

Number Theory II: Intro. to Modular Forms

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Exercise Class # 1 (3 March 2023)

In the first part of this class we will review some concepts from Lectures 1 to 3, in relation to the Exercise Sheet 1

① Classical modular forms are functions $f: \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ that transform nicely w.r.t. the action of $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ (or $\Gamma \subseteq SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$, finite index subgroup) on \mathbb{H} . Hence, we need to understand this action.

This is a restriction of the left action

$$GL_2(\mathbb{C}) \times \hat{\mathbb{C}} \rightarrow \hat{\mathbb{C}} \quad \hat{\mathbb{C}} = \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$$

$$\left(\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}, z \right) \mapsto \gamma \circ z = \frac{az+b}{cz+d} \quad \text{with the usual convention regarding } \infty \in \hat{\mathbb{C}}$$

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"Linear Fractional Transformation" (TFL)

"Action" means: i) $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \circ z = z \quad \forall z \in \hat{\mathbb{C}}$

$$\text{ii) } \gamma_1 \circ (\gamma_2 \circ z) = (\gamma_1 \gamma_2) \circ z \quad \forall \gamma_1, \gamma_2 \in GL_2(\mathbb{C}) \\ \forall z \in \hat{\mathbb{C}}$$

This action can be restricted to $SL_2(\mathbb{R}) \times \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{H}$

(Lecture 2)

Exercise 1 is about the action: $GL_2(\mathbb{R}) \times (\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R})$

Note that $GL_2(\mathbb{R})$ does not act on \mathbb{H} since

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \circ z = -z \quad \text{hence } \mathbb{H} \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}} \mathbb{H}^- = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \text{Im}(z) < 0\}$$

② Regarding Exercise 2: recall from Lecture 1

$$\mathcal{L} := \{L \subseteq \mathbb{C} \text{ lattice}\} = \{w_1\mathbb{Z} + w_2\mathbb{Z} : \{w_1, w_2\} \subseteq \mathbb{C} \text{ l.i. over } \mathbb{R}\}$$

General definition: A lattice in a locally compact group G

(Example $G = (\mathbb{C}, +)$) is a discrete subgroup H s.t. G/H

has finite volume w.r.t. some G -invariant Borel measure

Recall $\mathbb{C}^\times \curvearrowright \mathcal{L}$ by multiplication

The map $\mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$ induces $SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash \mathbb{H} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{C}^\times \backslash \mathcal{L}$
 $\tau \mapsto \tau\mathbb{Z} + \mathbb{Z}$ bijection

Exercise 2: For $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ prove that there is bijection

$$\left\{ f: \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \text{ s.t. } f\left(\frac{a\tau+b}{c\tau+d}\right) = (c\tau+d)^{-k} f(\tau) \right. \\ \left. \forall \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z}), \forall \tau \in \mathbb{H} \right\} \longrightarrow \left\{ F: \mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \text{ s.t. } \right. \\ \left. F(\lambda L) = \lambda^{-k} F(L) \right. \\ \left. \forall L \in \mathcal{L}, \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{C}^\times \right\}$$

$$F \mapsto f_F, \quad f_F(\tau) = F(\tau\mathbb{Z} + \mathbb{Z})$$

$$f \mapsto F_f, \quad F_f(L) = F_f(\omega_1\mathbb{Z} + \omega_2\mathbb{Z}) = \omega_2^{-k} f\left(\frac{\omega_1}{\omega_2}\right)$$

if $L = \omega_1\mathbb{Z} + \omega_2\mathbb{Z}, \frac{\omega_1}{\omega_2} \in \mathbb{H}$

Must show: f_F transforms like weight k modular form for $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$
 F_f is well defined

F_f transforms like "degree $-k$ "

$f \mapsto F_f$ and $F \mapsto f_F$ are inverse maps to each other

③ We recall classification of LFT $\gamma \in SL_2(\mathbb{R}), \gamma \neq \pm \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$
 (Lecture 2)

according to $\text{tr}(\gamma)$ or its fixed points in $\hat{\mathbb{C}}$

$$\gamma \circ z = \frac{az+b}{cz+d} = z$$

If $z \neq \infty$ this is equivalent to $cz^2 + (d-a)z - b = 0$ (★)

quadratic if $c \neq 0$ of

$$\begin{aligned} \text{discriminant } \Delta &= (d-a)^2 + 4cb \\ &= (d+a)^2 - 4da + 4cb \\ &= \text{tr}(\gamma)^2 - 4(\underbrace{ad-bc}_1) \\ &= \text{tr}(\gamma)^2 - 4 \end{aligned}$$

Remark: $\gamma \circ \infty = \frac{a}{c}$ hence $\gamma \circ \infty = \infty \Leftrightarrow c=0$.

