

Cup products and Selmer groups of reducible representations

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Introduction

At CNTA IX, we discussed an explicit conjectural correspondence of the following form, for an odd prime p .

cup products of cyclotomic p -units in étale cohomology of p -integers

\leftrightarrow

reductions of p -adic L -values of newforms congruent to Eisenstein series at p

In this talk, we will

- explain the conjecture in a special yet fundamental case
- discuss evidence for it arising from Selmer groups

The cup product

p odd prime, μ_p p th roots of unity in $\overline{\mathbf{Q}}$

$F = \mathbf{Q}(\mu_p)$ p th cyclotomic field

\mathfrak{G}_F Galois group of maximal extension of F in which only the prime above p ramifies

Consider the following cup product in Galois cohomology:

$$H^1(\mathfrak{G}_F, \mu_p) \otimes H^1(\mathfrak{G}_F, \mu_p) \xrightarrow{\cup} H^2(\mathfrak{G}_F, \mu_p^{\otimes 2})$$

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The cup product tells us about the commutators appearing in relations among generators in a presentation of the Galois group of the maximal pro- p quotient of \mathfrak{G}_F .

Applications of the cup product

This cup product has quite a few other applications to the structure of Galois groups and related modules, including:

- Hilbert p -class field tower of F – when is it just one step?
- p -parts of class groups of Kummer extensions of F that are unramified outside p – describes 2nd graded piece in their augmentation filtration
- Galois group of the maximal abelian pro- p extension of the compositum of all \mathbf{Z}_p -extensions of F – yields information on its size
- Selmer groups of residually reducible representations – will discuss later in this talk

Objects attached to the p th cyclotomic field

$$\Delta = \text{Gal}(F/\mathbf{Q})$$

ζ fixed primitive p th root of unity in F

Teichmüller character $\omega: \Delta \xrightarrow{\sim} \mu_{p-1}(\mathbf{Z}_p) \subset \mathbf{Z}_p^\times$, $\delta(\zeta) = \zeta^{\omega(\delta)}$.

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Fundamental $\mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta]$ -modules:

- p -completion \mathcal{E}_F of p -units $\mathbf{Z}[\zeta, 1/p]^\times$ in F
- p -completion \mathcal{C}_F of the cyclotomic p -units of F , generated by $1 - \zeta$ as a $\mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta]$ -module
- p -part A_F of the ideal class group of F (p -power torsion)

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Kummer theory yields

$$\mathcal{E}_F/p\mathcal{E}_F \hookrightarrow H^1(\mathfrak{G}_F, \mu_p) \quad \text{and} \quad A_F/pA_F \cong H^2(\mathfrak{G}_F, \mu_p).$$

Thus, our cup product sets up a Galois-equivariant pairing

$$(\cdot, \cdot): \mathcal{C}_F \times \mathcal{C}_F \rightarrow A_F \otimes \mu_p.$$

Eigenspaces

Given a $\mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta]$ -module A , we have a decomposition

$$A = \bigoplus_{i=0}^{p-2} A^{(i)}, \quad A^{(i)} = \{a \in A \mid \delta a = \omega(\delta)^i a, \text{ for all } \delta \in \Delta\}.$$

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We also have (± 1) -eigenspaces A^\pm for the element of order 2, which results in a decomposition $A = A^+ \oplus A^-$. Note that

$$A^+ = \bigoplus_{\substack{i=0 \\ i \text{ even}}}^{p-3} A^{(i)} \quad \text{and} \quad A^- = \bigoplus_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \text{ odd}}}^{p-2} A^{(i)}.$$

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We have idempotents ϵ_i yielding the projections $A \rightarrow A^{(i)}$:

$$\epsilon_i \in \mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta], \quad \epsilon_i = \frac{1}{p-1} \sum_{\delta \in \Delta} \omega(\delta)^{-i} \delta.$$

Eigenspaces of p -units and class groups

Facts: $\mathcal{E}_F = \mathcal{E}_F^+ \oplus \mu_p$ and $[\mathcal{E}_F : \mathcal{C}_F] = |A_F^+|$.

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B_k k th Bernoulli number

Theorem (Herbrand-Ribet)

For $k \geq 2$ even,

$$A_F^{(1-k)} \neq 0 \Leftrightarrow p \mid \frac{B_k}{k}.$$

We say (p, k) is irregular if $p \mid B_k$ and $2 \leq k \leq p - 3$.

