(\gamma, z)| = \left| \begin{pmatrix} c & d \\ a & b \end{pmatrix}^{-1} (cz+d)^{-k} \right| = |cz+d|^{-k}$ , since  $(c,d) = 1$ .

Then  $F(\gamma z) = (\text{Im } \gamma z)^{k/2} |f(\gamma z)| = \frac{y^{k/2}}{|cz+d|^k} |j_{1/2}(\gamma, z)|^{2k} |f(z)| = y^{k/2} |f(z)| = F(z)$

Definition A modular function  $f$  is of polynomial or moderate growth if there exists  $A \geq 0$  such that for  $z = x+iy \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $F(z) = y^{k/2} |f(z)|$  there exist  $C > 0$  such that

$$F(z) \leq C (y+y^{-1})^A \quad \forall z \in \mathcal{H}.$$

Remark (Vinogradov Notation) If  $X$  is a set,  $f$  a complex-valued function on  $X$ ,  $g$  a positive real-valued function,  $\forall x \in X$  we say

$$f \ll g \quad \text{for } x \in X$$

if there exists  $C \geq 0$  such that  $|f(x)| \leq C g(x) \quad \forall x \in X$ .

So  $F(z) \ll (y+y^{-1})^A \quad \forall z \in \mathcal{H}$ .

Remark: We don't need a growth condition on  $x = \text{Re}(z)$ . Indeed,  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & q \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma(q)$  so if  $f$  is modular of level  $q$  then  $f(z) = f(z+q)$ , so  $f$  is periodic in  $x$  of period  $q$ , so is determined by its restriction to any  $x_0 \leq \text{Re}(z) < x_0 + q$ .

Definition A function  $f: \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is called a holomorphic modular form if it

- ① Is a modular function for some weight  $k$  and level  $q$  (2/6)
- ② Is holomorphic on  $\mathcal{H}$
- ③ Is of moderate growth.

If the associated function  $F(z)$  is bounded, then  $f$  is called a cusp form or cuspidal or parabolic or eine Spitzenform

$$M_k := \{ \text{modular forms of weight } k \}$$

$$S_k := \{ \text{cusp forms of weight } k \}$$

$$M_k(\Gamma) := \{ f \in M_k : f|_k \gamma = f \quad \forall \gamma \in \Gamma \}$$

$$S_k(\Gamma) := \{ f \in S_k : f|_k \gamma = f \quad \forall \gamma \in \Gamma \}$$

$$\Gamma \leq \begin{cases} GL_2^+(\mathbb{R}) & k \in \mathbb{Z} \\ \Gamma_0(4) & k \in \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{Z} \setminus \mathbb{Z} \end{cases}$$

Example: The  $\theta$ -function is a modular form of weight  $1/2$ , level 4.

Need to check the growth condition:

$$\begin{aligned} \left| y^{1/4} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} e^{2\pi i n^2 z} \right| &\leq y^{1/4} + 2y^{1/4} \sum_{n \geq 1} e^{-2\pi n^2 y} \leq y^{1/4} + 2y^{1/4} \int_0^\infty e^{-2\pi u^2 y} du \\ &= y^{1/4} + \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} y^{-1/4} \int_0^\infty e^{-v^2} dv \\ &= y^{1/4} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} y^{-1/4} \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (y^{1/4} + y^{-1/4}) \\ &\leq 2^{3/4} (y + y^{-1})^{1/4}. \end{aligned}$$

Why impose growth condition? We need it crucially for:

Theorem For any  $q$ , the space  $M_k(\Gamma(q))$  is finite-dimensional.

Proof To be proved later.

This is analogous to the following familiar result of Fourier series:

Theorem For any  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , the space  $\mathcal{F}_\lambda(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})$  of smooth functions on  $\mathbb{R}$  which are:

①  $\mathbb{Z}$ -periodic:  $f(x+n) = f(x) \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}$

② Eigen functions of the "Laplace" operator  $\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} f(x) = -\lambda f(x)$

is finite-dimensional.

In particular,  $\mathcal{F}_\lambda(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}) = \{0\}$  if  $\lambda \neq k^2$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , and 3/6

$$\mathcal{F}_{k^2}(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{C} e^{ikx} + \mathbb{C} e^{-ikx} \text{ if } k \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

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Invariance by larger groups:

Recall  $\Theta|_{1/2}\gamma = \Theta$  for all  $\gamma \in \Gamma_0(4) \leq \Gamma(4)$ .

Typically, we work with the larger groups  $\Gamma_0(q)$ ,  $\Gamma_1(q)$ ,  $\Gamma_d(q)$ .

