

The Subconvexity Problem for L-functions

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L-functions

Riemann zeta function

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s} = \prod_{p \text{ prime}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^s}\right)^{-1}$$

- ▶ Analytic continuation (simple pole at $s = 1$)

$$\zeta : \mathbb{C} - \{1\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

- ▶ Functional equation

$$\xi(s) := \pi^{-\frac{s}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{s}{2}\right) \zeta(s) = \xi(1-s)$$

$$\Gamma\text{-factor } \Gamma_{\mathbb{R}}(s) = \pi^{-\frac{s}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{s}{2}\right)$$

Dirichlet L -function $L(s, \chi)$

$$\chi \in \text{Hom}((\mathbb{Z}/M\mathbb{Z})^*, \mathbb{C}^*)$$

$$L(s, \chi) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\chi(n)}{n^s} = \prod_{p \text{ prime}} \left(1 - \frac{\chi(p)}{p^s}\right)^{-1}$$

Note $\chi(p) = 0$ for $p|M$

- ▶ Conv. abs. for $\sigma > 1$, and extends to an entire function
- ▶ For $a = \chi(-1)$, $\omega_\chi = i^{-a} G(\chi) / \sqrt{M}$

$$\Lambda(s, \chi) := M^{\frac{s}{2}} \Gamma_{\mathbb{R}}(s + a) L(s, \chi) = \omega_\chi \Lambda(1 - s, \bar{\chi})$$

- ▶ $L_p(s, \chi)^{-1} = 1 - \chi(p)p^{-s}$ degree one in p^{-s}

Discriminant modular form

Set $q = e(z) = e^{2\pi iz}$, $z \in \mathbb{H}$

$$\Delta(z) = q \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^n)^{24} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \tau(n) q^n$$

One has

$$\Delta\left(\frac{az + b}{cz + d}\right) = (cz + d)^{12} \Delta(z), \quad \text{for all } \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z}).$$

Δ is a modular form (cuspform) of weight 12, level 1

Ramanujan Conjectures:

- ▶ $\tau(mn) = \tau(m)\tau(n)$ for $(m, n) = 1$
- ▶ $\tau(p^{r+1}) = \tau(p)\tau(p^r) - p^{11}\tau(p^{r-1})$
- ▶ $|\tau(p)| < 2p^{\frac{11}{2}}$

Hecke L -function $L(s, \Delta)$

Set $\tau_0(n) = \tau(n)/n^{\frac{11}{2}}$

$$L(s, \Delta) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\tau_0(n)}{n^s} = \prod_{p \text{ prime}} \left(1 - \frac{\tau_0(p)}{p^s} + \frac{1}{p^{2s}} \right)^{-1}$$

- ▶ Conv. abs. for $\sigma > 1$, and extends to an entire function
- ▶ Functional equation

$$\Lambda(s, \Delta) := (1/2\pi)^s \Gamma(s + \frac{11}{2}) L(s, \Delta) = \Lambda(1 - s, \Delta)$$

- ▶ $L_p(s, \Delta)^{-1} = 1 - \tau_0(p)p^{-s} + p^{-2s}$ degree 2 in p^{-s}

Convolution

$$L(s, f_i) = \prod_p \left(1 - \frac{\alpha_i(p)}{p^s}\right)^{-1} \left(1 - \frac{\beta_i(p)}{p^s}\right)^{-1}, \quad i = 1, 2$$

- ▶ **(Twists)** $\chi \bmod M$ primitive $L(s, f_1 \otimes \chi) = \prod_p L_p(s, f_1 \otimes \chi)$

$$L_p(s, f_1 \otimes \chi)^{-1} = \left(1 - \frac{\alpha_1(p)\chi(p)}{p^s}\right) \left(1 - \frac{\beta_1(p)\chi(p)}{p^s}\right)$$