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Reflection principle: for k even,

$$A_F^{(k)} = 0 \Rightarrow A_F^{(1-k)} \text{ cyclic.}$$

A pairing arising from the cup product

For i odd and k even, set

$$e_{i,k} = (\eta_i, \eta_{k-i}) \in A_F^{(1-k)} \otimes \mu_p.$$

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Conjecture (McCallum-S.)

The $e_{i,k}$ generate $A_F^{(1-k)} \otimes \mu_p$.

Under Vandiver, $A_F^{(1-k)} \otimes \mu_p$ is a 1-dimensional \mathbf{F}_p -vector space.

For irregular (p, k) with $p < 25,000$, we computed of a unique possibility for $(e_{1,k} \ e_{3,k} \ \dots \ e_{p-2,k}) \in \mathbf{P}^{(p-3)/2}(\mathbf{F}_p)$, should the conjecture hold.

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Theorem (S.)

The conjecture holds for $p < 1000$.

Examples of the $(e_{1,k} \ e_{3,k} \ \dots \ e_{p-2,k})$

- $p = 37, k = 32$
(1 26 0 36 1 35 31 34 3 6 2 36 1 0 11 36 11 26)
- $p = 59, k = 44$
(1 45 21 30 14 35 5 0 48 57 7 52 2 11 0 54 24 45 29 38 14 58
27 32 15 0 44 27 32)
- $p = 67, k = 58$
(1 45 38 56 0 47 62 9 29 15 65 26 45 57 0 10 22 41 2 52 38
58 5 20 0 11 29 22 66 2 24 43 65)
- $p = 101, k = 68$
(1 56 40 96 26 63 0 61 81 71 35 92 73 64 6 88 0 0 13 95 37
28 9 66 30 20 40 0 38 75 5 61 45 100 17 17 12 66 72 53 86
31 70 15 48 29 35 89 84 84)

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Question

What is the arithmetic meaning of these values?

Congruences of newforms with Eisenstein series

Eisenstein series of weight 2, level p , character ω^{k-2}

$$G_{2,\omega^{k-2}} = -\frac{B_{2,\omega^{k-2}}}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\sum_{1 \leq t|n} \omega^{k-2}(t)t \right) q^n.$$

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In this case, there exists a newform f of the same weight, level, and character and a congruence

$$f \equiv G_{2,\omega^{k-2}} \pmod{\mathfrak{p}_f},$$

where $f = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n q^n$, $\mathcal{O}_f = \mathbf{Z}_p[a_2, a_3, \dots]$, and $\mathfrak{p}_f \subset \mathcal{O}_f$ is generated by p and $a_\ell - 1 - \ell \omega^{k-2}(\ell)$ for all primes ℓ .

A comparison map

The p -adic L -functions of newforms (Mazur-Tate-Teitelbaum) interpolate the special values of classical L -functions for f and its twists, up to certain factors.

Let H_f be the \mathcal{O}_f -lattice in \mathbf{C}_p spanned by all $L_p(f, \omega^j, 1)$.

$H_f = H_f^+ \oplus H_f^-$, where H_f^\pm is spanned by the $L_p(f, \omega^j, 1)$ with j even/odd, resp.

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We derive the following using the work of Ohta (following Ribet, Mazur-Wiles, Wiles, Kurihara, and Harder-Pink).

Proposition

There exists an (almost canonical) homomorphism

$$\phi_f: A_F^{(1-k)} \otimes \mu_p \rightarrow H_f^+ / \mathfrak{p}_f H_f^+,$$

that is surjective if $(p, p + 1 - k)$ is regular.

The conjecture

For i odd, let $g_{i,f}$ be the image of $L_p(f, \omega^{i-1}, 1)$ in $H_f^+ / \mathfrak{p}_f H_f^+$.

Conjecture (S.)

For each irregular pair (p, k) and f as above, there exists a canonical $c_f \in (\mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z})^\times$ such that

$$\phi_f(e_{i,k}) = c_f g_{i,f}$$

for all odd i .

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If $(p, p+1-k)$ is regular, then $\phi_f(e_{1,k}) = c_f g_{1,f}$ for some $c_f \in (\mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z})^\times$.

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Corollary

The conjecture is true for $p < 1000$.

