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An introduction to Eisenstein measures

par ELLEN EISCHEN

RÉSUMÉ. Cet article fournit une introduction aux mesures d’Eisenstein, un outil puissant pour construire certaines fonctions L p -adiques. Vues pour la première fois dans la réalisation par Serre des fonctions zêta de Dedekind p -adiques associées aux corps totalement réels, les mesures d’Eisenstein fournissent un moyen d’étendre les congruences de style kummerien, observées par Kummer pour les valeurs de la fonction zêta de Riemann (dites *congruences de Kummer*) à certaines autres fonctions L . En plus de retracer les développements clés, nous discutons certains défis qui se posent dans des contextes plus généraux, en concluant par certains qui restent ouverts.

ABSTRACT. This paper provides an introduction to Eisenstein measures, a powerful tool for constructing certain p -adic L -functions. First seen in Serre’s realization of p -adic Dedekind zeta functions associated to totally real fields, Eisenstein measures provide a way to extend the style of congruences Kummer observed for values of the Riemann zeta function (so-called *Kummer congruences*) to certain other L -functions. In addition to tracing key developments, we discuss some challenges that arise in more general settings, concluding with some that remain open.

1. Introduction

In the mid 1800s, Kummer proved that the values of the Riemann zeta function at negative odd numbers satisfy striking congruences modulo powers of any prime number p . More precisely, he proved that if k and k' are positive even integers not divisible by $p-1$, then for all positive integers d ,

$$\left(1 - p^{k-1}\right) \zeta(1 - k) \equiv \left(1 - p^{k'-1}\right) \zeta(1 - k') \pmod{p^d},$$

whenever $k \equiv k' \pmod{\varphi(p^d)}$, with φ denoting Euler’s totient function [52]. (By Euler’s work a century earlier, for all positive integers k , $\zeta(1 - k)$ is the rational number $(-1)^{k+1} \frac{B_k}{k}$ for all positive integers k , where B_k denotes the k -th Bernoulli number, defined as the coefficients in the Taylor series expansion $\frac{te^t}{e^t - 1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} B_n \frac{t^n}{n!}$.) Kummer’s motivation for studying these congruences stemmed from his interest in determining when a prime

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is (what we now call) *regular*, i.e. does not divide the class number of the cyclotomic field $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_p)$ with $\zeta_p \in \mathbb{C}^\times$ a primitive p -th root of unity, in which case Kummer could prove Fermat's Last Theorem for exponents divisible by p . As part of his investigations, Kummer had shown that the regularity is equivalent to a condition on the values of the Riemann zeta function. More precisely, Kummer showed that a prime p is regular if and only if it does not divide the numerator of the Bernoulli numbers B_2, B_4, \dots, B_{p-3} [50, 51].

After Kummer's exciting discoveries, this topic then lay nearly dormant for a century. Even though Hensel (who had been one of Kummer's graduate students) introduced the p -adic numbers soon after Kummer's death [36], the first formulation of a p -adic zeta function (a p -adic analytic function that interpolates the values of a modified zeta function at certain points, essentially encoding Kummer's congruences) occurred only in the 1960s, as a result of work of Kubota and Leopoldt [49]. These functions, too, play a key role in the structure of cyclotomic fields, on a deeper level than Kummer had originally developed (or presumably even envisioned, given mathematical developments during the century following Kummer's life).

In the 1960s, Iwasawa linked the behavior of Galois modules over towers of cyclotomic fields to p -adic zeta-functions, forming the foundations of *Iwasawa theory*, a p -adic theory for studying families of arithmetic data [43, 44]. For example, the subgroup $\Gamma := \text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}_\infty/\mathbb{Q}) \cong \mathbb{Z}_p$ of $\text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\mu_{p^\infty})/\mathbb{Q})$ acts on the p -part of the ideal class group of the p^m -th cyclotomic extension for each $m \geq 1$. The inverse limit (under a norm map) of these groups is a module over the Iwasawa algebra $\Lambda := \Lambda_{\Gamma, \mathbb{Z}_p} = \mathbb{Z}_p[[\Gamma]] \cong \mathbb{Z}_p[[T]]$. The main conjecture of Iwasawa theory, proved in [57], says a realization $\theta \in \Lambda$ of a p -adic L -function generates the characteristic ideal of this Λ -module. Thus, the p -adic L -function controls substantial structural information about this collection of class groups.

Iwasawa's conjectures were further generalized. In particular, R. Greenberg predicted the existence of more general p -adic L -functions (p -adic analytic functions that can be realized as elements of certain Iwasawa algebras and whose values encode analogues of Kummer's congruences for more general L -functions) and their meaning in the context of certain Galois modules. In particular, the Greenberg–Iwasawa main conjectures [31, 32, 33] predict that for a wide class of ordinary Galois representations ρ , there is a p -adic L -function \mathcal{L}_ρ interpolating values of an L -function associated to $\rho \otimes \chi$ as χ varies over certain Hecke characters and that \mathcal{L}_ρ can be realized as the generator of the characteristic ideal of a certain Λ -module (a *Selmer* group), where $\Lambda := \mathcal{O}[[\Gamma_K]]$, with Γ_K the Galois group of a compositum of \mathbb{Z}_p -extensions of K and \mathcal{O} an appropriate p -adic ring. In other words, the main conjectures predict p -adic L -functions govern the structure of Selmer groups as Galois modules.

Given L -functions' starring role in the main conjectures of Iwasawa theory (and their conjectured existence, including not only in Greenberg's conjectures, but also in, for example, [15, 16]), it is natural to ask:

Question 1. Given an L -function whose values at certain points are known to be algebraic, how might we construct a p -adic L -function encoding congruences between values of (a suitably modified at p) version of that L -function?

The main goal of this paper is to introduce particular tools, *Eisenstein measures*, which have proved to be especially useful for constructing p -adic L -functions during the past half-century, at least under certain conditions. Even putting aside the challenge of trying to prove main conjectures in Iwasawa theory, it is generally hard to answer Question 1. One might first look to Kummer or to Kubota–Leopoldt (who actually considered p -adic Dirichlet L -functions) for answers, in the hope that earlier techniques could be generalized. This would, however, require extending congruences coming from Bernoulli polynomials to other settings, and unfortunately, we do not generally have realizations of values of L -functions in terms of similarly convenient polynomials. While there has been some successful work in that direction (see, e.g., work of Barsky [4] and P. Cassou-Nogues [12], who employed formulas of Shintani that have recently been further explored in work of Charollois–Dasgupta [13]), one of the most powerful tools for constructing p -adic L -functions in increasing generality during the past half-century comes from the theory of *p -adic modular forms*.

In the early 1970s, Serre produced the first p -adic families of Eisenstein series (the first instances of *Eisenstein measures*, which arose as part of his development of the theory of p -adic modular forms) and used them (together with Iwasawa's construction of the p -adic zeta function as an element of an Iwasawa algebra) to construct p -adic Dedekind zeta functions associated to totally real number fields [63]. Because modular forms are special cases of automorphic forms and because the behavior of L -functions is closely tied to the behavior of automorphic forms (at least, in certain settings), this approach seemed more amenable to generalization. Indeed, its promise was immediately realized, including by Coates–Sinnott [17], Deligne–Ribet [18], and Katz [46], who employed Eisenstein measures in constructions of p -adic L -functions associated to Hecke characters for quadratic real fields, real number fields, and CM fields (with Katz proving the CM case only for half of all primes, a restriction that stood for over four decades until work of Andreatta–Iovita in 2019 [1]), respectively.