- ▶ **(Rankin-Selberg)** $L(s, f_1 \otimes f_2)$

$$\left(1 - \frac{\alpha_1(p)\alpha_2(p)}{p^s}\right) \left(1 - \frac{\beta_1(p)\alpha_2(p)}{p^s}\right) \left(1 - \frac{\alpha_1(p)\beta_2(p)}{p^s}\right) \left(1 - \frac{\beta_1(p)\beta_2(p)}{p^s}\right)$$

- ▶ **(Symmetric Square)** $L(s, \text{Sym}^2 f_1)$

$$\left(1 - \frac{\alpha_1(p)^2}{p^s}\right) \left(1 - \frac{\alpha_1(p)\beta_1(p)}{p^s}\right) \left(1 - \frac{\beta_1(p)^2}{p^s}\right)$$

Automorphic L -function $L(s, \pi)$

Let π be an automorphic form for $GL_d(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$. Then $\pi = \otimes_p \pi_p$, and we define

$$L(s, \pi) = \prod_{p \text{ prime}} L_p(s, \pi) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda_{\pi}(n)}{n^s}$$

with

$$L_p(s, \pi) = L(s, \pi_p) = \prod_{i=1}^d (1 - \alpha_i(p) p^{-s})^{-1}.$$

The local factor at infinity is defined as

$$L(s, \pi_{\infty}) = \prod_{i=1}^d \Gamma_{\mathbb{R}}(s - \mu_i)$$

- ▶ Conv. abs. for $\sigma > \sigma_0$ and extends to an entire function
- ▶ Functional equation

$$\Lambda(s, \pi) := q_\pi^{s/2} L(s, \pi_\infty) L(s, \pi) = \omega_\pi \Lambda(1 - s, \tilde{\pi})$$

for some $q_\pi \in \mathbb{N}$, $|\omega_\pi| = 1$ (Godement-Jacquet)

- ▶ $L(s, \text{Sym}^2 f) \rightsquigarrow GL(3)$ (Gelbart-Jacquet)
- ▶ $L(s, f \otimes g) \rightsquigarrow GL(4)$ (Ramakrishnan)

Main Conjectures

Grand Riemann Hypothesis

All non-trivial zeros of $L(s, \pi)$ are on the central line

$$\frac{1}{2} + it$$

Generalised Lindelöf Hypothesis

Analytic conductor:

$$C(\pi, t) = q_\pi \prod_{i=1}^d (1 + |\mu_i + it|) \rightarrow \begin{cases} q_\pi & \text{level} \\ t^d & t \\ \Lambda_\pi = \prod \mu_i & \text{spectral} \end{cases}$$

GRH \implies For any $\varepsilon > 0$ one has

$$|L(\frac{1}{2} + it, \pi)| \leq c(\varepsilon) C(\pi, t)^\varepsilon$$

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GRH \implies For any $\varepsilon > 0$ one has

$$L\left(\frac{1}{2} + it, \pi\right) \ll C(\pi, t)^\varepsilon.$$

The Subconvexity Problem

Convexity bound

Functional equation + Phragmen-Lindelöf principle \implies

$$L\left(\frac{1}{2} + it, \pi\right) \ll C(\pi, t)^{\frac{1}{4} + \varepsilon}.$$

The Subconvexity Problem

To establish a bound of the form (with $\delta > 0$)

$$L\left(\frac{1}{2} + it, \pi\right) \ll C(\pi, t)^{\frac{1}{4} - \delta}.$$

We can also formulate the problem w.r.t. each parameters separately (level aspect q_π , t -aspect, depth aspect μ_i)

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The Subconvexity Problem

To establish a bound of the form (with $\delta > 0$)

$$L\left(\frac{1}{2} + it, \pi\right) \ll \Lambda_{\pi}^{\frac{1}{4} - \delta}.$$

We can also formulate the problem w.r.t. each parameters separately (t -aspect, level aspect q_{π} , depth aspect μ_i)

Applications

Application - 1 : Hilbert's 11th Problem

Asks which integers are represented by a given n -ary quadratic form Q over a number field F . Siegel's Mass formula is the key in most cases, except when Q is +ve definite ternary form. The answer follows from subconvexity of $L(\frac{1}{2}, \pi \otimes \chi)$ where π is fixed $GL_2(\mathbb{A}_F)$ form. (Duke-Schulze-Pillot (1990) for $F = \mathbb{Q}$, Cogdell-Piatetski-Shapiro-Sarnak for F totally real.)

