

Modular constructions of Galois cohomology classes with prescribed local properties

(Ribet's Method)

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Goal of the lectures

Let $G_{\mathbf{Q}} = \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}/\mathbf{Q})$. Let E be a field, and let

$$\chi : G_{\mathbf{Q}} \longrightarrow E^{\times}$$

be a continuous character.

We will be interested in constructing classes

$$[\kappa] \in H^1(G_{\mathbf{Q}}, E(\chi)).$$

(Continuous cohomology)

Typically E will be a finite extension of \mathbf{F}_p or \mathbf{Q}_p .

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Prescribed local behavior

Let $G_p \subset G_{\mathbf{Q}}$ denote a decomposition group at p .

This corresponds to taking an embedding $\overline{\mathbf{Q}} \subset \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_p$, with $G_p = \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_p/\mathbf{Q}_p)$.

We will want to control the local images

$$[\kappa]_p = \text{res}_{G_p}^{G_{\mathbf{Q}}}[\kappa] \in H^1(G_p, E(\chi)).$$

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Examples of problems attacked with this method

- Converse to Herbrand's Theorem
(Ribet)
- Iwasawa's Main Conjecture
(Mazur-Wiles, Wiles, Skinner-Urban)
- Mazur-Tate-Teitelbaum Conjecture
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Steps in Ribet's Method

- Step 1: Reformulate problem as stating the existence of a global class $[\kappa] \in H^1(G_{\mathbf{Q}}, E(\chi))$ with a prescribed local restriction, e.g. with $[\kappa]_p$ related to a p -adic L -function L_p .
- Step 2: Construct a family of (ordinary) cusp forms with knowledge of the Fourier coefficients, e.g. a_p related to L_p .
- Step 3: Specialize the Galois representation associated to the family at a point where it is reducible. Extract a cohomology class from the reducible representation.
- Step 4: Use the fact that the family is ordinary to relate the local restriction $[\kappa]_p$ to a_p , and hence to L_p as desired.

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Ribet's converse to Herbrand

Let $A =$ ideal class group of $\mathbf{Q}(\mu_p)$, let $C = A \otimes \mathbf{F}_p$.
Canonical character

$$\omega : G_{\mathbf{Q}} \rightarrow \text{Gal}(\mathbf{Q}(\mu_p)/\mathbf{Q}) \cong \mathbf{F}_p^\times$$

Then

$$C = \bigoplus_{i=0}^{p-2} C(\omega^i),$$

where

$$C(\omega^i) = \{c \in C : \sigma(c) = \omega^i(\sigma) \cdot c \text{ for all } \sigma \in G_{\mathbf{Q}}\}.$$

Theorem (Ribet)

Let j be even, $2 \leq j \leq p - 3$. Then $p \mid B_j$ implies $C(\omega^{1-j}) \neq 0$.

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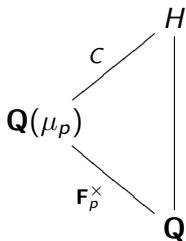
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Step 1: Reformulation

By class field theory, $C = \text{Gal}(H/\mathbf{Q}(\mu_p))$, where

$H =$ maximal abelian unramified ext of $\mathbf{Q}(\mu_p)$ with exponent p .



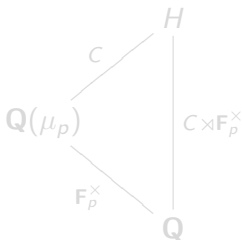
Conjugation action

$\text{Gal}(\mathbf{Q}(\mu_p)/\mathbf{Q}) \cong \mathbf{F}_p^\times$ acts on $\text{Gal}(H/\mathbf{Q}(\mu_p))$ by conjugation:

$$\sigma(\tau) = \tilde{\sigma}\tau\tilde{\sigma}^{-1},$$

where $\tilde{\sigma} \in \text{Gal}(H/\mathbf{Q})$ lifts σ .