Given that Eisenstein series govern key properties of certain L -functions (not only algebraicity, but also functional equations and meromorphic continuation), it is perhaps not surprising that they play key roles in our context as well. Thus, another important question becomes:

Question 2. How might we construct p -adic families of Eisenstein series or, more specifically, p -adic Eisenstein measures?

Constructing p -adic Eisenstein measures is generally hard. Were it not for the prestigious journal in which all those first papers following Serre’s introduction of Eisenstein measures were published or the accomplished mathematicians whose names are attached to these results, the reader could not be blamed for thinking these results sound incremental. Instead, though, this should be viewed as evidence that seemingly small tweaks to the data to which L -functions are attached can lead to significant technical challenges in constructing the corresponding p -adic L -functions.

For most readers of this paper, implicit in Question 2 is that we want Eisenstein series that can be directly related to values of L -functions. It is worth noting, though, that interest in Question 2 extends beyond number theory. At least in the cases of modular forms and automorphic forms on unitary groups of signature $(1, n)$, p -adic families of Eisenstein series also are of interest in homotopy theory [5, 40, 41].

Returning to Question 1, we note the favorable fact that (at least, as it appears to this author) all known constructions of p -adic L -functions seem to rely on building on the specific techniques employed in the proof of the algebraicity of the values of the \mathbb{C} -valued L -function in question. Thus, if you know a proof of algebraicity, then you are at least in possession of clues to the techniques needed to construct p -adic L -functions. For example, Serre’s development of the theory of p -adic modular forms and its use for constructing p -adic zeta functions built on the approaches of Klingen and Siegel (who were, in turn, building on ideas of Hecke, as recounted in [6, Section 1.3] and [42]) for studying algebraicity of values of zeta functions by exploiting properties of Fourier coefficients of modular forms [47, 69, 70]. Likewise, Katz’s construction of p -adic L -functions associated to Hecke characters of CM fields employs Damerell’s formula, which was first used by Shimura to prove algebraicity. In a similar spirit, Hida’s construction of p -adic Rankin–Selberg L -functions attached to modular forms builds on Shimura’s proof of algebraicity via the Rankin–Selberg convolution [37, 67]. In a more recent instance, the construction of p -adic L -functions for unitary groups due to the author, Harris, Li, and Skinner [23] employs the doubling method (a pull-back method of the sort used by Shimura to prove algebraicity, e.g. in [68], and which specializes in the case of rank 1 unitary groups to Damerell’s formula).

Organization of this paper. Now that we have established some history and motivation for studying Eisenstein series, we spend the remainder introducing their mathematical features. Section 2 introduces distributions and measures from several viewpoints, each of which is useful for different aspects of working with p -adic L -functions. Section 3 then discusses the

first example of an Eisenstein measure, produced by Serre as a tool for constructing p -adic Dedekind zeta functions associated to totally real fields. This development inspired efforts to construct Eisenstein measures valued in the space of p -adic Hilbert modular forms, tools for constructing p -adic L -functions attached to certain Hecke characters, as discussed in Section 4. We conclude with a discussion of generalizations to other L -functions (Section 5), as well as some of the significant challenges encountered as one tries to construct useful Eisenstein measures.

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2. p -adic distributions and measures

Motivated by Iwasawa's and Greenberg's conjectures about the Galois theoretic role of p -adic L -functions, our goal is to find an element in an Iwasawa algebra whose values at certain characters encode congruences between certain (modified) L -functions. Distributions and measures will provide a convenient tool for realizing p -adic L -functions inside Iwasawa algebras.

For a more detailed treatment of distributions and measures, we especially recommend [56, Section 7] and [73, Sections 7.1–7.2 and Sections 12.1–12.2].

2.1. Conventions and preliminaries. Throughout this paper, we fix a prime number p . For convenience, we assume p is odd. We denote by \mathbb{C}_p the completion of an algebraic closure of \mathbb{Q}_p . We call a ring \mathcal{O} a p -adic ring if it is complete and separated with respect to the p -adic topology, i.e. $\mathcal{O} \cong \varprojlim \mathcal{O}/p^n \mathcal{O}$. Given a p -adic ring \mathcal{O} and a profinite group $G = \varprojlim_n G/G_n$ with each G_n a finite index subgroup of G , we define the Iwasawa algebra

$$\Lambda_G := \mathcal{O}[[G]] := \varprojlim_n \mathcal{O}[G/G_n].$$

Following the usual conventions in Iwasawa theory, we define

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma &:= 1 + p\mathbb{Z}_p \\ \Lambda &:= \mathbb{Z}_p[\Gamma] \cong \mathbb{Z}_p[T].\end{aligned}$$

We also denote by μ_{p-1} the multiplicative subgroup of order $p-1$ in \mathbb{Z}_p^\times . Given a number field F , we denote by $F(p^\infty)$ the maximal abelian unramified away from p extension of F .

In addition, throughout this section, let T be a locally compact totally disconnected topological space, and let W be an abelian group. (For example, T could be the Galois group of a \mathbb{Z}_p -extension and W could be the ring of integers in a finite extension of \mathbb{Q}_p .) We denote by $\text{Step}(T)$ the group of \mathbb{Z} -valued functions on T that are locally constant of compact support. For any compact open subset $U \subseteq T$, we denote by $\chi_U \in \text{Step}(T)$ the characteristic function of U .

2.2. Distributions. We begin by introducing distributions, which include measures as a special case.

Definition 2.1. A *distribution* on T with values in W is a homomorphism

$$\mu : \text{Step}(T) \longrightarrow W.$$

We set the notation

$$\int_T \varphi(t) d\mu := \mu(\varphi)$$

for each $\varphi \in \text{Step}(T)$.

The space of W -valued distributions on T is then

$$\text{Dist}(T, W) := \text{Hom}(\text{Step}(T), W).$$

Observe that we have a bijection between $\text{Dist}(T, W)$ and the set $\mathcal{A}(T, W)$ of finitely additive W -valued functions on compact open subsets of T . By abuse of notation, given $\mu \in \text{Dist}(T, W)$, we also denote by $\mu \in \mathcal{A}(T, w)$ the corresponding element under this bijection. More precisely, given a compact open subset $U \subset T$,

$$\mu(U) := \int_U d\mu := \mu(\chi_U) = \int_T \chi_U d\mu.$$

2.2.1. Distributions on (pro)finite sets. Observe that if T is finite, then since T is totally disconnected, $\text{Dist}(T, W)$ is identified with the abelian group of W -valued functions on T . So if X is the inverse limit of a collection of finite sets X_i , $i \in I$ a directed poset, such that whenever $i \geq j$, we have a surjection

$$\pi_{ij} : X_i \longrightarrow X_j$$

and whenever $i \geq j \geq k$, $\pi_{jk} \circ \pi_{ij} = \pi_{ik}$, then we can reformulate the notion of W -valued distribution on X as a collection of W -valued maps

$$\mu_j : X_j \longrightarrow W$$

such that

$$\mu_j(x) = \sum_{\{y | \pi_{ij}(y) = x\}} \mu_i(y)$$

for all $i \geq j$ and all $x \in X_j$. So we have

$$\text{Dist}(X, W) = \varprojlim_n \text{Dist}(X_n, W).$$

2.3. Measures. We now suppose that W is a finite-dimensional Banach space over an extension K of \mathbb{Q}_p , as this case will be particularly interesting to us.

