

**Felder-Varchenko modular forms
and the arithmetic of cubic number fields.
(on Eiseinstein's Jugendtraum)**

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CNTA XV, Université Laval, Québec, 13 juillet 2018.

A long quest for new kinds of elliptic functions

Elliptic functions are meromorphic functions with poles located on a period lattice $\omega_1\mathbb{Z} + \omega_2\mathbb{Z}$, e.g.

$$E_k(\omega, z) = \sum_{a,b \in \mathbb{Z}^2} \frac{1}{(a\omega_1 + b\omega_2 + z)^k}.$$

Beyond $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$... $SL_3(\mathbb{Z})$?

Obstruction : It's been long known that there are no meromorphic functions with 3 lin. independent periods. Period.

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A long quest for setting others than $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$



21 years old G. Eisenstein (1844) observes :

$$\sum_{a,b,c \in \mathbb{Z}^3} \frac{1}{(a\omega_1 + b\omega_2 + c\omega_3 + z)^k} \text{ diverges.}$$

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$\sum_{a,b,c \in \mathbb{Z}^3} \frac{1}{(aw_1 + bw_2 + cw_3 + z)^k}$ diverges. **He suggests :**

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$\sum_{a,b,c \in \mathbb{Z}^3} \frac{1}{(a\omega_1 + b\omega_2 + c\omega_3 + z)^k}$ diverges. **He suggests :**

"However no such inconvenience arises if we impose some restrictions on the summation indices such as inequalities conditions....

... There is a large class of such functions that is closely connected to Number Theory.... These functions possess very remarkable properties; they lead to the most beautiful researches, and seem to lie at the crossroads where the most difficult parts of analysis and number theory meet."

A long quest for setting others than $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$

three remarks :

- Eisenstein actually emphasized on **infinite products**, considering infinite series as a secondary issue.
 - Historical aside :
G. Eisenstein (1823-1852), and
L. Kronecker (1823-1891) were students and friends in Berlin.
 - This 1844 paper of Eisenstein has been mocked by Jacobi, and subsequently has been largely ignored (quoted less than 10 times in the next 150 years). **It certainly deserves to be re-evaluated.**
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- **Our aim** : armed with this predictive (and cryptic) assertion of Eisenstein, we want to revisit some intriguing identities discovered by Felder-Varchenko (2005) in connection with the KZB Heat equation, and to merge them with Number Theory.

Definition

(Felder-Varchenko, 2005). For $\tau, \sigma \in \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{H}$, $k \geq 0$, $q = \mathbf{e}(\tau)$, $r = \mathbf{e}(\sigma)$, they consider

$$\begin{aligned} F_k(\tau, \sigma) &= (2\pi i)^k \sum_{n \geq 1} n^{k-1} \frac{q^n - (-1)^k r^n}{(1 - q^n)(1 - r^n)} \\ &= \left(\sum_{a \in \mathbb{Z}, b, c > 0} - \sum_{a \in \mathbb{Z}, b, c < 0} + \text{bdary} \right) \frac{1}{(a + b\tau + c\sigma)^k}, \end{aligned}$$

where the last line (an observation of Zagier) only holds for odd $k \geq 5$. "bdary" means a contribution $a \in \mathbb{Z}$, $b = 0$, $0 \neq c \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $b \leftrightarrow c$.

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Theorem

(F.V.) If $\tau, \sigma, \frac{\sigma}{\tau} \in \mathcal{H}$, then

$$F_k(\tau, \sigma) - \tau^{-k} F_k\left(-\frac{1}{\tau}, \frac{\sigma}{\tau}\right) + (-\sigma)^{-k} F_k\left(-\frac{\tau}{\sigma}, -\frac{1}{\sigma}\right) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } k \geq 4, \\ i\pi P_k \in i\pi\mathbb{Q}(\tau, \sigma), & k = 1, 2, 3 \end{cases}$$

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What is going on here ?

