

Introduction to  $L$ -functions:  
The Artin Cliffhanger...



# Artin L-functions

- Let  $K/k$  be a Galois extension of number fields,  $V$  a finite-dimensional  $\mathbb{C}$ -vector space and  $(\rho, V)$  be a representation of  $\text{Gal}(K/k)$ .
- (unramified) If  $\mathfrak{p} \subset k$  is unramified in  $K$  and  $\mathfrak{p} \subset \mathfrak{P} \subset K$ , put

$$L_{\mathfrak{p}}(s, \rho) = \det^{-1} (I_V - N_{k/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathfrak{p})^{-s} \rho(\sigma_{\mathfrak{P}})) .$$

Depends only on conjugacy class of  $\sigma_{\mathfrak{P}}$  (i.e., only on  $\mathfrak{p}$ ), not on  $\mathfrak{P}$ .

- (general) If  $G$  acts on  $V$  and  $H$  subgroup of  $G$ , then

$$V^H = \{v \in V : h(v) = v, \forall h \in H\} .$$

With  $\rho|_{V^H} : \text{Gal}(K/k) \rightarrow GL(V^H)$ .

$$L_{\mathfrak{p}}(s, \rho) = \det^{-1} (I - N_{k/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathfrak{p})^{-s} \rho|_{V^H}(\sigma_{\mathfrak{P}})) .$$

## Definition

For  $\text{Re}(s) > 1$ , the **Artin L-function** belonging to  $\rho$  is defined by

$$L(s, \rho) = \prod_{\mathfrak{p} \subset k} L_{\mathfrak{p}}(s, \rho) .$$

# Artin's Conjecture

## Conjecture (Artin's Conjecture)

*If  $\rho$  is a non-trivial irreducible representation, then  $L(s, \rho)$  has an analytic continuation to the whole complex plane.*

- We can prove meromorphic.
- Proof.
  - (1) Use Brauer's Theorem:

$$\chi = \sum_i n_i \text{Ind}(\chi_i),$$

with  $\chi_i$  one-dimensional characters of subgroups and  $n_i \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

- (2) Use Properties (4) and (5).
- (3)  $L(s, \chi_i)$  is meromorphic (Hecke L-function).

# Introduction to $L$ -functions: Hasse-Weil $L$ -functions

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# A “formal” zeta function

- Let  $N_m$ ,  $m = 1, 2, \dots$  be a sequence of complex numbers.

$$Z(u) = \exp \left( \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{N_m u^m}{m} \right)$$

- With some sequences, if we have an Euler product, this does look more like zeta functions we have seen.  
Let's see how. . .

# Local zeta function

- Let  $F$  be a field and let  $f(\mathbf{x}) \in F[x_0, \dots, x_n]$  be a homogeneous polynomial (all monomials have same total degree).  
Let  $V_f(F)$  be the set of  $F$ -points in  $\mathbb{P}^n(F)$ .
- Let  $q = p^r$ , then there is a unique field  $\mathbb{F}_q$  containing  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ .  
For any positive integer  $m$ , there is a unique field  $\mathbb{F}_{q^m}$  containing  $\mathbb{F}_q$ .
- Let  $N_m$  be the number of points in  $V_f(\mathbb{F}_{q^m})$ .

$$Z_{f,q}(u) = \exp \left( \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{|V_f(\mathbb{F}_{q^m})| u^m}{m} \right),$$

called the local or congruence zeta function of  $f$ .

More generally, we consider  $Z_{V,q}(u)$  for any variety  $V$  defined over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ .

# Examples

- A single point:  $n = 1$  and  $f = x_1$ .  $V_f = \{[1, 0]\}$ , so  $N_m = 1$  and

$$Z_{f,q}(u) = \exp \left( \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{u^m}{m} \right) = \exp(-\log(1-u)) = \frac{1}{1-u}.$$

- A projective line:  $n = 2$  and  $f = x_1$ .

$V_f = \{[f, 0, 1] : f \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}\} \cup \{[1, 0, 0]\}$ , so  $N_m = q^m + 1$  and

$$Z_{f,q}(u) = \exp \left( \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{(qu)^m}{m} \right) \exp \left( \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{u^m}{m} \right) = \frac{1}{(1-u)(1-qu)}.$$

- Notice that both of these are rational functions of  $u$ .
- There is a deep conjecture of Tate relating the order of the pole at  $u = q^{-1}$  to the geometry of the hypersurface.

# Example (Elliptic Curves)

- Elliptic curve,  $E$ , defined over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ :

$$Z_{E,q}(u) = \frac{1 - a_{E,q}u + qu^2}{(1-u)(1-qu)},$$

where  $a_{E,q} = q + 1 - N_1$ .