Definition 2.2. A W -valued measure on T is a bounded W -valued distribution on T .

Definition 2.3. If a measure μ takes values in a subgroup $A \subseteq W$, then we call μ an A -valued measure.

Given topological spaces X and Y , we denote by $\mathcal{C}(X, Y)$ the space of continuous maps from X to Y . Observe that if T is compact and W is a finite-dimensional K -Banach space, then there is a bijection

$$\begin{aligned} & \{W\text{-valued measures on } T\} \\ & \longleftrightarrow \{\text{bounded homomorphisms of } K\text{-Banach spaces } \mathcal{C}(T, K) \longrightarrow W\}. \end{aligned}$$

Likewise, if \mathcal{O} is a p -adically complete ring, then we have bijections

$$\begin{aligned} & \{\mathcal{O}\text{-valued measures on } Y\} \longleftrightarrow \{\mathcal{O}\text{-linear maps } \mathcal{C}(Y, \mathcal{O}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}\} \\ & \longleftrightarrow \{\mathbb{Z}_p\text{-linear maps } \mathcal{C}(Y, \mathbb{Z}_p) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}\}. \end{aligned}$$

More generally, given an \mathcal{O} -valued measure μ on Y and a homomorphism $\varphi : \mathcal{O} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}'$, with \mathcal{O}' also a p -adic ring, we get an \mathcal{O}' -valued measure μ' on Y defined by

$$\int_Y f d\mu' := \varphi \left(\int_Y f d\mu \right)$$

for all $f \in \mathcal{C}(Y, \mathbb{Z}_p)$.

2.3.1. Measures on profinite groups. Our main case of interest is the case where T is a profinite group. We write $T = \varprojlim_j T/T_j$ with the subgroups T_j the ones that are open for the topology on T . (So the groups T_j are the finite index, normal subgroups of T .) Then for any p -adic ring \mathcal{O} , we have an isomorphism of \mathcal{O} -modules

$$(2.1) \quad \begin{aligned} \psi : \text{Dist}(T, \mathcal{O}) &\xrightarrow{\sim} \Lambda_T = \mathcal{O}[[T]] \\ \mu &\longmapsto \alpha_\mu := \left(\sum_{T/T_j} \mu_j(g) g \right)_{j \geq 0}, \end{aligned}$$

where μ_j is as in Section 2.2.1.

Note that each $f \in \mathcal{C}(T, \mathcal{O})$ can be extended \mathcal{O} -linearly to a function on the group ring $\mathcal{O}[T]$, via

$$(2.2) \quad f \left(\sum_{g \in T} a_g g \right) = \sum_{g \in T} a_g f(g)$$

for each finite sum $\sum_{g \in T} a_g g \in \mathcal{O}[T]$ with $a_g \in \mathcal{O}$. (Since $\mathcal{O}[T]$ is a group ring, $a_g = 0$ for all but finitely many g .) Also, note that $\mathcal{O}[T]$ is a subring of $\mathcal{O}[[T]]$, via

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{O}[T] &\hookrightarrow \mathcal{O}[[T]] \\ \sum_{g \in T} a_g g &\longmapsto \left(\sum_{T/T_j} a_g (g \bmod T_j) \right)_{j \geq 0} \end{aligned}$$

Since $\mathcal{O}[T]$ is dense in $\mathcal{O}[[T]]$, we extend the map in Equation (2.2) continuously to $\mathcal{O}[[T]]$. (The rings $\mathcal{O}[T/T_j]$ are endowed with the product topology coming from \mathcal{O} , and so the same is true for $\mathcal{O}[[T]]$.) Of particular interest is the case where T is generated by a topological generator γ (e.g. $\gamma = 1 + p$ in $T = 1 + p\mathbb{Z}_p$) and $f : T \rightarrow \mathcal{O}^\times$ is a group homomorphism, in which case the elements of $\mathcal{O}[[T]]$ can be identified with power series $\sum_j a_j \gamma^j$, and $f(\sum_j a_j \gamma^j) = \sum_j a_j f(\gamma)^j$. Similarly, if $T = \Gamma_1 \times \cdots \times \Gamma_d$ with $\Gamma_i = 1 + p\mathbb{Z}_p$, $i = 1, \dots, d$, with generators $\gamma_i = 1 + p\mathbb{Z}_p$, respectively, then each element of $\mathcal{O}[[T]]$ can be expressed as a power series in $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_d$, and for $h = \sum_{n_1, \dots, n_d \geq 0} a_{n_1, \dots, n_d} \gamma_1^{n_1} \cdots \gamma_d^{n_d} \in \mathcal{O}[[T]]$, $f(h) = \sum_{n_1, \dots, n_d \geq 0} a_{n_1, \dots, n_d} f(\gamma_1)^{n_1} \cdots f(\gamma_d)^{n_d} \in \mathcal{O}[[T]]$.

The inverse map ψ^{-1} is given by

$$\mu_\alpha \longleftrightarrow \alpha,$$

where for each $f \in \mathcal{C}(T, \mathcal{O})$

$$\mu_\alpha(f) := f(\alpha).$$

If \mathcal{O} is flat over \mathbb{Z}_p , then each element $\alpha \in \Lambda_T$ corresponding to a measure μ_α is completely determined by $\int_T \chi d\mu_\alpha$, where χ varies over finite order characters with values in extensions of \mathbb{Q}_p (see Proposition 2.13).

2.3.2. First examples. Let K be a finite extension of \mathbb{Q}_p , and let T be an infinite profinite group.

Example 2.4. It is a simple exercise to show that the K -valued *Haar distributions* μ_{Haar} (i.e. translation invariant distributions, so $\mu_{\text{Haar}}(U+y) = \mu_{\text{Haar}}(U)$ for all $y \in T$ and compact open subsets $U \subset T$) on T are not measures if T is a pro- p group (but are measures if T is a pro- ℓ group with $\ell \neq p$).

Example 2.5. Fix an element $g \in T$. The *Dirac distribution* δ_g defined by

$$\delta_g(U) := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } g \in U \\ 0 & \text{else,} \end{cases}$$

for all compact open subsets of T , is a measure on T . Under the isomorphism ψ in (2.1), μ_g corresponds to the element $g \in \Lambda_T$.

2.4. Bernoulli distributions and Dirichlet L -functions. We now briefly introduce a measure that produces a p -adic Dirichlet L -function. More details are available in [73, Section 12.2].