Application - 2 : Linnik's Problem

Equidistribution of points on the sphere/ellipsoid

Application - 3 : Equidistribution of Heegner Points

Follows from subconvexity of the Rankin-Selberg $L(\frac{1}{2} + it, f \otimes g)$. (Michel et al (2002-2006))

Application - 4 : Quantum Unique Ergodicity

Projection map $P_q : X_0(q) \rightarrow X_0(1)$. Let $f \in S_2(q)$, then

$$\mu_f(z) = \frac{|f(z)|^2}{\langle f, f \rangle} dx dy$$

is a prob measure on $X_0(q)$. Let μ_f^* be its pushforward to $X_0(1)$.

QUE conjecture:

$$\mu_f^* \xrightarrow{W} \frac{1}{\text{vol}(X_0(1))} \frac{dx dy}{y^2}.$$

Follows from subconvexity of $L(\frac{1}{2}, \text{Sym}^2 f)$ & $L(\frac{1}{2}, \text{Sym}^2 f \otimes g)$.

Degree one L -functions

- ▶ How does one estimate the size on the central line?
- ▶ Functional equation \implies

$$\zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + it\right) \ll t^\varepsilon \sup_{t^\theta < N \ll t^{\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon}} \frac{|S(N)|}{\sqrt{N}} + t^{\theta/2}$$

with

$$S(N) = \sum_{N \leq n < 2N} n^{it} = \sum_{N \leq n < 2N} e(it \log n / 2\pi)$$

- ▶ Exponential sums: Weyl, van der Corput (exponent pairs), Vinogradov, Bombieri-Iwaniec
- ▶ Weyl-Hardy-Littlewood (1920): $\zeta(1/2 + it) \ll t^{1/6 + \varepsilon}$
... after 98 years we have $1/6 - 1/84 + \varepsilon$ (Bourgain).

- ▶ For $L(s, \chi)$: Functional equation \implies

$$L\left(\frac{1}{2}, \chi\right) \rightsquigarrow S(N) = \sum_{N \leq n < 2N} \chi(n)$$

with $M^\theta < N \ll M^{\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon}$ (short character sums)

- ▶ Complete sum (Burgess' ingenious method)

$$S(N) \rightsquigarrow \sum_{x \bmod M} \chi((x+a)(x+b)\overline{(x+c)(x+d)})$$

where we have Weil bound (RH for curves)

- ▶ Burgess (1962): $\chi \bmod M$ (primitive)

$$L\left(\frac{1}{2}, \chi\right) \ll M^{\frac{3}{16} + \varepsilon}.$$

Moment Method

- ▶ Start with the inequality

$$\zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + it\right)^2 \ll \int_{t-G}^{t+G} |\zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + i\tau\right)|^2 d\tau = \int_0^{t+G} - \int_0^{t-G}$$

- ▶ Define

$$M_2(T) := \int_0^T |\zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + i\tau\right)|^2 d\tau$$

- ▶ $M_2(T) = TP_1(\log T) + E(T)$ with $E(T) \rightsquigarrow$ exp. sum
- ▶ The leading term of $(M_2(t+G) - M_2(t-G))$ is G
- ▶ For (k, ℓ) exponent pair $E(T) \ll T^{\frac{k+\ell}{2+2k} + \varepsilon}$
Easy exponent pair $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ yields $E(T) \ll T^{\frac{1}{3} + \varepsilon} \implies$ Weyl bound

