

These are the slides for my talk at the Workshop on L-functions at the Fields Institute in Toronto, May 7, 2003.

# Distribution of modular symbols

Yiannis Petridis

Department of Mathematics  
City University of New York, Lehman College  
(joint with Morten S. Risager, Aarhus U.)

- Modular symbols and their distribution
- Motivation: Conjectures of Szpiro and Goldfeld
- Eisenstein series with modular symbols
- Eisenstein series with characters  $\chi_\epsilon$  and Perturbations of the Laplacian
- Open problems

## Modular Symbols

$f(z)$  cusp form of weight 2 for  $\Gamma$  e.g.  $\Gamma_0(N)$

$f(z)dz$  1-form on  $X = \Gamma \backslash \mathbf{H}$  e.g.

$$X_0(N) = \Gamma_0(N) \backslash \mathbf{H}$$

$$\langle \gamma, f \rangle = -2\pi i \int_{\tau}^{\gamma\tau} f(z) dz$$

$$\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} * & * \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

Petersson norm:

$$||f||^2 = \int_{\Gamma \backslash \mathbf{H}} y^2 |f(z)|^2 dx dy / y^2$$

**Theorem 1** The modular symbols normalized as

$$\langle \widetilde{\gamma}, f \rangle = \sqrt{\frac{\text{vol}(\Gamma \setminus \mathbf{H})}{8\pi^2 \|f\|^2}} \frac{\langle \gamma, f \rangle}{\sqrt{\log(c^2 + d^2)}}$$

have a binormal Gaussian distribution with correlation coefficient 0.

This means:

Let

$$(\Gamma_\infty \setminus \Gamma)^T = \{\gamma \in \Gamma_\infty \setminus \Gamma, c^2 + d^2 \leq T\}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\#\left\{\gamma \in (\Gamma_\infty \setminus \Gamma)^T \mid \langle \widetilde{\gamma}, f \rangle \in R\right\}}{\#(\Gamma_\infty \setminus \Gamma)^T} \\ & \rightarrow \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_R \exp\left(-\frac{x^2 + y^2}{2}\right) dx dy \end{aligned}$$

as  $T \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Theorem 1'** Let  $\alpha$  be a harmonic real-valued 1-form. Let

$$\langle \gamma, \alpha \rangle = -2\pi i \int_{\tau}^{\gamma\tau} \alpha$$

and

$$\langle \widetilde{\gamma}, \alpha \rangle = \sqrt{\frac{\text{vol}(\Gamma \setminus \mathbf{H})}{8\pi^2 \|f\|^2}} \frac{\langle \gamma, f \rangle}{i\sqrt{\log(c^2 + d^2)}}$$

have Gaussian distribution i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\#\left\{\gamma \in (\Gamma_{\infty} \setminus \Gamma)^T \mid \langle \widetilde{\gamma}, \alpha \rangle \in [a, b]\right\}}{\#(\Gamma_{\infty} \setminus \Gamma)^T} \\ & \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_a^b \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2}\right) dx \end{aligned}$$

as  $T \rightarrow \infty$ .

Pairing:

$$H_1(X, \mathbf{Z}) \times H_{dR}^1(X, \mathbf{R}) \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$$

$$\langle c, \omega \rangle = \int_c \omega$$

Counting prime closed geodesics on  $X$ :

$$\pi_\Gamma(x) = \#\{\{\mathcal{P}\} \mid N(\mathcal{P}) \leq x\} \sim \text{li}(x),$$

$$N(\mathcal{P}) = e^{\text{length}(\mathcal{P})}.$$

Counting geodesics in a homology class:

$$\phi : \Gamma \rightarrow H_1(X, \mathbf{Z}), \quad \beta \in H_1(X, \mathbf{Z})$$

$$\pi_\beta(x) = \#\{\{\mathcal{P}\} \mid N(\mathcal{P}) \leq x, \phi(\mathcal{P}) = \beta\} \sim \frac{c_0 x}{\ln(x)^{g+1}}$$

$g$  genus.