Given a Dirichlet character χ be a Dirichlet character, let $L(s, \chi)$ be the associated Dirichlet L -function. Then for all positive integers n ,

$$L(1-n, \chi) = -\frac{B_{n,\chi}}{n},$$

where the numbers $B_{n,\chi}$ are the generalized Bernoulli numbers, i.e. the numbers defined by

$$\sum_{a=1}^f \frac{\chi(a)te^{at}}{e^{ft}-1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} B_{n,\chi} \frac{t^n}{n!},$$

with f denoting the conductor of χ . We also define a modified Dirichlet L -function $L^{(p)}(1-n, \chi) = (1 - \chi(p)p^{n-1}) L(1-n, \chi)$. If χ is the trivial character, so $f = 1$, then $B_{n,\chi} = B_n$, where B_n denotes the n -th Bernoulli number, and $L(\chi, 1-n) = \zeta(1-n)$ is the Riemann zeta function studied by Kummer in the mid-1800s, as discussed in Section 1.

Remark 2.6. As above, let n be a positive integer. Note that when χ is odd and n is positive, $L(1-n, \chi) = 0$. Likewise, when χ is even and n is odd, $L(1-n, \chi) = 0$, unless χ is the trivial character and $n = 1$ (in which case we obtain $\zeta(0) = -\frac{1}{2}$). This can be seen from the functional equation for $L(s, \chi)$, as explained in, e.g., [73, Chapter 4].

Let

$$\omega : \mathbb{Z}_p^\times \longrightarrow \mu_{p-1} \subseteq \mathbb{Z}_p^\times$$

denote the Teichmüller character (so $\omega(a) \equiv a \pmod{p}$ for each $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p^\times$). Kummer's congruences are a special case of the following:

Theorem 2.7 ([49]). *Let χ be a Dirichlet character. Then there exists a p -adic meromorphic (analytic, if $\chi \neq 1$) function $L_p(1-n, \chi)$ on $\{x \in \mathbb{C}_p \mid |x|_p < p^{\frac{p-2}{p-1}}\}$ such that*

$$L_p(1-n, \chi) = \left(1 - \chi\omega^{-n}(p)p^{n-1}\right) \frac{-B_{n, \chi\omega^{-n}}}{n} = L^{(p)}(1-n, \chi\omega^{-n})$$

for all positive integers n .

This is the first example of a p -adic *L-function*, i.e. a p -adic analytic function whose values at certain points agree with values of (suitably modified) \mathbb{C} -valued *L-functions*.

Remark 2.8. Fix an integer n_0 such that $0 < n_0 < p-1$. Then for all $n \equiv n_0 \pmod{p-1}$, $\omega^n = \omega^{n_0}$ and

$$L_p(1-n, \omega^{n_0}) = \zeta^{(p)}(1-n).$$

Thus, we easily locate the values studied by Kummer among those p -adically interpolated by L_p . Furthermore, by expressing $L_p(s, \chi)$ in terms of a \mathbb{Z}_p -valued measure on \mathbb{Z}_p^\times (for example, by setting $d = 1$ in Equation (2.3) below), we recover the congruences of Kummer (as also noted in [73, Corollary 12.3]).

For each nonnegative integer n , let $B_n(X)$ denote the n -th Bernoulli polynomial, i.e. the polynomial defined by

$$\frac{te^{Xt}}{e^t - 1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} B_n(X) \frac{t^n}{n!}.$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} B_n(0) &= B_n \\ B_n(1) &= \begin{cases} B_n & \text{if } n \neq 1 \\ B_1 + 1 & \text{if } n = 1. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

If χ is a Dirichlet character, f is the conductor of χ , and F is a positive integer divisible by f , then

$$B_{n, \chi} = F^{n-1} \sum_{a=1}^F \chi(a) B_n \left(\frac{a}{F} \right).$$

We also have $B_k(X) = \sum_{i=0}^k \binom{k}{i} B_i X^{k-i}$ and $B_k(1-X) = (-1)^k B_k(X)$ for all nonnegative integers k .

For each positive integer i , we define

$$Y_i := \frac{1}{i} \mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z},$$

and for all positive integers $j \mid i$, we define

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_{ij} : Y_i &\longrightarrow Y_j \\ y &\longmapsto \frac{i}{j} \times y. \end{aligned}$$

Definition 2.9. The k -th Bernoulli distribution is the distribution $\phi = (\phi_i)_{i \geq 1}$ on $Y := \varprojlim_i Y_i$ defined for each positive integer i by

$$\phi_i \left(\frac{a}{i} \right) := i^{k-1} B_k \left(\left\{ \frac{a}{i} \right\} \right).$$

While the Bernoulli distribution is not a measure, we modify it to obtain a measure on $X := \varprojlim_n X_n$, where $X_n := (\mathbb{Z}/dp^{n+1})^\times$ and d is a fixed integer, as follows. Fix $c \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $\gcd(c, dp) = 1$. For $x_n \in X_n$, we define

$$E_c(x_n) := E_{c,1}(x_n) = B_1 \left(\left\{ \frac{x_n}{dp^{n+1}} \right\} \right) - B_1 \left(\left\{ \frac{c^{-1}x_n}{dp^{n+1}} \right\} \right) + \frac{c-1}{2},$$

where $\{\cdot\}$ denotes the fractional part of a number. Then, as further discussed in the proof of [73, Theorem 12.2], E_c is a \mathbb{Z}_p -valued measure, and furthermore, letting $\langle \cdot \rangle$ denote the projection onto $1 + p\mathbb{Z}_p$, we have

$$(2.3) \quad \int_{(\mathbb{Z}/dp\mathbb{Z})^\times \times (1+p\mathbb{Z}_p)} \chi \omega^{-1} \langle \cdot \rangle^s dE_c = - \left(1 - \chi(c) \langle c \rangle^{s+1} \right) L_p(s, \chi),$$

for all Dirichlet characters χ of conductor dp^m with m a nonnegative integer and $s \in \mathbb{Z}_p$.

2.5. Some convenient spaces for defining measures. When constructing more general measures, in particular Eisenstein measures, it will be convenient to establish some particular subsets of characters on which it is sufficient to define a measure in order for that measure to be uniquely determined. More precisely, we have the following.

For each of the following two lemmas, let \mathcal{O} be a p -adic ring.

Lemma 2.10. An \mathcal{O} -valued measure on $\Gamma = 1 + p\mathbb{Z}_p$ is completely determined by its values on characters of finite order.

Lemma 2.11. An \mathcal{O} -valued measure on $\Gamma = 1 + p\mathbb{Z}_p$ is completely determined by its values on $\langle \cdot \rangle^k : \Gamma \rightarrow \Gamma \subset \mathbb{Z}_p$ for any infinite set of $k \in \mathbb{Z}_p$.