Degree two L -functions

- ▶ Good (1982): f Hecke-cusp form of full level

$$M_2(T) := \int_0^T |L(\frac{1}{2} + i\tau, f)|^2 d\tau = TQ_1(\log T) + E(T)$$

with

$$E(T) \ll T^{\frac{2}{3} + \varepsilon}.$$

- ▶ It follows that

$$L(\frac{1}{2} + it, f) \ll t^{\frac{1}{3} + \varepsilon}$$

- ▶ $E(T) \rightsquigarrow \sum_n \lambda_f(n)\lambda_f(n+h)(n+h)^{-s}$ which is treated using spectral theory of the Laplacian
- ▶ Jutila: Treatment based on the Voronoi summation formula also yielding Weyl exponent

Moment Method

Subconvexity for $L(\frac{1}{2}, \pi_0)$: Get a 'family' \mathcal{F} with $\pi_0 \in \mathcal{F}$. Estimate

$$M(\mathcal{F}) := \sum_{\pi \in \mathcal{F}} |L(\frac{1}{2}, \pi)|^2.$$

Positivity $\implies L(\frac{1}{2}, \pi_0) \ll M(\mathcal{F})^{\frac{1}{2}}$. At best we have $M(\mathcal{F}) \asymp |\mathcal{F}|$.

So for subconvexity we need $|\mathcal{F}| \ll q_{\pi_0}^{\frac{1}{2}-\delta}$.

On the other hand we need \mathcal{F} big enough for orthogonality

$$\sum_{\pi \in \mathcal{F}} \lambda_{\pi}(n) \overline{\lambda_{\pi}(m)} = \begin{cases} |\mathcal{F}| & \text{if } n = m \\ \text{'small \& explicit'} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Amplification technique

'Often' it happens that $|\mathcal{F}| = q^{\frac{1}{2}}_{\pi_0}$. Then consider the amplified moment

$$M(\mathcal{F}) := \sum_{\pi \in \mathcal{F}} |L(\frac{1}{2}, \pi)|^2 |\mathcal{A}_\pi|^2.$$

The weights are chosen so that \mathcal{A}_{π_0} is larger than the average size of \mathcal{A}_π .

- ▶ For t aspect or depth aspect: one amplifies by shortening the 'length of sum'
- ▶ For level aspect: one needs to use some sort of arithmetic

Example:

f : Hecke cuspform of level one, $\chi_0 \bmod M$ primitive character.
Then $f \otimes \chi_0 \in S_k(M^2, \chi_0^2)$ is a Hecke cuspform.

Convexity bound: $L(\frac{1}{2}, f \otimes \chi_0) \ll M^{\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon}$.

Natural 'Family' $\mathcal{F} = \{L(\frac{1}{2}, f \otimes \chi) : \chi \bmod M\}$, with $|\mathcal{F}| = M$.
Duke-Friedlander-Iwaniec:

$$M(\mathcal{F}) := \sum_{\chi \bmod M} |L(\frac{1}{2}, f \otimes \chi)|^2 |\mathcal{A}_\chi|^2,$$

with

$$\mathcal{A}_\chi = \sum_{\ell \sim L} \bar{\chi}_0(\ell) \chi(\ell).$$

They established $L(\frac{1}{2}, f \otimes \chi_0) \ll M^{\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{22}+\varepsilon}$.

Results obtained via amplification method

Authors	Case
Friedlander-Iwaniec (1992)	$L(\frac{1}{2}, \chi)$
Iwaniec (1992) (conditional)	spectral aspect $L(\frac{1}{2}, f)$
DFI (1993), Blomer-Harcos (2008)	$L(\frac{1}{2}, f \otimes \chi)$
DFI (1994-2001)	level aspect $L(\frac{1}{2}, f)$
Sarnak (2001), Lau-Liu-Ye (2006)	weight aspect $L(\frac{1}{2}, f \otimes g)$
Kowalski-Michel-Vanderkam (2002) Michel(2004), Harcos-Michel(2006)	level aspect $L(\frac{1}{2}, f \otimes g)$

Period Approach

Michel-Venkatesh (2010) established:

$$L\left(\frac{1}{2}, \pi_1\right) \ll C(\pi_1)^{\frac{1}{4}-\delta}$$

and

$$L\left(\frac{1}{2}, \pi_1 \otimes \pi_2\right) \ll_{\pi_2} C(\pi_1, \pi_2)^{\frac{1}{4}-\delta}$$

for π_1 and π_2 automorphic forms for $GL_2(\mathbb{A}_F)$ over number field F .