This corresponds to the usual Galois action of $\text{Gal}(\mathbf{Q}(\mu_p)/\mathbf{Q})$ on ideal classes C .



$$\text{Gal}(H/\mathbf{Q}) \cong C \rtimes \mathbf{F}_p^\times.$$

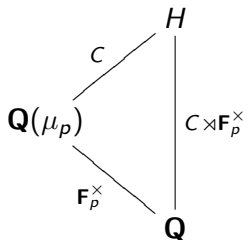
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Therefore, with $\chi = \omega^{1-j}$, we see that $C(\chi) \neq 0$ is equivalent to the existence of an abelian extension $H/\mathbf{Q}(\mu_p)$ such that:

- $H/\mathbf{Q}(\mu_p)$ is unramified;
- $\text{Gal}(H/\mathbf{Q}(\mu_p))$ has size p ;
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In this situation,

$$\text{Gal}(H/\mathbf{Q}) \cong \mathbf{F}_p \rtimes \mathbf{F}_p^\times.$$

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κ is a 1-cocycle for χ :

$$\kappa(\sigma\tau) = \kappa(\sigma) + \chi(\sigma)\kappa(\tau).$$

We get a non-trivial class

$$[\kappa] \in H^1(G_{\mathbf{Q}}, \mathbf{F}_p(\chi)).$$

Since κ is unramified, we find that

$$\text{res}_{I_\ell}^{G_{\mathbf{Q}}}[\kappa] \in H^1(I_\ell, \mathbf{F}_p(\chi))$$

is trivial for all ℓ .

These steps are reversible: the splitting field of an unramified non-trivial $[\kappa]$ gives the desired H .

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Cohomology classes and Galois representations

The cocycle

$$\kappa \in Z^1(G_{\mathbf{Q}}, \mathbf{F}_p(\chi))$$

gives a Galois representation:

$$\rho : G_{\mathbf{Q}} \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbf{F}_p)$$

defined by

$$\rho(\sigma) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \kappa(\sigma)\chi^{-1}(\sigma) \\ 0 & \chi^{-1}(\sigma) \end{pmatrix}$$

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Yoga: Galois representations come from modular forms.

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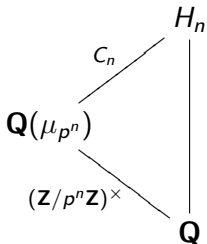
(Special case of) Iwasawa's Main Conjecture

From now on

$$\omega : G_{\mathbf{Q}} \rightarrow (\mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z})^{\times} \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}_p^{\times}$$

is the Teichmüller character.

For j even, $2 \leq j \leq p - 3$, there is a p -adic L -function $L_p(\omega^j, s)$.



$C_\infty := \varprojlim C_n$ has an action of

$$\mathrm{Gal}(\mathbf{Q}(\mu_{p^\infty})/\mathbf{Q}) \cong \mathbf{Z}_p^\times \cong (\mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z})^\times \times (1 + p\mathbf{Z}_p).$$

Let $g =$ topological generator of $1 + p\mathbf{Z}_p$, and suppose $\gamma \mapsto (1, g)$.

(Consequence of) Iwasawa's Main Theorem

Theorem (Mazur-Wiles)

If $L_p(\omega^j, s) = 0$ for $s \in \mathbf{Z}_p$, then g^s is an eigenvalue of γ acting on $(C_\infty \otimes \mathbf{Q}_p)(\omega^{1-j})$.

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$$[\kappa] \in H^1(G_{\mathbf{Q}}, \mathbf{Q}_p(\omega^{1-j}\epsilon^s)),$$

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Construct κ from a Galois representation

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Modular Forms

Let $\chi : (\mathbf{Z}/N\mathbf{Z})^\times \rightarrow \overline{\mathbf{Q}}^\times$, $\chi(-1) = (-1)^k$.

A modular form of level N , character χ , and weight k is a holomorphic function $f : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ such that

$$(cz + d)^{-k} f\left(\frac{az + b}{cz + d}\right) = \chi(a)f(z)$$

for $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma_0(N)$, and

$$f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n q^n, \quad q = e^{2\pi iz}.$$

Modular forms denoted $M_k(N, \chi)$.

Cusp forms: $a_0 = 0$ for every $f|_\gamma$, denoted $S_k(N, \chi)$.