Proof of Lemmas 2.10 and 2.11. Note that $\mathcal{O}[\Gamma]$ is isomorphic to the power series ring $\mathcal{O}[[T]]$ (which, as explained in [73, Section 7.1], follows from the isomorphisms $\mathcal{O}[\Gamma_n] \cong \mathcal{O}[T]/((1+T)^{p^n} - 1)$, $\gamma \leftrightarrow 1+T$ where $\Gamma_n = \Gamma/\Gamma^{p^n}$). The proofs of both lemmas then follow from the Weierstrass Preparation Theorem, which tells us that if $0 \neq f(T) \in \mathcal{O}[[T]]$, then $f(T) = \pi^r P(T)U(T)$, with π a non-unit in \mathcal{O} , r a nonnegative integer, $P(T)$ a monic polynomial whose non-leading coefficients are all divisible by π , and $U(T) \in \mathcal{O}[[T]]^\times$ [7, Chapter VII Section 4]. Consequently, each nonzero element of $\mathcal{O}[[T]]$ has only finitely many zeroes $\beta \in \mathbb{C}_p$ with $|\beta|_p < 1$ (since a polynomial can have only finitely many zeroes, and an element of $\mathcal{O}[[T]]^\times$ cannot have any zeroes with absolute value < 1).

Now, let μ be an \mathcal{O} -valued measure on Γ , and let $f_\mu \in \mathcal{O}[[T]]$ be the power series corresponding to μ as in Section 2.3.1. Then $\mu(\chi) = f_\mu(\chi(\gamma) - 1)$. So if μ vanishes at infinitely many finite order characters or infinitely many $\langle \cdot \rangle^k$, then μ is identically 0. \square

More generally, we have the abstract *Kummer congruences*, a generalization of the style of congruences established by Kummer.

Theorem 2.12 (Abstract Kummer congruences). *Let Y be a compact, totally disconnected space, let \mathcal{O} be a p -adic ring that is flat over \mathbb{Z}_p , and let I be some indexing set. Let $\{f_i\}_{i \in I} \subseteq \mathcal{C}(Y, \mathcal{O})$ be such that the $\mathcal{O}[\frac{1}{p}]$ -span of the functions f_i is uniformly dense in $\mathcal{C}(Y, \mathcal{O}[\frac{1}{p}])$. Let $\{a_i\}_{i \in I} \subseteq \mathcal{O}$. Then there exists an \mathcal{O} -valued p -adic measure μ on Y such that*

$$\int_Y f_i = a_i$$

for all $i \in I$ if and only if the elements a_i satisfy the abstract Kummer congruences, i.e.:

Given $\{b_i\}_{i \in I} \subset \mathcal{O}[\frac{1}{p}]$ such that $b_i = 0$ for all but finitely many $i \in I$, together with a nonnegative integer n such that $\sum_{i \in I} b_i f_i(y) \in p^n \mathcal{O}$ for all $y \in Y$, we have $\sum_{i \in I} b_i a_i \in p^n \mathcal{O}$.

Proof. This is [46, Proposition (4.0.6)], which is proved in *loc. cit.* \square

When working with a profinite abelian group, the following consequence is particularly convenient for constructing Eisenstein measures in general.

Proposition 2.13 ([46, First half of Proposition (4.1.2)]). *Let G be a profinite abelian group. Let \mathcal{O} be a p -adically complete ring that is flat over \mathbb{Z}_p , and suppose that \mathcal{O} contains a primitive n -th root of unity for all n such that G contains a subgroup of index n . Let μ be an \mathcal{O} -valued p -adic measure on G , and let χ_0 be a continuous homomorphism from G to \mathcal{O}^\times . Then μ is completely determined by the values $\int_G \chi_0 \chi d\mu$ as χ ranges over finite order characters of G .*

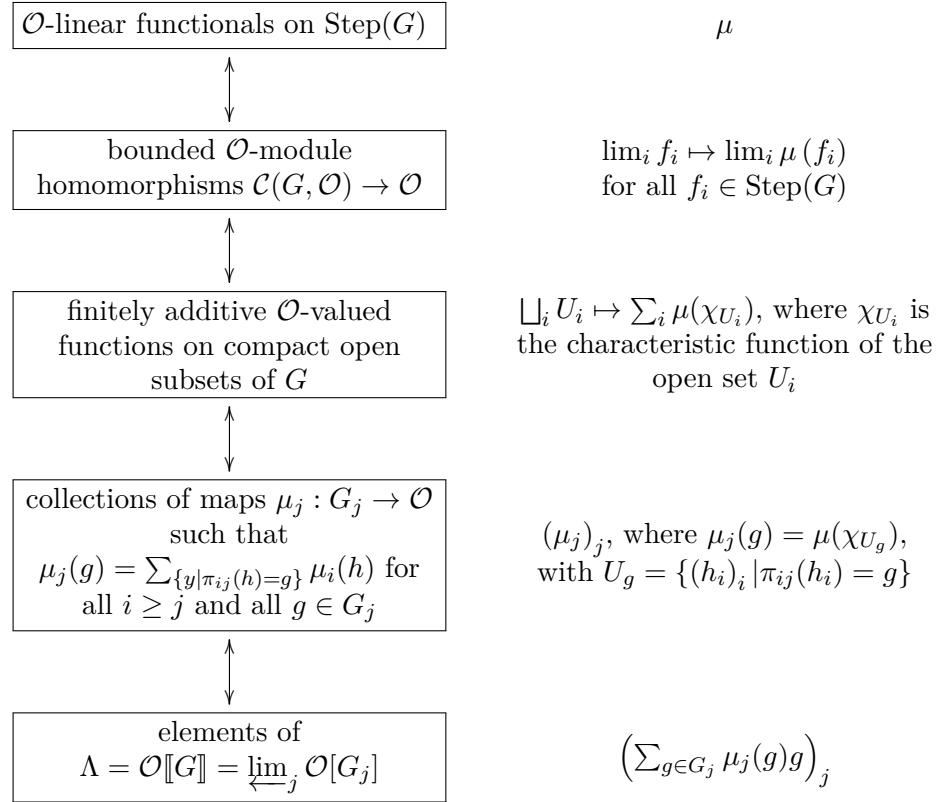


FIGURE 2.1. Dictionary between several formulations of p -adic measures

2.5.1. Dictionary between several approaches to defining p -adic measures. We conclude this section with Figure 2.1, which summarizes the connections between several formulations of the definition of an \mathcal{O} -valued p -adic measure given above, each of which is useful for different aspects of constructing p -adic L -functions. In the figure, \mathcal{O} is a p -adic ring, and $G = \varprojlim_i G_i$ is a profinite p -adic group, with transition maps $\pi_{ij} : G_i \rightarrow G_j$ whenever $i \geq j$ and $\pi_{jk} \circ \pi_{ij} = \pi_{ik}$ for all $i \geq j \geq k$.

3. A first look at p -adic Eisenstein measures

We are primarily interested in measures as a vehicle for obtaining p -adic L -functions inside an Iwasawa algebra. While Bernoulli numbers were useful constructing the measure in Equation (2.3), they do not necessarily generalize to many other L -functions of interest. It turns out that p -adic modular forms provide a convenient tool for constructing p -adic L -functions

in much more generality, while also producing p -adic Dedekind zeta functions associated to totally real fields.