In fact, the theory of modular forms for any of these groups reduces to that of  $\Gamma_0(q)$ , so we will discuss  $\Gamma_0(q)$ -modular forms. First, consider  $\Gamma_d(q)$ .

Proposition  $\Gamma_d(q)$  normalizes  $\Gamma(q)$ , and in particular,  $\Gamma_d(q)$  acts on

$\mathcal{F}_k(\Gamma(q))$  by:  $\gamma \in \Gamma_d(q)$ ,  $f \in \mathcal{F}_k(\Gamma(q))$ , then

$$f \mapsto f|_k \gamma \in \mathcal{F}_k(\Gamma(q)).$$

Proof First:  $\Gamma_d(q) \rightarrow \text{SL}_2 \mathbb{Z}/q$  with kernel  $\Gamma(q)$ .

Second: It suffices to check  $f|_k \gamma \in \mathcal{F}_k(\Gamma(q))$ ,  $\gamma \in \Gamma_d(q)$ .

Indeed, let  $\gamma' \in \Gamma(q)$ . Then:

$$(f|_\gamma)|_{\gamma'} = f|_{\gamma\gamma'} = (f|_{\underbrace{\gamma\gamma'\gamma^{-1}}_{\in \Gamma(q)}})|_\gamma = f|_\gamma \quad \text{Q.E.D.}$$

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Next task is to decompose  $\mathcal{F}_k(\Gamma(q))$  with respect to this action.

Proposition The homomorphism  $\Gamma_d(q) \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/q)^\times$   
 $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \mapsto d \pmod q$  induces

$$\Gamma(q) \backslash \Gamma_d(q) = (\mathbb{Z}/q)^\times$$

Proof By a previous exercise,  $\text{SL}_2 \mathbb{Z} \twoheadrightarrow \text{SL}_2 \mathbb{Z}/q$  is surjective.

So  $\begin{pmatrix} d^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & d \end{pmatrix} \in \text{SL}_2 \mathbb{Z}/q$  lifts to an element  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma_d(q)$

So  $\Gamma_d(q) \twoheadrightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/q)^{\times}$ , with kernel  $\Gamma(q)$ .

QED

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Therefore  $G := (\mathbb{Z}/q)^{\times}$  acts on  $\mathcal{F}_k(\Gamma(q))$  by  $f|_{\Gamma(q)\gamma} = f|_{\gamma}$

We can diagonalize this action. The eigenvalues are indexed by

$\hat{G} = \text{Hom}(G, \mathbb{C})$ , the group of characters of  $G$ .

Background: Characters of a finite abelian group.

$G$  a finite abelian group.

$\chi : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{\times}$  a group homomorphism (i.e. a character)

$\hat{G}$  is a group under multiplication of functions

A very algebraic object, but nonetheless, arises from studying

$\mathcal{F}(G) = \{f : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\}$ , the vector space of complex-valued functions on  $G$ .

Let  $\delta_g \in \mathcal{F}(G)$  be the function given by

$$\delta_g(g') = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } g' = g \\ 0 & \text{if } g' \neq g \end{cases} \quad \text{the indicator function of } g'=g \text{ or Kronecker } \delta \text{ function.}$$

$\{\delta_g : g \in G\}$  is a basis for  $\mathcal{F}(G)$ , so  $\mathcal{F}(G)$  is dimension  $|G| < \infty$ .

$\mathcal{F}(G)$  also has the natural  $L^2$  hermitian inner product:

$$\langle f_1, f_2 \rangle = \frac{1}{|G|} = \sum_{g \in G} f_1(g) \overline{f_2(g)}$$

and  $\{\delta_g\}$  is an orthogonal basis for  $\langle \cdot \rangle$ .

This is great, but we haven't used that  $G$  is a group yet.

$G$  acts on itself by left multiplication:

$$m_g : G \rightarrow G \quad m_g(g') = gg'$$

$$T_g : \mathcal{F}(G) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(G) \quad T_g f(g') = f(gg') \text{ is a linear map.}$$

Actually,  $g \mapsto T_g$  ~~also~~ defines a group homomorphism  $G \rightarrow \text{GL}(\mathcal{F}(G))$ .

Indeed, we can check:  $T_e = \text{Id}_{\mathcal{F}(e)}$  and  $T_{gg'} = T_{g'} \circ T_g = T_{gg'} = T_g \circ T_{g'}$

Key Lemma For any  $g \in G$ ,  $T_g$  is an isometry for the inner product:

$$\langle T_g f_1, T_g f_2 \rangle = \langle f_1, f_2 \rangle$$

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PROOF ~~Proof~~. Change variables  $g' \rightarrow g^{-1}g$  in definition of  $\langle, \rangle$ . QED.