Parabolic $|\operatorname{tr}(\gamma)| = 2 \Leftrightarrow \Delta = 0$

\Rightarrow unique fixed point in $\hat{\mathbb{C}}$

Indeed: If $c=0$ then ∞ is fixed

Also $(*)$ becomes $(d-a)z - b = 0$. But $\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & d \end{pmatrix}$

$$a+d = \pm 2, \quad ad=1 \Rightarrow a + \frac{1}{a} = \pm 2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow a^2 \mp 2a + 1 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (a \mp 1)^2 = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow a=1 \quad \text{or} \quad a=-1$$

$$d=1 \quad \quad \quad d=-1$$

$$b \neq 0 \quad \quad \quad b \neq 0$$

So no fixed point in \mathbb{C} and $\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} \pm 1 & b \\ 0 & \pm 1 \end{pmatrix}$, $b \neq 0$

If $c \neq 0$ then ∞ is not fixed and $(*)$ has one solution

$$x_0 = \frac{a-d}{2c} \in \mathbb{R} \quad \leadsto \text{unique fixed point in } \hat{\mathbb{C}}$$

In this case $M := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ sends $\infty \mapsto x_0$

hence $M^{-1}\gamma M$ is parabolic w/ fixed point ∞

$$\Rightarrow M^{-1}\gamma M = \begin{pmatrix} \pm 1 & b' \\ 0 & \pm 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ for some } b' \in \mathbb{R}$$

Elliptic $|\operatorname{tr}(\gamma)| \in [0, 2[\Leftrightarrow \Delta < 0$

\Rightarrow two fixed points $\tau, \bar{\tau}$ w/ $\tau \neq \bar{\tau}$

$$\bar{\tau} = \frac{a-d + i\sqrt{4 - (\operatorname{tr}(\gamma))^2}}{2c}$$

Note that $c \neq 0$ (∞ not fixed) since $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & a^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$ has

$$|\operatorname{trace} \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & a^{-1} \end{pmatrix}| = \left| a + \frac{1}{a} \right| \geq 2 \quad \text{so it is never elliptic!}$$

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} \Leftrightarrow a^2 + 1 \geq 2|a| \\ \Leftrightarrow (|a| - 1)^2 \geq 0 \end{array} \right)$$

If $\tau = x + iy$, $y > 0$ then $M := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{y} & 0 \\ 0 & \sqrt{y}^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$

sends $i \mapsto x + iy = \tau$ and $\in \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$

$M^{-1} \gamma M$ is elliptic w/ fixed points $i, -i$

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 $\begin{pmatrix} a' & b' \\ c' & d' \end{pmatrix} \in \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ $\frac{a'i + b'}{c'i + d'} = i \iff b' = -c', a' = d'$

$\Rightarrow M^{-1} \gamma M = \begin{pmatrix} a' & b' \\ -b' & a' \end{pmatrix}$, $(a')^2 + (b')^2 = 1$ so $a' = \cos(\theta)$
 $b' = \sin(\theta)$ where $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$

$\Rightarrow M^{-1} \gamma M = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\theta) & \sin(\theta) \\ -\sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) \end{pmatrix} \rightsquigarrow$ rotation matrix

Hyperbolic: $|\text{tr}(\gamma)| \in]2, \infty[\iff \Delta > 0$

\Rightarrow two fixed points in $\overline{\mathbb{R}} = \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$

Indeed: if $c=0$ then ∞ is fixed

and $\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & a^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$ $a \in \mathbb{R}, a \neq \pm 1$

acts as $z \mapsto a^2 z + ba$ with $x_0 := \frac{ba}{1-a^2} \in \mathbb{R}$ fixed

In this case $M := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & +x_0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ sends $0 \mapsto x_0$ and $\infty \mapsto \infty$

$M^{-1} \gamma M = \begin{pmatrix} a' & b' \\ c' & d' \end{pmatrix}$ is hyperbolic w/ fixed points $0, \infty$
 so $b'=0, c'=0$

$\Rightarrow M^{-1} \gamma M = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$, $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}, \lambda \neq 1, -1, 0$.