Remark 3.1. Because of their links with L -functions, we will be particularly interested in *Eisenstein measures*, measures whose values on certain sets of characters (like those in Section 2.5) are Eisenstein series.

In this section, we briefly introduce p -adic modular forms, following Serre's approach. For more details, see [63]. We denote by v_p the valuation on \mathbb{Q}_p such that $v_p(p) = 1$. For $f(q) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n q^n \in \mathbb{Q}_p[[q]]$, we define

$$v_p(f) := \inf_n v_p(a_n).$$

So $v_p(f) \geq m$ if and only if $f \equiv 0 \pmod{p^m}$ and $v_p(f) \geq 0$ if and only if $f \in \mathbb{Z}_p[[q]]$. Let $\{f_i\} \subseteq \mathbb{Q}_p[[q]]$. We write $f_i \rightarrow f$ and say “The sequence f_1, f_2, \dots converges to f ” if $v_p(f_i - f) \rightarrow \infty$, i.e. the coefficients of f_i converge uniformly to those of f as $i \rightarrow \infty$. We also write $f \equiv g \pmod{p^m}$ if $v_p(f - g) \geq m$.

Example 3.2. Let $k \geq 4$ be an even integer. Consider the level 1, weight k Eisenstein series G_k whose Fourier expansion is given by

$$G_k(z) = \frac{\zeta(1-k)}{2} + \sum_{n \geq 1} \sigma_{k-1}(n) q^n$$

where $q = e^{2\pi iz}$ and $\sigma_{k-1}(n) = \sum_{d|n} d^{k-1}$. In the 1800s, Kummer proved that if $p-1 \nmid k$, then $\frac{\zeta(1-k)}{2}$ is p -integral, as well as that if $k \equiv k' \pmod{p-1}$, then $\frac{\zeta(1-k)}{2} \equiv \frac{\zeta(1-k')}{2} \pmod{p}$ [52]. So if we also apply Fermat's little theorem to the non-constant coefficients, we see that

$$G_k \equiv G_{k'} \pmod{p}$$

whenever $k \equiv k' \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p-1}$.

3.1. Congruences mod p^m . Recall that, for convenience, we assume p is odd. The reader who is curious about $p = 2$ can find the analogous statements for that case in [63].

Theorem 3.3 ([63, Théorème 1]). *Let $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$, and let $f, g \in \mathbb{Q}[[q]]$ be modular forms of weights k, k' , respectively, with $v_p(f - g) \geq v_p(f) + m$. If $f \neq 0$, then $k \equiv k' \pmod{(p-1)p^{m-1}}$.*

Ultimately, we want not just congruences but p -adic measures, which leads us to Section 3.2.

3.2. p -adic modular forms. Let $X_m = \mathbb{Z}/(p-1)p^{m-1}\mathbb{Z}$, and let $X = \varprojlim_m X_m = \mathbb{Z}_p \times \mathbb{Z}/(p-1)\mathbb{Z}$. We identify X with the space of \mathbb{Z}_p^\times -valued characters of $\mathbb{Z}_p^\times = (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^\times \times (1+p\mathbb{Z}_p)$, i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} X &= \mathbb{Z}_p \times \mathbb{Z}/(p-1)\mathbb{Z} \\ k &\longleftrightarrow (s, u) \end{aligned}$$

corresponds to the \mathbb{Z}_p^\times -valued character of \mathbb{Z}_p^\times defined by

$$a \longmapsto a^k := \langle a \rangle^s \omega^u(a).$$

Definition 3.4 (Serre). A p -adic modular form is a power series $f = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n q^n \in \mathbb{Q}_p[[q]]$ such that there exists a sequence of modular forms f_1, f_2, \dots such that $f_i \rightarrow f$.

As a consequence of Theorem 3.3, we see that a nonzero p -adic modular form $f = \lim_i f_i$ has weight $k = \lim_i k_i \in X$, where k_i denotes the weight of f_i . A p -adic limit of p -adic modular forms is again a p -adic modular form f , and if $f \neq 0$, the weights again converge as in Theorem 3.3.

Corollary 3.5 ([63, Corollaire 1]). Let $f = \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n q^n$ be a p -adic modular form of weight $k \in X$. Suppose the image of k in X_{m+1} is nonzero. Then $v_p(a_0) + m \geq \inf_{n \geq 1} v_p(a_n)$.

Proof. We briefly recall Serre's proof. If $a_0 = 0$, then the corollary is immediate. Suppose now that $a_0 \neq 0$. Let $g = a_0$, so g is a modular form of weight $k' = 0$, and

$$v_p(f - g) = \inf_{n \geq 1} v_p(a_n).$$

Also, since the image of k in X_{m+1} is nonzero, $k \not\equiv k'$ in X_{m+1} . So by Theorem 3.3,

$$v_p(f - g) < v_p(g) + m + 1.$$

Consequently,

$$v_p(a_0) + m + 1 > \inf_{n \geq 1} v_p(a_n),$$

so

$$v_p(a_0) + m \geq \inf_{n \geq 1} v_p(a_n). \quad \square$$

Corollary 3.6 ([63, Corollaire 2]). Consider p -adic modular forms $f^{(i)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n^{(i)} q^n$ of weights $k^{(i)}$, for $i = 1, 2, \dots$, respectively. Suppose that both of the following hold:

$$\begin{aligned} \varinjlim_i a_n^{(i)} &= a_n \in \mathbb{Q}_p \text{ for all } n \geq 1 \\ \varprojlim_i k^{(i)} &= k \in X, \text{ with } k \neq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then $a_0^{(i)}$ converges p -adically to an element $a_0 \in \mathbb{Q}_p$, and $f = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n q^n$ is a p -adic modular form of weight k .

Example 3.7 (Application to G_k). Applying Corollary 3.6 to a sequence of Eisenstein series G_{k_i} , $i = 1, 2, \dots$, with $k_i \geq 4$ and even for all i and such that $k_i \rightarrow \infty$ in the archimedean metric and also $k_i \rightarrow k \in X$, we obtain a p -adic modular form (in fact, a p -adic Eisenstein series, i.e. a p -adic limit of Eisenstein series)

$$G_k^* := G_k^{(p)} := \varinjlim_i G_{k_i} = \frac{\zeta^*(1-k)}{2} + \sum_{n \geq 1} \sigma_{k-1}^*(n) q^n$$

with $\sigma_{k-1}^*(n) := \sigma_{k-1}^{(p)}(n) := \sum_{\substack{d \mid n \\ p \nmid d}} d^{k-1}$ and $\zeta^*(1-k) := \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \zeta(1-k_i)$.

Since the p -adic number $\zeta^*(1-k)$ is a p -adic limit of values of the Riemann zeta function, it is natural to ask about its relationship to values of the Kubota–Leopoldt p -adic zeta function. This is given in Theorem 3.8 below. More generally, a consequence of Theorem 3.10 is the construction of p -adic Dedekind zeta functions as elements of Λ (i.e. as p -adic measures).

We say that an element of $k = (s, u) \in X = \mathbb{Z}_p \times \mathbb{Z}/(p-1)\mathbb{Z}$ is *even* if $k \in 2X$ (equivalently, since we are assuming p is odd, $u \in 2\mathbb{Z}/(p-1)\mathbb{Z}$). Otherwise, we say (s, u) is *odd*.