- ▶ δ can be computed.
- ▶ Amplification plays a role.

Degree three L -functions

Conrey-Iwaniec (2000)

For χ mod M quadratic

$$L\left(\frac{1}{2}, \chi\right) \ll M^{\frac{1}{6}+\varepsilon}.$$

This follows from estimation of cubic moment

$$\sum_{|t_j| < R} L\left(\frac{1}{2}, f_j \otimes \chi\right)^3 + \int_{-R}^R |L\left(\frac{1}{2} + ir, \chi\right)|^6 dr.$$

Crucial input $L\left(\frac{1}{2}, f \otimes \chi\right) \geq 0$.

- ▶ Li (2011) extends this to establish $L\left(\frac{1}{2} + it, \text{Sym}^2 f\right) \ll t^{\frac{11}{16}+\varepsilon}$
- ▶ Blomer (2012): $L\left(\frac{1}{2}, \text{Sym}^2 f \otimes \chi\right) \ll M^{\frac{5}{8}+\varepsilon}$, for χ quadratic.

Theorem 1. (M)

Let π be a $SL_3(\mathbb{Z})$ Hecke-Maass cusp form. Then

$$L\left(\frac{1}{2} + it, \pi\right) \ll t^{\frac{11}{16} + \varepsilon}.$$

Theorem 2. (M)

π a $SL_3(\mathbb{Z})$ Hecke-Maass cusp form, $\chi \bmod M$ primitive. Then

$$L\left(\frac{1}{2}, \pi \otimes \chi\right) \ll M^{\frac{3}{4} - \delta}.$$

New Approach

- ▶ Functional equation \implies

$$L\left(\frac{1}{2} + it, \pi\right) \rightsquigarrow S(N) = \sum_{n \sim N} \lambda_{\pi}(n) n^{it}$$

with $N \asymp t^{3/2} = \sqrt{\text{conductor}}$

- ▶ **Separation of oscillation:**

$$S(N) = \sum_{n, m \sim N} \lambda_{\pi}(n) m^{it} \delta(n, m)$$

- ▶ **Circle Method:** To detect event $n = m$

$$\delta(n, m) = 2\text{Re} \int_0^1 \sum_{\substack{1 \leq c \leq C \\ (a,c)=1}} \sum_{\substack{C < a \leq C+c}} \frac{1}{ac} e\left(\frac{\bar{a}(n-m)}{c}\right) e\left(\frac{x(n-m)}{ac}\right)$$

- ▶ The magnitude of analytic oscillation $D = N/C^2$

- ▶ If $C = \sqrt{N}$ (minimize CD) then essentially

$$S(N) \rightsquigarrow \sum_{\substack{1 \leq c \leq C \\ (a,c)=1}} \sum_{C < a \leq C+c} \frac{1}{ac} \sum_{n \sim N} \lambda_{\pi}(n) e\left(\frac{\bar{a}n}{c}\right) \sum_{m \sim N} m^{it} e\left(-\frac{\bar{a}m}{c}\right)$$



$$\langle \{\lambda_{\pi}(n)\}, \{n^{it}\} \rangle \rightsquigarrow \sum_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{B}} \langle \{\lambda_{\pi}(n)\}, \{\mathbf{v}_n\} \rangle \langle \{\mathbf{v}_n\}, \{n^{it}\} \rangle$$

- ▶ **Summation Formula:** Apply Poisson summation and $GL(3)$ Voronoi summation formula
- ▶ **Cauchy Inequality + Poisson:** Apply Cauchy to get rid of Fourier coefficients/break involution, followed by Poisson

Conductor lowering

Direct application of circle method does not work. One needs to synchronize the harmonics to lower the conductor. This is a crucial ingredient

Instead of picking $C = \sqrt{\text{size of eqn}} = N^{1/2}$, we pick $C = N^{1/2-\theta}$ as the analytic oscillation m^{it} is already present.