- Hasse:  $|a_{E,q}| \leq 2\sqrt{q}$ .
- Write  $1 - a_{E,q}u + qu^2 = (1 - \alpha u)(1 - (q/\alpha)u)$ .  
 $N_m = q^m + 1 - \alpha^m - (q/\alpha)^m$ .  
Special case:  $N_1 = q + 1 - \alpha - q/\alpha$  (so we can determine  $\alpha$  from  $N_1$ ).  
Thus from  $N_1$  we can obtain  $N_m$  for all  $m$ .
- $\alpha$  is a quadratic imaginary algebraic number.

$$|\alpha| = q^{1/2}.$$

Isn't  $1/2$  important for roots of other zeta functions too...?



- Artin: introduced these zeta functions. Hyperelliptic curves:  $y^2 = f(x)$ .  
(1923) his thesis!! (no pressure. . .)
- For many elliptic curves, he proved that  $|\alpha| = q^{1/2}$ .  
An analogue of the Riemann hypothesis.
- Hasse (1934):  
This Riemann hypothesis holds for all elliptic curves.
- Weil (1948):  
Proved a generalisation for all nonsingular curves.  
Weil did much more too, but first some other guy. . .  
Fast Fourier transform, least squares, find lost asteroids, . . .  
Gauss.

Weil proved the following for smooth projective curves,  $\mathcal{C}$ , over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ .



$$Z_{\mathcal{C},q}(u) = \frac{P(u)}{(1-u)(1-qu)},$$

where  $P(u) \in \mathbb{Z}[u]$  with constant coefficient 1.

If  $\mathcal{C}$  is the reduction mod  $p$  of a variety,  $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}$ , over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , then  $\deg(P) = 2g$ ,  $g$  is the genus (or Betti number) of  $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}$ .

- If  $\alpha$  is a reciprocal root of  $P$ , then  $|\alpha| = q^{1/2}$ .

## Key Point

*The geometry of the object over the complex numbers is connected with its arithmetic properties.*

# Weil Conjectures (1949)

$V$  a non-singular  $n$ -dimensional projective algebraic variety over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ .

- (Rationality)  $Z_V(u)$  is a rational function of  $u$ . More precisely,

$$\frac{P_1(u) \cdots P_{2n-1}(u)}{P_0(u) \cdots P_{2n}(u)},$$

where each  $P_i(u) \in \mathbb{Z}[u]$  with  $P_0(u) = 1 - u$ ,  $P_{2n}(u) = 1 - q^n u$ , and

$$P_i(u) = \prod_j (1 - \alpha_{i,j} u) \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, 2n - 1.$$

- (Riemann hypothesis) For all  $1 \leq i \leq 2n - 1$  and all  $j$ ,

$$|\alpha_{i,j}| = q^{i/2}$$

- (Functional equation) Let  $E$  be the Euler characteristic of  $V$ .

$$Z_V(q^{-n}u^{-1}) = \pm q^{\frac{nE}{2}} u^E Z_V(u),$$

- (Betti numbers) If  $V$  is a (good) reduction mod  $p$  of a non-singular projective variety  $\tilde{V}$  defined over a number field, then the degree of  $P_i$  is the  $i$ -th Betti number of the space of complex points of  $\tilde{V}$ .

# Weil Conjectures (Status)

All proven!

- (Rationality) Dwork (1959): rationality holds much more generally. For any algebraic set. Non-singular condition not needed.
- (Functional equation) Grothendieck (1965).
- (Betti numbers) Grothendieck (1965).
- (Riemann hypothesis) This was the hardest one. Finally proven by Deligne in 1974.
- Key motivation for modern development of algebraic geometry.

# Euler Product (I)

- Do what we do before with local factors.

E.g., recall that for a single point,  $Z(u) = 1/(1 - u)$ . So

$$\prod_p Z(p^{-s}) = \prod_p (1 - p^{-s})^{-1} = \zeta(s).$$

So “strange” initial definition fits with our previous examples.

- Restrict now to curves.

$$\begin{aligned} L_C(s) &= \frac{\zeta(s)\zeta(s-1)}{\prod_p Z_{C,p}(p^{-s})} = \prod_p (P(p^{-s}))^{-1} \\ &= \prod_p (1 + b_1 p^{-s} + \cdots + b_{2g} p^{-2gs})^{-1} \\ &= \prod_p (1 - \alpha_{1,1} p^{-s})^{-1} \cdots (1 - \alpha_{1,2g} p^{-s})^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

# Euler Product ( $\zeta$ vs $L$ vs ...)

- $\zeta$ :  $\zeta_V(s) = \prod_p Z_{V,p}(p^{-s})$ .
- L-function: from Weil conjectures,  $Z_{V,p}(T)$  is a product of terms.  
For good primes,

$$L_p(H^j(V), s) = \det(I - \text{Frob}_p p^{-s} | H^j(V))^{-1} \quad j=0, \dots, 2n.$$

For bad primes,

$$L_p(H^j(V), s) = \det(I - \text{Frob}_p p^{-s} | H^j(V)^{I_p})^{-1} \quad j=0, \dots, 2n.$$

L-function definition:

$$L(H^j(V), s) = \prod_p L_p(H^j(V), s) \quad j=0, \dots, 2n.$$

- The connection between them:

$$\zeta_V(s) = \prod_{j=0}^{2n} L(H^j(V), s)^{(-1)^j}.$$

For curves: we use  $L_V(s)$  for  $L(H^1(V), s)$ .