Theorem 3.8 ([63, Théorème 3]). *If $(s, u) \neq 1$ is odd, then $\zeta^*(s, u) = L_p(s, \omega^{1-u})$, where L_p denotes the Kubota–Leopoldt p -adic zeta function from Theorem 2.7.*

Proof. We recall Serre’s proof. If ζ' denotes the function

$$(s, u) \mapsto L_p(s, \omega^{1-u}),$$

then ζ' is the Kubota–Leopoldt p -adic zeta function, and $\zeta'(1-k) = (1-p^{k-1})\zeta(1-k)$ for each positive even integer k .

If $k \in 2X$ (so $1-k$ is odd), $k_i \rightarrow k$ in X , $k_i \rightarrow \infty$ in the archimedean topology, then

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta'(1-k) &= \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \zeta'(1-k_i) = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} (1-p^{k_i-1}) \zeta(1-k_i) \\ &= \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \zeta(1-k_i) = \zeta^*(1-k). \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

For any fixed even $u \neq 0$ in $\mathbb{Z}/(p-1)\mathbb{Z}$, we can also prove that the function $s \mapsto \zeta^*(1-s, 1-u)$ arises as an element of $\Lambda := \Lambda_{\Gamma}$, without reference to the work of Kubota–Leopoldt (and also without reference to the work of Iwasawa, who proved this as well). First, we note that for each positive integer $m \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p-1}$, the rational numbers $\zeta(1-m) = (-1)^{m+1} \frac{B_m}{m}$ were already known in the mid-1800s to be p -integral, thanks to the von Staudt–Clausen theorem [14, 71] and a result of von Staudt on

numerators of Bernoulli numbers ([72], which was later rediscovered and misattributed, as discussed on [26, p. 136]). So the p -adic limits $\zeta^*(1-s, 1-u)$ are elements of \mathbb{Z}_p whenever $u \neq 0$ in $\mathbb{Z}/(p-1)\mathbb{Z}$. (Alternatively, Corollary 3.5 shows that because all the higher order Fourier coefficients of the Eisenstein series $G_{(s,u)}^*$ are p -integral, so is the constant term of $G_{(s,u)}^*$.) Applying Corollary 3.6 to the p -adic Eisenstein series $G_{(s,u)}^*$ from Example 3.7, we obtain congruences for the constant terms $\zeta^*(1-s, 1-u)$. So applying Lemma 2.11 and Theorem 2.12, we see that for fixed even $u \neq 0$ in $\mathbb{Z}/(p-1)\mathbb{Z}$, $\zeta^*(1-s, 1-u)$ can be obtained as an element of Γ . Via different methods, Iwasawa's work also addressed the case where $u = 0$ [44]. We summarize these results in Theorem 3.9.

Theorem 3.9. *Let $\Lambda := \Lambda_\Gamma$, and fix an even $u \in \mathbb{Z}/(p-1)\mathbb{Z}$. Then:*

- (1) *If $u \neq 0$, then the function $\langle \cdot \rangle^s \mapsto \zeta^*(1-s, 1-u)$ is an element of $\Lambda := \Lambda_\Gamma$.*
- (2) *The function $s \mapsto \zeta^*(1-s, 1)^{-1}$ is an element $\Lambda \cong \mathbb{Z}_p[[T]]$, and moreover, is of the form $Tg(T)$ with $g(T)$ invertible in $\mathbb{Z}_p[[T]]$.*

For $n \geq 1$ the n th Fourier coefficient of the p -adic Eisenstein series G_k^* , with $k = (s, u)$, is of the form

$$\sigma_{k-1}^*(n) = \sum_{\substack{d|n \\ p \nmid d}} d^{-1} \omega(d)^k \langle d \rangle^k = \sum_{\substack{d|n \\ p \nmid d}} d^{-1} \omega(d)^u \langle d \rangle^s,$$

which gives an element of Λ , when we fix u . Consequently, for fixed $u \neq 0$, the coefficients of $G_{(s,u)}^*$ can be viewed as elements of Λ (by Theorem 3.9(1)), and furthermore, for $u = 0$, the coefficients of the normalized Eisenstein series $E_s^* := (\zeta^*(1-s, 1)/2)^{-1} G_{(s,0)}^*$ can be viewed as elements of Λ (by Theorem 3.9(2)).

More generally, we have the following result.

Theorem 3.10 ([63, Théorèmes 17 and 18]). *Let f_s be a p -adic modular form of weight $k(s) = (sr, u) \neq 0$ for some fixed r and u . Suppose the function $\langle \cdot \rangle^s \mapsto a_n(f_s)$ is in $\Lambda := \Lambda_\Gamma$ for all $n \geq 1$.*

- (1) *If $u \neq 0$ in $\mathbb{Z}/(p-1)\mathbb{Z}$, then the same is true for $n = 0$.*
- (2) *If $u = 0$ in $\mathbb{Z}/(p-1)\mathbb{Z}$, then $\langle \cdot \rangle^s \mapsto \zeta^*(1-rs, 1)^{-1} a_0(f_s)$ is in Λ .*

Proof. Serre's proof of each part of this theorem involves a careful analysis of the element $f'_s := f_s E_{-rs}^* \in \Lambda$, which is of weight $(0, u)$ and has the same constant term as f_s . Since we will not need the details in this paper, we do not elaborate here and instead refer the reader to [63, proofs of Théorèmes 17 and 18].

We note, however, that we can also give an alternate proof for Part (1), i.e. when $u \neq 0$, using the results developed thus far in the present paper: If $a_n(f_s)$ is in Λ for all $n \geq 1$, then Corollaries 3.5 (with $m = 0$)

and 3.6 guarantee the constant terms meet the conditions necessary to apply Lemma 2.11 and Theorem 2.12, so we can realize the constant term $a_0(f_s)$ as an element of Λ . \square

Serre uses Theorem 3.10 to obtain a p -adic Dedekind zeta function ζ_K^* , for K a totally real number field, as an element of Λ (where ζ_K^* is defined analogously to ζ^* and occurs as the constant term of an Eisenstein series).

4. Hilbert modular forms and L -functions attached to Hecke characters

Serre's use of p -adic families of Eisenstein series to construct p -adic zeta functions inspired constructions in other contexts. We now summarize a generalization to the space of p -adic Hilbert modular forms, where realizations of Eisenstein measures enabled the construction of p -adic L -functions attached to Hecke characters of totally real or CM fields.

4.1. The strategy of Deligne–Ribet. Our goal now is to introduce the strategy of Deligne–Ribet from [18] to p -adically interpolate values of $L(s, \rho)$ for ρ a finite order Hecke character of a totally real field K unramified away from p . Note that for negative integers s , $L(s, \rho)$ lies in the field extension $\mathbb{Q}(\rho)$ obtained by adjoining all values of ρ to \mathbb{Q} . Following the conventions established in Section 2.1, for any number field F , we denote by $F(p^\infty)$ the maximal abelian extension of F that is unramified away from p .