Since  $G$  is abelian,  $\{T_g : g \in G\}$  is a commuting family of isometries we have:

Theorem (Spectral Theorem, Isometric Version)

Let  $V$  be a non-zero finite-dim complex vector space, with a positive-definite hermitian form. ~~Let  $\{T_i\}$  be a family of commuting isometries~~

Let  $\{T_i\}$  be a family of commuting isometries  $T_i: V \rightarrow V$ . Then  
 $T_i T_j = T_j T_i \quad \forall i, j$ .

Then  $V$  has an orthogonal basis consisting of simultaneous eigenvectors of all  $T_i$ .

Applying this Theorem, we get eigenvectors  $\{\psi\}$ , say and

$$\mathcal{F}(G) = \bigoplus_{\psi} \mathbb{C}\psi, \text{ for which } T_g(\psi) = \chi_{\psi}(g)\psi,$$

where  $\chi_{\psi}(g)$  is an eigenvalue  $\in \mathbb{C}$  for each  $g$ .

I claim  $\chi_{\psi}(g) \in \hat{G}$ . Indeed  $\chi_{\psi}(e) = 1$  since  $T_e = \text{Id}_{\mathcal{F}(e)}$

and  $\chi_{\psi}(gg') = \chi_{\psi}(g)\chi_{\psi}(g')$  since  $T_{gg'} = T_g \circ T_{g'}$ .

Since  $T_g$  is an isometry, we have  $|\chi_{\psi}(g)| = 1 \quad \forall g \in G$

Let  $M_{|G|} := \{z \in \mathbb{C}^{\times} : z^{|G|} = 1\}$ .

By Lagrange's Thm  $\chi_{\psi}(g)^{|G|} = \chi_{\psi}(g^{|G|}) = \chi_{\psi}(e) = 1$ , so

$$\chi: G \rightarrow M_{|G|}.$$

Next ~~we~~ I claim that  $\chi_{\psi} \in \mathbb{C}\psi$ . (it is  $\in \mathcal{F}(G)$  a priori).

$$\forall g \in G, T_g \psi(e) = \psi(g) = \chi_\psi(g) \psi(e)$$

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$\psi \neq 0$ , so  $\exists g'$  st  $\psi(g') \neq 0$ , so  $\psi(e) \neq 0$ , so

$$\chi_\psi = \frac{1}{\psi(e)} \psi \in \mathbb{C}\psi.$$

Therefore,  $\{\chi_\psi, \psi\}$  is an orthogonal family of  $\mathcal{F}(G)$ , and

$$\langle \chi_\psi, \chi_\psi \rangle = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} |\chi_\psi(g)|^2 = 1, \text{ so}$$

$\{\chi_\psi, \psi\}$  is an orthonormal basis of eigenvectors of  $\mathcal{F}(G)$  normalized to have  $\chi_\psi(e) = 1$ . for  $\{T_g : g \in G\}$ .

$$\text{So } \{\chi_\psi : \psi \in \mathcal{F}(G)\} \subseteq \text{Hom}(G, \mathbb{C}^\times) = \hat{G}.$$

But also have the converse (idea is to use isometries):

let  $\chi \in \hat{G}$ ,  $\chi \neq 0$ , so  $\exists \psi$  st  $\langle \chi, \psi \rangle \neq 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \chi, \chi_\psi \rangle &= \langle T_g \chi, T_g \chi_\psi \rangle = \chi(g) \overline{\chi_\psi(g)} \langle \chi, \chi_\psi \rangle \\ &\Rightarrow \chi_\psi(g) = \chi(g) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $\hat{G} \subseteq \{\chi_\psi, \psi\}$ , so  $\hat{G} = \{\chi_\psi, \psi\}$ .

Therefore  $|G| = |\hat{G}|$ .

Double dual:  $G \rightarrow \hat{\hat{G}}$  by  $g \mapsto \eta_g$ , where  $\eta_g : \hat{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$   
 $\eta_g(\chi) = \chi(g)$ .

$g \mapsto \eta_g$  is injective thus bijective, so  $\hat{\hat{G}} \cong G$  canonically.

Exercise: Show  $G \cong \hat{\hat{G}}$  (non-canonically).

Hint: Show first for any finite abelian groups  $G_1, G_2$  that

$$\widehat{G_1 \times G_2} \cong \hat{G}_1 \times \hat{G}_2.$$

This reduces the problem to the case that  $G$  is cyclic.