Hecke operators

For each $\ell \nmid Np$, there is a Hecke operator T_ℓ on $S_k(N, \chi; \mathbf{Z}_p)$ given on q -expansions by:

$$T_\ell \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n q^n \right) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (a_{n\ell} + \chi(\ell) \ell^{k-1} a_{n/\ell}) q^n.$$

Here $a_{n/\ell} = 0$ if $\ell \nmid n$.

Similarly for $\ell \mid N$, we have

$$U_\ell \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n q^n \right) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{n\ell} q^n.$$

These operators define a \mathbf{Z}_p -algebra called the Hecke algebra \mathbf{T}_k .

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Theorem (Deligne-Serre)

Let $k \geq 1$ and $\chi : (\mathbf{Z}/N\mathbf{Z})^\times \rightarrow \overline{\mathbf{Q}}^\times$ a character. Let $f \in S_k(N, \chi)$ be a cuspidal newform. There exists an irreducible continuous Galois representation

$$\rho : G_{\mathbf{Q}} \longrightarrow GL_2(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_p)$$

that is unramified outside Np , such that for all $\ell \nmid Np$,

$$\text{trace}(\rho(\text{Frob}_\ell)) = a_\ell$$

and

$$\det(\rho(\text{Frob}_\ell)) = \chi(\ell)\ell^{k-1}.$$

Here

$$f(q) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n q^n,$$

so a_ℓ is the eigenvalue of the Hecke operator T_ℓ .

Ordinary forms

The form f is called *ordinary at p* if

$$x^2 - a_p x + \chi(p)p^{k-1}$$

has a root α_p that is a p -adic unit.

If $k > 1$ (or $\chi(p) = 0$) this is equivalent to a_p being a p -adic unit.

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Ordinary representations

Theorem

Let f be a cuspidal eigenform that is ordinary at p . There is a basis such that the restriction of ρ to G_p has the form

$$\rho|_{G_p} \cong \begin{pmatrix} \eta_1 & * \\ 0 & \eta_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

where $\eta_2 : G_p \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}_p^\times$ is the unramified character such that

$$\eta_2(\text{Frob}_p) = \alpha_p.$$

Interpolating these representations

For each $k \geq 2$, let f_k be a newform. Suppose that the associated representations

$$\rho_k(\sigma) = \begin{pmatrix} a_k(\sigma) & b_k(\sigma) \\ c_k(\sigma) & d_k(\sigma) \end{pmatrix}$$

have the remarkable property that the function $k \mapsto a_k(\sigma)$ extends to a continuous function $\mathbf{Z}_p \rightarrow \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_p$, and similarly for the other matrix coefficients.

Then for any $k \in \mathbf{Z}_p$, we get a Galois representation, and it is certainly possible that these other specializations are reducible.

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Knowledge of ρ_k

Furthermore, since $\{k \in \mathbf{Z}, k \geq 2\}$ is dense in \mathbf{Z}_p , we know the trace and determinant of the representation by continuity.

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Interpolation, following Iwasawa and Hida

Let $\Lambda = \mathbf{Z}_p[[T]]$.

Let g be a topological generator of $1 + p\mathbf{Z}_p$, e.g. $g = 1 + p$.

For each $k \in \mathbf{Z}_p$, define $\nu_k : \Lambda \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}_p^\times$ by

$$\nu_k(1 + T) = g^{k-2}.$$

Every $\lambda \in \Lambda$ represents a function on \mathbf{Z}_p , via $k \mapsto \nu_k(\lambda)$.

We call elements of Λ , when viewed as functions on \mathbf{Z}_p , *Iwasawa functions*.

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Example: power functions

Consider the function $k \mapsto a^{k-1}$ with $a \in 1 + p\mathbf{Z}_p$.

Let $a = g^\beta$, with $\beta \in \mathbf{Z}_p$.

Let

$$\lambda = a(1 + T)^\beta = a \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{\beta}{n} T^n \in \Lambda.$$

Then

$$\nu_k(\lambda) = \nu_k(a(1 + T)^\beta) = a(g^{k-2})^\beta = a^{k-1}.$$

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Λ -adic forms

Definition

A Λ -adic form of level Np and character χ is a q -expansion

$$f = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n q^n \quad \text{with } a_n \in \Lambda$$

such that for all $k \in \mathbf{Z}$, $k \geq 2$,

$$\nu_k(f) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \nu_k(a_n) q^n \in \mathbf{Z}_p[[q]]$$

is the q -expansion of a modular form $f_k \in M_k(Np, \chi\omega^{1-k}; \mathbf{Z}_p)$.