If $c \neq 0$ then ∞ is not fixed and γ has fixed points

$x_1 = \frac{a-d + \sqrt{\text{tr}(\gamma)^2 - 4}}{2c}$, $x_2 = \frac{a-d - \sqrt{\text{tr}(\gamma)^2 - 4}}{2c}$

both real and $x_1 \neq x_2$.

Put $M := \frac{1}{\sqrt{x_1 - x_2}} \begin{pmatrix} -x_2 & x_1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in SL_2(\mathbb{R})$ sending $0 \mapsto x_1$
 $\infty \mapsto x_2$

hence $M^{-1} \gamma M$ hyperbolic w/ fixed points $0, \infty$

$\Rightarrow M^{-1} \gamma M = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}, \lambda \neq 0, 1, -1$

In Exercise 3 you have to analyse invariant subsets $\subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$ of hyperbolic / elliptic / parabolic transformations. To make life easier note that: for $Y \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2, M \in SL_2(\mathbb{R})$

Y invariant under $\gamma \Leftrightarrow M^{-1}(Y)$ invariant under $M^{-1} \gamma M$

(easier to analyse for smart choice of M)

④ Recall $SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) = \langle S = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \rangle$ (Lecture 3) and there is an algorithm to write any $\gamma \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ in terms of S and T (see lecture notes!)

⑤ Useful general fact: If $\Gamma \subseteq SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ finite index subgroup $\tilde{\Gamma} := \Gamma \cup \Gamma \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ (this is just Γ if $\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma$)
 otherwise $\Gamma \subseteq \tilde{\Gamma} \subseteq SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$
 index 2

and $SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) = \bigsqcup_{i=1}^m \tilde{\Gamma} \gamma_i, m = [SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) : \tilde{\Gamma}]$

then for any fund. domain F of $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ the set $F' := \bigcup_{i=1}^m \gamma_i(F)$ is a fund. domain for Γ

Recall: $F = \overline{F^0}, \mathbb{H} = \bigcup_{\gamma \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z})} \gamma(F)$ and $\gamma(F^0) \cap F^0 \neq \emptyset \Rightarrow \gamma = \pm \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

To prove that F' is a fundamental domain for Γ we have to check

i) $H = \bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \gamma(F')$

ii) $\gamma \in \Gamma, \gamma(F')^\circ \cap (F')^\circ \neq \emptyset \Rightarrow \gamma = \pm \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

i) is easy: $H = \bigcup_{\gamma \in \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})} \gamma(F) = \bigcup_{\gamma \in \tilde{\Gamma}} \bigcup_{i=1}^m (\gamma \gamma_i)(F) = \bigcup_{\gamma \in \tilde{\Gamma}} \gamma(F') = \bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \gamma(F')$

ii) assume $\gamma(F')^\circ \cap (F')^\circ \neq \emptyset$ with $\gamma \in \Gamma$.

Note that $\bigcup_{i=1}^m \gamma_i(F^\circ)$ open and dense in $(F')^\circ$

hence $\bigcup_{i=1}^m \gamma \gamma_i(F^\circ) \parallel \parallel \dots \parallel \parallel \gamma(F')^\circ$

$\Rightarrow \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^m \gamma_i(F^\circ) \right) \cap \left(\bigcup_{i=1}^m \gamma \gamma_i(F^\circ) \right) \neq \emptyset$

i.e $\exists i, j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ st. $\gamma_i(F^\circ) \cap \gamma \gamma_j(F^\circ) \neq \emptyset$

$\Rightarrow \gamma_i^{-1} \gamma \gamma_j(F^\circ) \cap F^\circ \neq \emptyset$

$\Rightarrow \gamma_i^{-1} \gamma \gamma_j = \pm \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \pm 1 \end{pmatrix}$

$\Rightarrow \gamma \gamma_j = \pm \gamma_i$

$\Rightarrow i = j$ and $\gamma = \pm \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$