'Triple Kloosterman refinement'

We obtain cancellation in the sum over a, c (on average) and the integral over x .

$GL(2)$ δ -method

Kloosterman's formula, δ method of Duke-Friedlander-Iwaniec & Heath-Brown, involve only trigonometric func. ($GL(1)$ harmonics)

Petersson Formula

$$\sum_{f \in H_k(q, \psi)} w_f^{-1} \lambda_f(n) \overline{\lambda_f(m)} = \delta(n, m) + 2\pi i^{-k} \sum_{c=1}^{\infty} \frac{S_{\psi}(m, n; cq)}{cq} J_{k-1} \left(\frac{4\pi \sqrt{nm}}{cq} \right)$$

Taking average over $\psi \pmod q$, $q \in \mathcal{Q}$, $k \sim K$:

$$\delta(n, m) = \{GL(1) \text{ harmonics}\} + \{GL(2) \text{ Fourier coeff.}\}$$

$$\{GL(1)\} \rightsquigarrow \sum_{q \sim Q} \sum_{c < C = N/QK^2} \sum_{a \pmod c} e\left(\frac{(a-1)m\bar{q} + (\bar{a}-1)n\bar{q}}{c}\right) \\ \times e\left(\frac{(\sqrt{m} - \sqrt{n})^2}{cq}\right)$$

- ▶ The q sum takes the place of x integral
- ▶ Subconvexity of $L(1/2, \pi \otimes \chi)$ follows from this form of δ -method
- ▶ Again a conductor lowering mechanism is required. This is achieved by taking $f \in H_k(qM, \psi)$ in the circle method, where $\chi \pmod M$

Further Results via $GL(2)$ δ -method

Theorem 3. (M.)

For f a Hecke cuspform of level M

$$L\left(\frac{1}{2}, \text{Sym}^2 f\right) \ll M^{\frac{1}{2}-\delta}$$

Theorem 4. (M.& Nelson)

Arithmetic QUE

Theorem 5. (M.)

Burgess bound for $GL(1)$ and $GL(2)$:

$$L\left(\frac{1}{2}, \chi\right) \ll M^{\frac{3}{16}+\varepsilon} \quad \& \quad L\left(\frac{1}{2}, f \otimes \chi\right) \ll M^{\frac{3}{8}+\varepsilon}$$

Theorem 6. (M.)

Sub-Weyl for $GL(2)$:

$$L\left(\frac{1}{2} + it, f\right) \ll t^{\frac{1}{3}-\delta}$$

Remarks

- 1) 'Conductor drop' is a bad news for amplification technique but is a goods new for circle method.
- 2) Holowinsky-Nelson simplification bypasses the $GL(2)$ δ -method in some instances.

What Lies Ahead?

Correlation

This method can be applied to any sums of the form

$$\sum_{n \sim N} A(n)B(n)$$

where at least one of $\{A(n)\}$, $\{B(n)\}$ is 'automorphic'.

- ▶ $\sum_{n \leq x} d(n)e(a\sqrt{nx^3})$: error term in the second moment of $\zeta(s)$ & the Dirichlet divisor problem.
- ▶ $\sum_{n \leq x} \lambda_f(n)e(a\sqrt{nx^3})$: Voronoi barrier $\sum_{n \leq x} \lambda_f(n) \ll x^{\frac{1}{3}+\varepsilon}$
- ▶ $\sum_{n \leq x} \lambda_\pi(n)e(an^{2/3}) \ll x^{\frac{5}{6}-\varepsilon}$: Hardy's thm for $L(s, \text{Sym}^2 f)$

Thank You!