Motivation:

$$H(\gamma) = \langle \gamma, f \rangle = -2\pi i \int_{\gamma}^{\gamma^{\tau}} f(z) dz$$

$$\langle \gamma_1 \gamma_2, f \rangle = \langle \gamma_1, f \rangle + \langle \gamma_2, f \rangle$$

$$H : \Gamma_0(N) \rightarrow \Lambda = \{n_1 \Omega_1 + n_2 \Omega_2, n_i \in \mathbf{Z}\}$$

$E : \Lambda \setminus \mathbf{C}$  elliptic curve  $y^2 = 4x^3 - ax - b$

$e_i$  roots of  $4x^3 - ax - b$ ,

$$D = \prod_{i < j} (e_j - e_i)^2 \quad \text{discriminant}$$

$$\Omega_1 = 2 \int_{e_3}^{\infty} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{4x^3 - ax - b}},$$

$$\Omega_2 = 2 \int_{e_2}^{e_3} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{4x^3 - ax - b}}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} X_0(N) \\ \downarrow \\ E \end{array}$$

Szpiro's conjecture:  $D \ll N^\kappa$ .

Goldfeld's conjecture:

$$\langle \gamma, f \rangle = n_1(\gamma, f) \Omega_1 + n_2(\gamma, f) \Omega_2$$

$$n_i \ll N^k, \quad \text{if } c \leq N^2$$

$L(f, 1)$  in terms of modular symbols

Eisenstein series (non holomorphic)

$$E(z, s) = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_\infty \backslash \Gamma} \Im(\gamma z)^s$$

$$\Delta E(z, s) + s(1 - s)E(z, s) = 0$$

Fourier series:

$$E(z, s) = y^s + \sqrt{\pi} \frac{\Gamma(s - 1/2)\zeta(2s - 1)}{\Gamma(s)\zeta(2s)} y^{1-s} + \dots$$

$$\text{Res}_{s=1} = \frac{3}{\pi}$$

$$\sum_{|cz+d|^2 \leq X} 1 \sim \pi \frac{X}{y}$$

## Eisenstein series with modular symbols

$$E^{1,0}(z, s) = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_\infty \backslash \Gamma} \langle \gamma, f \rangle \Im(\gamma z)^s$$

Goldfeld, O'Sullivan 1998

Chinta, Diamantis

$$E^{1,0}(\gamma z, s) = E^{1,0}(z, s) - \langle \gamma, f \rangle E(z, s)$$

$$\Delta E^{1,0}(z, s) + s(1 - s)E^{1,0}(z, s) = 0$$

Residue at  $s = 1$  is

$$R(z) = \frac{2\pi i}{\text{vol}(\Gamma \backslash \mathbf{H})} \int_{i\infty}^z f.$$

Goldfeld conjectured:

$$\sum_{c^2 + d^2 \leq X, N|c} \langle \gamma, f \rangle = R(i)X + O(X^{1-\epsilon})$$

Application:

$$\Gamma_0(11) = \langle A, B, P_0, P_\infty, ABA^{-1}B^{-1}P_0P_\infty = 1 \rangle$$

where

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} -7 & -1 \\ 22 & 3 \end{pmatrix}, B = \begin{pmatrix} 4 & 1 \\ -33 & -8 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$P_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -11 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, P_\infty = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\log_A(A^{e_1}B^{d_1}A^{e_2}B^{d_2}\dots) = \sum e_i$$

Goldfeld-O'Sullivan:

$$\sum_{|cz+d|^2 \leq T} \log_A \gamma = \frac{T}{y} \Re(c \int_\infty^z \eta^2(z) \eta^2(11z) dz) + O(T^{1-\epsilon})$$

**Eisenstein series twisted by higher powers of modular symbols:**

$$E^{m,n}(z, s) = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_\infty \backslash \Gamma} \langle \gamma, f \rangle^m \overline{\langle \gamma, h \rangle}^n \Im(\gamma z)^s$$

Goldfeld conjectured:

Let  $f = h$ . Then

$E^{1,1}(z, s)$  (involves  $|\langle \gamma, f \rangle|^2$ ) has pole of order 1 at  $s = 1$  with residue involving Petersson product  $\langle f, f \rangle$

Conjecture:

$$\sum_{c^2 + d^2 \leq X, N|c} |\langle \gamma, f \rangle|^2 \sim R^*(i)X$$

**Theorem 2**  $E^{m,n}(z, s)$  converge absolutely in  $\Re(s) > 1$  and have meromorphic continuation to all of  $\mathbb{C}$ .

