Computing classical modular forms as orthogonal modular forms

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joint work with Jeffery Hein and Gonzalo Tornaría

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Birch sought a method that would work more generally for composite N.

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Our method works for Hilbert modular forms (over totally real fields), but we'll mostly stick to  $\mathbb Q$  in the talk.

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 $M(O(\Lambda)) := Map(Cl(\Lambda), \mathbb{C}).$ 

In the basis of characteristic functions for  $\Lambda$  we have  $M(O(\Lambda)) \simeq \mathbb{C}^h$  where  $h = \# \operatorname{Cl}(\Lambda)$ .

For  $p \nmid \operatorname{disc}(\Lambda)$ , define the **Hecke operator** 

$$egin{aligned} &\mathcal{T}_{p}: \mathcal{M}(\mathsf{O}(\Lambda)) o \mathcal{M}(\mathsf{O}(\Lambda)) \ &f \mapsto \mathcal{T}_{p}(f) \ &\mathcal{T}_{p}(f)([\Lambda']) := \sum_{\Pi' \sim_{p} \Lambda'} f([\Pi']). \end{aligned}$$

The operators  $T_p$  commute and are self-adjoint with respect to a natural inner product, so there is a basis of simultaneous eigenvectors, called **eigenforms**.

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The Atkin-Lehner involution  $z \mapsto \frac{-1}{11z}$  acts on f(z) dz with eigenvalue  $w_{11} = -a_{11} = -1$ .

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Birch sketches two arguments for this theorem. Hein gives a complete proof using one of these arguments, as follows.

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so O is an order in a definite quaternion algebra B.

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which generalizes to

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where Typ(O) is the *type set* of O.

By restricting Brandt matrices (Eichler's Anzahlmatrizen) we have

$$Map(Typ(O), \mathbb{C}) \hookrightarrow M_2(\Gamma_0(N))$$

with an image that can be explicitly identified.

We only get a subspace of classical modular forms this way.

More generally, let  $\rho : O(V) \to GL(W)$  be a representation with W a finite-dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{C}$ .

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The Hecke operators generate a commutative, semisimple ring.

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Theorem (Hein–Tornaría–V)
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Then there is a Hecke-equivariant isomorphism

 $S(O(\Lambda), \rho) \xrightarrow{\sim} S_2(\Gamma_0(N); D\text{-new}; w = \epsilon').$ 

# Computational results

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This isn't a "generic" level! But to make an unfair comparison: the same computation with modular symbols in Magma crashed after consuming all 24 GB of available memory.

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So the spinor characters account exactly for the identification of E with its Galois conjugate  $\phi(E)$  when  $j(E) \notin \mathbb{F}_p$ ; the two are distinguished by an *orientation*, following Ribet.

## Extensions

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We can also work over a totally real field F to obtain Hilbert modular forms, with the same techniques and analogous statements of running time.

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## Conclusion

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Thank you to the CIRM for 30+ years of algorithmic arithmetic geometry!