Here $\omega : (\mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z})^\times \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}_p^\times$ is the Teichmüller character.

Λ -adic cusp forms

A Λ -adic form f is called a cusp form if for all $k \in \mathbf{Z}$, $k \geq 2$, the classical form f_k is a cusp form.

Note that this implies, but is not equivalent to, $a_0 = 0$.

The space of Λ -adic modular forms of level N and character χ is denoted $\mathcal{M}(N, \chi)$, and the subspace of cusp forms is denoted $\mathcal{S}(N, \chi)$.

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Λ -adic Hecke operators

For each $\ell \nmid Np$, there is a Hecke operator T_ℓ on the space of Λ -adic forms such that

$$\nu_k(T_\ell f) = T_\ell \nu_k(f).$$

The formula for T_ℓ is:

$$T_\ell\left(\sum a_n q^n\right) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (a_{n\ell} + \chi(\ell)\lambda_\ell a_{n/\ell})q^n,$$

where $\lambda_\ell \in \Lambda$ such that $\nu_k(\lambda) = \langle \ell \rangle^{k-1}$. Here

$$\langle \ell \rangle = \ell/\omega(\ell) \equiv 1 \pmod{p}.$$

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Λ -adic Hecke algebra

Similarly there is a Λ -adic operator U_ℓ for $\ell \mid Np$.

The operators T_ℓ for $\ell \nmid Np$ and U_ℓ for $\ell \mid Np$ define a Λ -algebra called the Hecke algebra \mathbf{T} .

Eisenstein Series

Let $k \in \mathbf{Z}$, $k \geq 2$,

$$\eta : (\mathbf{Z}/a\mathbf{Z})^\times \rightarrow \overline{\mathbf{Q}}^\times, \quad \psi : (\mathbf{Z}/b\mathbf{Z})^\times \rightarrow \overline{\mathbf{Q}}^\times$$

be characters such that $\eta\psi(-1) = (-1)^k$.

There is a modular form $E_k(\eta, \psi) \in M_k(ab, \eta\psi)$ with q -expansion

$$E_k(\eta, \psi)(q) = a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{d|n} \eta\left(\frac{n}{d}\right) \psi(d) d^{k-1} q^n,$$

where

$$a_0 = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} L(\psi, 1-k) & \text{if } \eta = 1 \text{ (with } a = 1) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

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Weight 1 Eisenstein Series

The same is true if $k = 1$, except if $\eta \neq 1$ and $\psi = 1$, the constant term is

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Eisenstein series are eigenforms

The Eisenstein series $E_k(\eta, \psi)$ is an eigenform, with eigenvalue

$$\eta(\ell) + \psi(\ell)\ell^{k-1}$$

for T_ℓ when $\ell \nmid N$ and for U_ℓ when $\ell \mid N$.

$$M_k(N, \chi) = S_k(N, \chi) \oplus \text{Eis}_k(N, \chi)$$

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p -adic interpolation of Eisenstein Series

Suppose $\eta\psi(-1) = -1$. Consider

$$E_k(\eta, \psi\omega^{1-k}) = a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{d|n, (d,p)=1} \eta(d)\psi(d)\langle d \rangle^{k-1} q^n,$$

where $\psi\omega^{1-k}$ is always viewed to have modulus divisible by p .

Here $a_0 = 0$ if $\eta \neq 1$, and

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Kubota–Leopoldt p -adic L -function

Actually, a_0 is an Iwasawa function as well.

Theorem (Kubota–Leopoldt)

Let $\psi(-1) = 1$, and $\psi \neq 1$. There exists an element $\mathcal{L}(\psi) \in \Lambda$ such that

$$\nu_k(\mathcal{L}(\psi)) = L(\psi\omega^{-k}, 1 - k)$$

for all $k \in \mathbf{Z}$, $k \geq 1$.

Notation:

$$L_p(\psi, s) = \nu_{1-s}(\mathcal{L}(\psi))$$

is the p -adic L -function attached to ψ .