**Corollary 3**  $\langle \gamma, f \rangle = O_\epsilon((c^2 + d^2)^\epsilon)$ .

**Theorem 4** For  $1/2 < \Re(s) \leq 1$ ,  $z \in K$

$$E^{m,n}(z, s) \ll_{K,\sigma} t^{(6(m+n)-1)(1-\sigma)+\epsilon}$$

**Theorem 5**  $E^{2,0}(z, s)$  (involves  $\langle \gamma, f \rangle^2$ ) has simple pole at  $s = 1$  with residue

$$\frac{-4\pi^2(\int_{i\infty}^z f(\tau)d\tau)^2}{\text{vol}(\Gamma \setminus \mathbf{H})}$$

**Theorem 6**  $E^{1,1}(z, s)$  (involves  $|\langle \gamma, f \rangle|^2$ ) has double pole at  $s = 1$  with singular part

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{16\pi^2 \langle f, f \rangle}{\text{vol}(\Gamma \setminus \mathbf{H})^2 (s-1)^2} \\ & + \frac{4\pi^2}{\text{vol}(\Gamma \setminus \mathbf{H}) (s-1)} \left( \left| \int_{i\infty}^z f(\tau) d\tau \right|^2 \right. \\ & \left. + 4 \int_{\Gamma \setminus \mathbf{H}} (E_0(z') - r_0(z, z')) y'^2 |f(z')|^2 d\mu(z') \right) \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 7**

$$\sum_{|cz+d|^2 \leq X} \langle \gamma, f \rangle^2 = \frac{-4\pi^2 (\int_{i\infty}^z f(\tau) d\tau)^2}{y \text{vol}(\Gamma \setminus \mathbf{H})} X + O(X^{1-\epsilon})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{|cz+d|^2 \leq X} |\langle \gamma, f \rangle|^2 &= \frac{16\pi^2 \langle f, f \rangle}{y \text{vol}(\Gamma \setminus \mathbf{H})} X \log X \\ &+ O(X) \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 8**  $E^{m,m}(z, s)$  (involves  $|\langle \gamma, f \rangle|^{2m}$ ) has pole of order  $m + 1$  at  $s = 1$  with coefficient of  $(s - 1)^{-m-1}$  equal to

$$\frac{(16\pi^2)^m m!^2 ||f||^{2m}}{\text{vol}(\Gamma \setminus \mathbf{H})^{m+1}}.$$

**Theorem 9**  $E^{3,0}(z, s)$  (involves  $\langle \gamma, f \rangle^3$ ) has a simple pole at  $s = 1$  with residue

$$\frac{1}{\text{vol}(\Gamma \setminus \mathbf{H})} \left( 2\pi i \int_{i\infty}^z f(z) dz \right)^3,$$

while  $E^{2,1}(z, s)$  (involves  $|\langle \gamma, f \rangle|^2 \langle \gamma, f \rangle$ ) has a double pole with leading coefficient

$$\frac{32\pi^2}{\text{vol}(\Gamma \setminus \mathbf{H})^2} \left( 2\pi i \int_{i\infty}^z f(z) dz \right) ||f||^2.$$

**Eisenstein series with characters  $\chi_\epsilon$ .**

$$E_\epsilon(z, s) = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_\infty \setminus \Gamma} \chi_\epsilon(\gamma) \Im(\gamma z)^s$$

where

$$\chi_\epsilon(\gamma) = \exp(-2\pi i \epsilon \int_\tau^{\gamma\tau} f)$$

Idea (Petridis, 2002)

$$\frac{d}{d\epsilon} E_\epsilon(z, s)_{\epsilon=0} = E^{1,0}(z, s)$$

$$E_\epsilon(\gamma z, s) = \bar{\chi}_\epsilon(\gamma) E_\epsilon(z, s)$$

Perturbations of the Laplace operator:

$$U_\epsilon : L^2(\Gamma \setminus \mathbf{H}) \rightarrow L^2(\Gamma \setminus \mathbf{H}, \bar{\chi}_\epsilon)$$

$$(U_\epsilon h)(z) = \exp(2\pi i \epsilon \int_{i\infty}^z w) h(z)$$

$$\Delta : L^2(\Gamma \setminus \mathbf{H}, \bar{\chi}_\epsilon) \rightarrow L^2(\Gamma \setminus \mathbf{H}, \bar{\chi}_\epsilon)$$

$$L_\epsilon = U_\epsilon^{-1} \Delta U_\epsilon : L^2(\Gamma \setminus \mathbf{H}) \rightarrow L^2(\Gamma \setminus \mathbf{H})$$