The Galois modules

We may consider H_f as a lattice in the Galois representation attached to f , so it has a $G_{\mathbf{Q}}$ -action unramified outside p, ∞ .

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$$W_f = H_f \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_f} \mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{O}_f, \mathbf{Q}_p/\mathbf{Z}_p).$$

As $G_{\mathbf{Q}_p}$ -modules, we have

$$0 \rightarrow W_f^- \rightarrow W_f \rightarrow W_f/W_f^- \rightarrow 0.$$

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Let $T_f = W_f[\mathfrak{p}_f]$ be the submodule of W_f killed by all elements of \mathfrak{p}_f . Then

$$T_f \cong H_f/\mathfrak{p}_f H_f,$$

and it fits into an exact sequence of $G_{\mathbf{Q}}$ -modules

$$0 \rightarrow T_f^+ \rightarrow T_f \rightarrow T_f/T_f^+ \rightarrow 0$$

that is locally split at p .

Selmer groups

Let us now fix an odd integer i .

We consider the twist of W_f by ω^{i-1} :

$$W_{i,f} = W_f \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}_p} \mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta]^{(i-1)}.$$

Its Selmer group may be defined as

$$\text{Sel}(\mathbf{Q}, W_{i,f}) = \ker(H^1(\mathfrak{G}_{\mathbf{Q}}, W_{i,f}) \rightarrow H^1(I_p, W_{i,f}/W_{i,f}^-)),$$

where $\mathfrak{G}_{\mathbf{Q}}$ is the Galois group of the maximal extension of \mathbf{Q} unramified outside $\{p, \infty\}$ and I_p is an inertia group at p .

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We take

$$T_{i,f} = W_{i,f}[\mathfrak{p}_f] \cong H_f/\mathfrak{p}_f H_f \otimes \mu_p^{\otimes(i-1)},$$

and define $\mathrm{Sel}(\mathbf{Q}, T_{i,f})$ in the same way.

Selmer groups of the residual representations

Simplifying assumptions: $i \not\equiv \pm(1 - k) \pmod{p - 1}$,

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One can derive the following using the relationship between cup product values and class groups of Kummer extensions of F :

Theorem (S.)

Under our assumptions,

$$\mathrm{Sel}(\mathbf{Q}, T_{i,f}) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z} & e_{i,k} = 0 \\ 0 & e_{i,k} \neq 0. \end{cases}$$

The main conjecture for modular forms

Let \mathbf{Q}_∞ denote the cyclotomic \mathbf{Z}_p -extension of \mathbf{Q} .

Then $\text{Sel}(\mathbf{Q}_\infty, W_{i,f})$ is defined in the same manner as for \mathbf{Q} .

The main conjecture of Iwasawa theory for f (Mazur, Greenberg) tells us that the structure of $\text{Sel}(\mathbf{Q}_\infty, W_{i,f})$ is largely governed by $L_p(f, \omega^{i-1}, s)$.

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More precisely, the p -adic L -function $L_p(f, \omega^{i-1}, s)$ determines a power series $F_{i,f} \in \mathcal{O}_f[[T]]$ with

$$F_{i,f}((1+p)^s - 1) = L_p(f, \omega^{i-1}, s)$$

for all $s \in \mathbf{Z}_p$. The main conjecture asserts that $F_{i,f}$ generates the “characteristic ideal” of $\text{Sel}(\mathbf{Q}_\infty, W_{i,f})^\vee$ over $\mathcal{O}_f[[T]]$.

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Remark

We have chosen the lattice H_f such that we expect the Selmer group to be finitely generated over \mathbf{Z}_p .

Relationship with our conjecture

We have the following corollary of our result on $\text{Sel}(\mathbf{Q}, T_{i,f})$:

Corollary

$$\text{Sel}(\mathbf{Q}_\infty, W_{i,f}) = 0 \Leftrightarrow e_{i,k} \neq 0.$$

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Recall that $g_{i,f}$ is the image of $L_p(f, \omega^{i-1}, 1)$ in $H_f^+ / \mathfrak{p}_f H_f^+$.
The main conjecture then implies:

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Putting these together, we conclude:

Theorem

Assuming the main conjecture for f and with our earlier assumptions, we have that

$$e_{i,k} \neq 0 \Rightarrow g_{i,f} \neq 0.$$