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When $\psi = 1$, there is a pole of $\zeta_p(s) = L_p(1, s)$ at $s = 1$.

Theorem

There exists an element $\mathcal{G} \in \Lambda$ such that

$$\mathcal{L}(1) = \frac{\mathcal{G}}{g^2(1+T) - 1} \in \text{Frac}(\Lambda)$$

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Step 2: constructing a Λ -adic form

It is harder to show the existence of Λ -adic cusp forms (just as it is harder to show the existence of classical cusp forms).

There are some explicit constructions, for example, families of Θ series.

We will use Λ -adic Eisenstein series to construct Λ -adic cusp forms.

(Remember $\Delta = c_1 \cdot E_4^3 - c_2 \cdot E_6^2$.)

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Iterating U_p

If $f \in S_k(Np, \chi; \mathbf{Z}_p)$ is a U_p -eigenform, then

$$U_p f = a_p f \implies U_p^n f = a_p^n f.$$

If f is not ordinary, $a_p^n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, so $U_p^n f \rightarrow 0$.

If f is ordinary, $a_p^{(p-1)p^n} \rightarrow 1$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, so $U_p^{(p-1)p^n} f \rightarrow f$.

Hida's ordinary projector

Definition

Define Hida's ordinary projector by

$$e = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} U_p^{n!} \in \mathbf{T}.$$

e is an idempotent: $e^2 = e$.

If f is an eigenform then $ef = f$ if f is ordinary and $ef = 0$ otherwise.

Hida's control theorem

Define the space of ordinary Λ -adic cusp forms by

$$\mathcal{S}(N, \chi)^\circ = e\mathcal{S}(N, \chi).$$

Theorem (Hida)

The space of ordinary Λ -adic forms $\mathcal{S}(N, \chi)^\circ$ is a free Λ -algebra of finite rank, and for every integer $k \geq 2$, we have

$$\nu_k(\mathcal{S}(N, \chi)^\circ) = S_k(Np, \chi\omega^{1-k})^\circ.$$

Furthermore, over $\text{Frac}(\Lambda)$, the space $\mathcal{S}(N, \chi)^\circ$ has a basis of eigenforms.

Step 3: associated Galois representation

Theorem (Hida, Wiles)

Let $f \in \mathcal{S}(N, \chi)^{\circ}$ be an ordinary Λ -adic cuspidal eigenform. There exists an irreducible continuous Galois representation

$$\rho : G_{\mathbf{Q}} \rightarrow GL_2(\text{Frac}(\Lambda))$$

that is unramified outside Np , such that for all $\ell \nmid Np$,

$$\text{trace}(\rho(\text{Frob}_{\ell})) = a_{\ell}$$

and

$$\det(\rho(\text{Frob}_{\ell})) = \chi(\ell) \langle \ell \rangle^{k-1}.$$

It is possible that the specialization of ρ at some $k \in \mathbf{Z}_p$ is reducible.

Step 4: the local restriction

Theorem (Hida, Wiles)

There is a basis such that the restriction of ρ to G_p has the form

$$\rho|_{G_p} \cong \begin{pmatrix} \eta_1 & * \\ 0 & \eta_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

where $\eta_2 : G_p \rightarrow \Lambda^\times$ is the unramified character such that

$$\eta_2(\text{Frob}_p) = a_p.$$

Steps in Ribet's Method, revisited

- Step 1: Reformulate problem as stating the existence of a global class $[\kappa] \in H^1(G_{\mathbf{Q}}, E(\chi))$ with a prescribed local restriction, e.g. with $[\kappa]_p$ related to a p -adic L -function L_p .
- Step 2: Construct an ordinary Λ -adic family of cusp forms with a_p related to L_p .
- Step 3: Specialize the Galois representation associated to the family at a weight $k \in \mathbf{Z}_p$ where it is reducible. Extract a cohomology class $[\kappa]$ from the reducible representation.
- Step 4: Use the fact that the family is ordinary to relate the local restriction $[\kappa]_p$ to a_p , and hence to L_p as desired.

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Preview of coming attractions

In the remaining lectures, we will describe these steps in the case of the Gross–Stark conjecture.