# Elliptic Curves: local zeta function

- Elliptic curve,  $E$ , defined over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , with discriminant,  $\Delta_E$ :

$$Z_{E,q}(u) = \frac{1 - a_{E,q}u + qu^2}{(1-u)(1-qu)}.$$

- $E$  is an elliptic curve over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  only if  $p \nmid \Delta_E$  (good reduction).
  - $p \mid \Delta_E$ . Three kinds of bad reduction can happen.
    - (1)  $E \bmod q$  has a cusp (a double point with one tangent), so  $a_{E,q} = 0$ .  
Also called **additive reduction**.
    - (2)  $E \bmod q$  has a node with a pair of tangents in  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , so  $a_{E,q} = 1$ .  
Also called **split multiplicative reduction**.
    - (3)  $E \bmod q$  has a node with a pair of tangents in a quadratic extension of  $\mathbb{F}_q$ , so  $a_{E,q} = -1$ .  
Also called **nonsplit multiplicative reduction**.
- For any bad reduction, we have

$$Z_{E,q}(u) = \frac{1 - a_{E,q}u}{(1-u)(1-qu)}.$$

# Elliptic Curves: Hasse-Weil L-function

- Hasse-Weil  $L$ -function:

$$L_E(s) = \prod_{p|\Delta_E} (1 - a_{E,p}p^{-s})^{-1} \prod_{p \nmid \Delta_E} (1 - a_{E,p}p^{-s} + pp^{-2s})^{-1}$$

- Exercise:  $L_E(s)$  converges and is analytic for all  $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 3/2$ .

## Conjecture

*Let  $E$  be an elliptic curve defined over any number field  $K$ .  $L_E(s)$  has an analytic continuation to the entire complex plane and satisfies a functional equation relating its values at  $s$  and  $2 - s$ .*

- Eichler and Shimura (independently) proved that this is true for elliptic curves defined over  $\mathbb{Q}$  with a “modular parametrisation”.

## Theorem (Modularity Theorem, Wiles and others)

*Every elliptic curve defined over  $\mathbb{Q}$  has a modular parametrisation.*

- The conjecture holds for all elliptic curves defined over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .



# Elliptic Curves: Functional equation

- Let  $E$  be an elliptic curve defined over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

## Complete $L$ -function

$$\Lambda_E(s) = \underbrace{N_E^{s/2} (2\pi)^{-s} \Gamma(s)}_{\text{local factor at infinity}} L_E(s),$$

$N_E \in \mathbb{Z}$  is the **conductor** – a more refined version of discriminant.

- $\Lambda_E(s)$  is an entire function satisfying

$$\Lambda_E(s) = w \Lambda_E(2 - s),$$

where  $w = \pm 1$  is the **sign of the functional equation**.

Parity conjecture:  $w$  determines the parity of  $\text{ord}_{s=1}(L_E(s))$ .

# Birch Swinnerton-Dyer: Statement

Tate (1974)

*This remarkable conjecture relates the behavior of a function  $L$  at a point where it is not at present known to be defined to the order of a group  $\text{III}$  which is not known to be finite!*

Conjecture (Birch Swinnerton-Dyer)

*Let  $E$  be an elliptic curve over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .*

(a)  *$L_E(s)$  has a zero at  $s = 1$  of order equal to the rank,  $r$ , of  $E(\mathbb{Q})$ .*

(b)

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow 1} \frac{L_E(s)}{(s-1)^r} = \frac{2^r |\text{III}| R}{|E_{\text{tors}}(\mathbb{Q})|^2} (\text{local factors}).$$

$\text{III}$  – Tate-Shafarevich group, an analogue of the ideal class group.  
The obstruction group to local-global principle.

$R$  – the elliptic regulator.

- Known results for elliptic curves over  $\mathbb{Q}$ :

$$L_E(1) \neq 0 \implies \text{rank}(E(\mathbb{Q})) = 0,$$

$$L_E(1) = 0 \text{ and } L'_E(1) \neq 0 \implies \text{rank}(E(\mathbb{Q})) = 1.$$

Kolyvagin and Gross-Zagier (plus modularity).

- Bhargava and Shanker: average rank  $\leq 0.885$ .  
Bhargava, Skinner, Zhang: B-SD(a) is true for  $> 66\%$  of elliptic curves.
- conjecture: 50% of curves have rank 0 and 50% have rank 1.

## Conjecture

*All but finitely many  $E/\mathbb{Q}$  have rank at most 21.*

*All  $E/\mathbb{Q}$  have rank at most 28.*