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This identity is reminiscent of the more familiar (k even)

$$\begin{aligned} E_k(\tau) &:= 2\zeta(k) + \frac{(2\pi i)^k}{(k-1)!} \sum_{n \geq 1} n^{k-1} \frac{q^n}{(1-q^n)} \\ &= \text{boundary} + \sum_{a \in \mathbb{Z}, b > 0} \frac{1}{(a + b\tau)^k}, \end{aligned}$$

which satisfies

$$E_k(\tau) - \tau^{-k} E_k\left(-\frac{1}{\tau}\right) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } k \geq 4 \text{ (i.e. Eisenstein series are modular),} \\ i\pi P_k, P_k \in \mathbb{Q}(\tau) & \text{if the weight is 2.} \end{cases}$$

An improved Felder-Varchenko identity

For $\tau, \sigma, \frac{\sigma}{\tau} \in \mathcal{H}$, $F_k(\tau, \sigma) = \text{cst.} \sum_{n \geq 1} n^{k-1} \frac{q^n - (-1)^k r^n}{(1-q^n)(1-r^n)}$:

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while

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$$E_k(\tau) - \tau^{-k} E_k\left(-\frac{1}{\tau}\right) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } k \geq 4 \text{ (modular)}, \\ i\pi P_k, P_k \in \mathbb{Q}(\tau) & \text{if } k=2 \text{ (almost modular)}. \end{cases}$$

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key insight : go further down in the weight parameter (and keep your eyes open for help from Great Masters of the past).

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An improved Felder-Varchenko identity

Theorem

(P.C.)

For $\tau, \sigma, \frac{\sigma}{\tau} \in \mathcal{H}$, $F_k(\tau, \sigma) = \text{cst.} \sum_{n \geq 1} n^{k-1} \frac{q^n - (-1)^k r^n}{(1-q^n)(1-r^n)}$:

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Interpretation as cocycle relations for $SL_2(\mathbb{Z}), SL_3(\mathbb{Z})$.

Rewrite

$$F_k(\tau, \sigma) - \tau^{-k} F_k\left(-\frac{1}{\tau}, \frac{\sigma}{\tau}\right) + (-\sigma)^{-k} F_k\left(-\frac{\tau}{\sigma}, -\frac{1}{\sigma}\right) = i\pi P_k \in i\pi\mathbb{Q}(\tau, \sigma), k \leq 0$$

as

$$F_{e_1, e_2}^k(\tau, \sigma) - F_{e_1, e_3}^k(\tau, \sigma) + F_{e_2, e_3}^k(\tau, \sigma) = i\pi P_{e_1, e_2, e_3}^k(\tau, \sigma) \in i\pi\mathbb{Q}(\tau, \sigma),$$

where $e_1 = (1, 0, 0)$, $e_2 = (0, 1, 0)$, $e_3 = (0, 0, 1)$ stand for the canonical basis of \mathbb{Z}^3 ,

while $E_k(\tau) = \text{cst.} \sum_{n \geq 1} n^{k-1} \frac{q^n}{(1-q^n)}$ satisfies

$$E_k(\tau) - \tau^{-k} E_k\left(-\frac{1}{\tau}\right) = E_k - E_k | S = i\pi P^k(S)(\tau).$$

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and more generally

$$E_k | (\text{Id} - A) = i\pi P(A)(\tau), \text{ any } A \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z}).$$

Interpretation as cocycle relations for $SL_2(\mathbb{Z}), SL_3(\mathbb{Z})$.

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while

$$E_k \mid (\text{Id} - A) = i\pi P(A)(\tau) \in \mathbb{Q}(\tau), \text{ any } A \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z}),$$

which implies that the period " polynomials " satisfy

$$P(AB)(\tau) = P(A)(B\tau) + P(B)(\tau).$$

Consequence :

$A \mapsto P(A)(\tau)$ is a 1-cocycle for $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$.