History:

P. Sarnak: On cusp forms II, 1989: deformations in character varieties

Phillips-Sarnak condition:

$$L(f \otimes \phi_j, s_j + 1/2) \neq 0$$

destruction of cusp forms

R. Phillips+P. Sarnak 1992:

$$\Re(s_j^{(2)}) = -|L(f \otimes \phi_j, s_j + 1/2)|^2$$

Petridis (2000): perturbation of scattering poles for  $\Gamma_0(p)$ :

A positive proportion of scattering poles moves off the line  $\Re(s) = 1/4$ , if  $L(f, 1) \neq 0$ .

RH  $\Leftrightarrow$  scattering poles  $\Re(s) = 1/4$ .

**Theorem 10** (O'Sullivan 1998, Petridis 2002)

At a cuspidal eigenvalue  $s_j(1 - s_j)$  of  $\Delta$  with cusp forms  $\phi_l(z)$ ,  $l = 1, \dots, N$ ,  $E^{1,0}(z, s)$  has a simple pole with residue

$$\sum_{l=1}^N \frac{1}{\pi^{s_j}} L(f \otimes \phi_l, s_j + 1/2) \Gamma(s_j - 1/2) \phi_l(z).$$

**Remark 1** If the special values

$$L(f \otimes \phi_l, s_j + 1/2) = 0,$$

then there is no pole at  $s_j$  and the value of  $E^{1,0}(z, s)$  at  $s_j$  is

$$\sum_{l=1}^N L'(f \otimes \phi_l, s_j + 1/2) \phi_l(z) + \text{other terms}$$

(up to Gamma factors)

**Remark 2** For  $\Gamma_0(q)$  double pole of  $E^{1,0}(z, s)$  at  $s = s_0$ ,  $s_0 = \rho/2$ . Assume GRH, simplicity of zeros.

Coefficient of  $(s - s_0)^{-2}$ :

Gamma factors  $\cdot L(f, 1)L(f, 2 - 2s_0)$

If  $L(f, 1) = 0$ , then residue is

junk  $\cdot L'(f, 1)L(2 - 2s_0) + \text{other terms}$

$$E_\epsilon(z, s) = U_\epsilon D(z, s, \epsilon)$$

$$(\Delta + s(1 - s))E_\epsilon(z, s) = 0$$

gives

$$(L_\epsilon + s(1 - s))D(z, s, \epsilon) = 0$$

Differentiate:

$$\dot{L}D(z, s, 0) + (\Delta + s(1 - s))\dot{D}(z, s, 0) = 0$$

$$\dot{D}(z, s, 0) = -R(s)(\dot{L}E(z, s))$$

where

$$R(s) = (\Delta + s(1 - s))^{-1}$$

automorphic resolvent of  $\Delta$ .

## Growth on vertical lines

$$\phi(s) = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}\Gamma(s - 1/2)}{\Gamma(s)} ab^{1-2s} L(s)$$

$$L(s) = 1 + \sum_j \frac{a_j}{l_j^s}, \quad l_j > 1$$

Phragmén-Lindelöf on  $E(z, s)/L(s)$

$$\dot{D}(z, s) = -R(s)(\dot{L}E(z, s))$$

$$\|R(z)\|_{\infty} \leq \frac{1}{\text{dist}(z, \text{Spec } A)}$$

Sobolev imbedding.

## Questions:

Cocompact (quaternion) groups  $\Gamma$ .

Risager: Hyperbolic Eisenstein series around  $\gamma$ , gets Gauss distribution if

$$\int_{\gamma} f = 0$$

Eisenstein series twisted by period polynomials of cusp forms of weight  $k > 2$ .

Higher-rank:  $SL_n(\mathbf{R})$  (Goldfeld-Gunnells).