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The cohomology class attached to this 1-cocycle is non trivial : let F/\mathbb{Q} be a real quadratic field. The fundamental unit ϵ_F acts on $\mathcal{O}_F = \omega_1\mathbb{Z} + \omega_2\mathbb{Z}$, providing us with a cycle A_F to pair with our 1-cocycle :

$$\langle P_k, A_F \rangle = \zeta_F(1 - k) \in \mathbb{Q}^\times. \text{ (Meyer-Klingen-Siegel).}$$

It is also a major tool for p -adic works : Darmon-Dasgupta, Chapdelaine.

Interpretation as cocycle relations for $SL_2(\mathbb{Z}), SL_3(\mathbb{Z})$.

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Theorem

(P.C.) there is a collection of homog. degree k merom. functions $F_{a,b}^k(x)$, defined for x in certain open subsets of $\mathbb{CP}^2 - \mathbb{RP}^2$ and indexed by pairs (a, b) of primitive vectors in \mathbb{Z}^3 , that satisfy $\forall g \in SL_3(\mathbb{Z})$

$$F_{ga, gb}^k(gx) = F_{a,b}^k(x), \text{ and}$$

$$F_{a,b}^k(\tau, \sigma) - F_{a,c}^k(\tau, \sigma) + F_{b,c}^k(\tau, \sigma) = i\pi P_{a,b,c}^k(\tau, \sigma) \in i\pi\mathbb{Q}(\tau, \sigma).$$

reminder :

$$E_k | (\text{Id} - A) = i\pi P(A)(\tau) \in \mathbb{Q}(\tau), \text{ any } A \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z}),$$

(which can also be formally recasted as

$$E_{e_1}^k - E_{Ae_1}^k = i\pi P_{e_1, Ae_1}(\tau) \in \mathbb{Q}(\tau), \text{ any } A \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z}).$$

Our favourite 2-cocycle for $SL_3(\mathbb{Z})$.

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Consequence :

$(a, b, c) \mapsto P_{a,b,c}^k \in \mathbb{Q}(x_1, x_2, x_3)$ is a homog. 2-cocycle for $SL_3(\mathbb{Z})$.

- **Q** : What is this 2-cocycle ? Is it trivial ?

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Proof.

The cocycles all match up using explicit formulas. The non-triviality also follows from [CDG2015] : if F/\mathbb{Q} is cubic and tot. real, then 2 fund. units of F act on \mathcal{O}_F , and give rise to a 2-cycle in homology. Conclude invoking Shintani : $\langle P^k, C_F \rangle = \zeta_F(1 - k) \in \mathbb{Q}^\times$.

Eisenstein cocycle on $SL_n(\mathbb{Z})$ Hall of Fame.



Samit Dasgupta



Matthew Greenberg
Robert Sczech



Let F/\mathbb{Q} be a complex cubic field. The unit group $U_F = \pm \langle \epsilon_F \rangle$ has rank 1 and acts on $\mathcal{O}_F = \omega_1\mathbb{Z} + \omega_2\mathbb{Z} + \omega_3\mathbb{Z}$, and as such gives rise to a 1-cycle in the homology of $SL_3(\mathbb{Z})$.

It is very tempting to make a conjecture about the algebraicity of the F_{ab} evaluated on this 1-cycle. By lack of numerical evidence at this early stage, I'll be cautious and will not make any precise claim yet. Avoiding any ridicule.

Thanks, references, and advertisement for related work-in-progress:

- "Euler classes transgressions and Eisenstein cohom. of $GL_n(\mathbb{Z})$." joint with Nicolas Bergeron, Luis Garcia and Akshay Venkatesh.



- Takagi Lectures by N. Bergeron (incl. 55p. notes + video).
- see also his IAS video March 2018.
- technicalities involved : similar to yesterday's talk by S. Sankaran
- talk this afternoon by H. Darmon.