Theorem 4.1 ([18, Main Theorem (8.2)]). *Fix a totally real field K and a prime-to- p ideal \mathfrak{A} of K . Then there exists a \mathbb{Z}_p -valued p -adic measure $\mu_{\mathfrak{A}}$ on $G := \text{Gal}(K(p^\infty)/K)$ such that for all positive integers k and finite order characters ρ on G ,*

$$\int_G \rho \cdot \mathbf{N}^k d\mu_{\mathfrak{A}} = (1 - \rho(\mathfrak{A}) \mathbf{N} \mathfrak{A}^{k+1}) L^{(p)}(-k, \rho),$$

where \mathbf{N} denotes the norm and $L^{(p)}(-k, \rho) = \prod_{\mathfrak{p} \mid p} (1 - \rho(\mathfrak{p}) \mathbf{N}(\mathfrak{p})^k) L(-k, \rho)$.

To prove Theorem 4.1, Deligne and Ribet work in the space of Hilbert modular forms. As one might expect from Serre's approach to constructing the p -adic zeta function, one step toward proving Theorem 4.1 is the construction of Eisenstein series (this time, in the space of Hilbert modular forms) of weight k with $L(1 - k, \rho)$ as the constant term, for each positive integer k . Similarly to the Eisenstein series G_k^* , it is easy to see the non-constant terms of the Eisenstein series in [18] satisfy congruences as the weight k varies. Now that we are in the setting of Hilbert modular forms, though, we need a new approach to proving that the constant terms satisfy congruences. This requires the theory of p -adic Hilbert modular forms and q -expansion principles, which require more geometry than the discussion thus far.

4.1.1. Ingredients from the theory of p -adic Hilbert modular forms. We briefly delve into the setup of p -adic Hilbert modular forms, the space where the families of Eisenstein series from [18, 46] live. For more details, see [39, Chapter 4], [46, Chapter I], or [29].

We can give a formulation of Hilbert modular forms as sections of line bundles over a moduli space \mathcal{M} of Hilbert–Blumenthal abelian varieties (with additional structure). More precisely, fix a totally real number field K of degree g over \mathbb{Q} , a fractional ideal \mathfrak{c} of K , and an integer $N \geq 4$ prime to p . Let \mathcal{O}_K denote the ring of integers in K , and let \mathfrak{d}^{-1} denote its inverse different. There is a scheme $\mathcal{M} := M(N, \mathfrak{c})$ over $\text{Spec}(\mathcal{O}_K)$ classifying triples (X, i, λ) , consisting of an abelian scheme X of relative dimension g together with an action of \mathcal{O}_K on it, a level structure $i : \mathfrak{d}^{-1} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mu_N \hookrightarrow X$, and a \mathfrak{c} -polarization $\lambda : X^{\vee} \xrightarrow{\sim} X \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_K} \mathfrak{c}$ (where X^{\vee} denotes the dual abelian scheme to X).

We denote by $\pi : \mathcal{A}_{\text{univ}} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ the universal object, and we define $\underline{\omega} := \pi_* \Omega^1_{\mathcal{A}_{\text{univ}}/\mathcal{M}}$. The space of Hilbert modular forms of weight $(k(\sigma))_{\sigma: K \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}}$ is identified with $H^0(\mathcal{M}, \boxtimes_{\sigma} \underline{\omega}(k_{\sigma}))$. Note that $\underline{\omega}(k_{\sigma})$ is a subsheaf of $\text{Sym}^k(\underline{\omega})$, where $k = \sum_{\sigma} k(\sigma)$. Note that there exists a smooth toroidal compactification $\bar{\mathcal{M}}$ of \mathcal{M} that includes the cusps of \mathcal{M} , and the universal abelian scheme $\mathcal{A}_{\text{univ}}$ extends to the universal semi-abelian scheme over $\bar{\mathcal{M}}$. Also note that when $[K : \mathbb{R}] > 1$, Köcher’s principle guarantees that a Hilbert modular form over \mathcal{M} extends holomorphically to the cusps. As explained in [18, Example 5.3], [39, Section 4.1] (see also [46, Section 1.1] on algebraic q -expansions), when we work over a \mathbb{Q} -algebra R (for example, $R = \mathbb{C}$), the cusps are in bijection with fractional ideals \mathfrak{A} of K (which we will call the “cusp corresponding to \mathfrak{A} ”).

Remark 4.2. While we shall not need this fact here (as we are working in settings specific to Katz and Deligne–Ribet), it is worth noting that as discussed in [2, p. 2-3], the notion of “Hilbert modular form” for $F \neq \mathbb{Q}$ varies slightly depending on where in the literature one looks. More precisely, the moduli problem represented by $\mathcal{M} = M(N, \mathfrak{c})$ corresponds to the group $G^* = G \times_{\text{Res}_{K/\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{G}_m} \mathbb{G}_m$, where $G = \text{Res}_{K/\mathbb{Q}} \text{GL}_2$, $G \rightarrow \text{Res}_{K/\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{G}_m$ is the determinant morphism, and $\mathbb{G}_m \rightarrow \text{Res}_{K/\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{G}_m$ is the diagonal embedding. On the other hand, there are also approaches to eigenforms on the group G , but the moduli problem for G is not representable. For further discussion about the relationship between automorphic forms on these two spaces, see [2, p. 2-3].

Let W denote the ring of Witt vectors associated to an algebraic closure of $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$, and let $W_m = W/p^m W$. We identify W with the ring of integers in the maximal unramified extension of \mathbb{Q}_p inside an algebraic closure of \mathbb{Q}_p . We fix an embedding $K \hookrightarrow \bar{\mathbb{Q}}_p$. The image of \mathcal{O}_K under this embedding lies in W .

The space of p -adic Hilbert modular forms is defined over the ordinary locus \mathcal{M}^{ord} (inside of $\mathcal{M} \times_{\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}_K} \text{Spec } W$), which can be described as the nonvanishing locus of a lift of the Hasse invariant, like in [39, Section 4.1.7]. More precisely, the space of p -adic Hilbert modular forms is realized as follows. We build an *Ikeda tower* over \mathcal{M}^{ord} (as in, e.g, [39, Section 8.1.1]). For each pair of positive integers n, m , $\text{Ig}_{n,m}$ is defined to be a cover of $\mathcal{M}^{\text{ord}} \times_W W_m$ classifying ordinary Hilbert–Blumenthal abelian varieties A together with level p^n -structure $\mu_{p^n} \hookrightarrow A[p^n]$. So we have canonical maps $\text{Ig}_{n,m} \rightarrow \text{Ig}_{n',m}$ for all $n' \geq n$ (and likewise for $m' \geq m$), giving us a tower of schemes. Following the notation of [39, Section 8.1.1], we set

$$\begin{aligned} V_{n,m} &:= H^0 \left(\text{Ig}_{n,m}, \mathcal{O}_{\text{Ig}_{n,m}} \right) \\ V_{\infty,m} &:= \varprojlim_n V_{n,m}. \end{aligned}$$

Following [46, Section 1.9] (or the more general discussion from [39, Section 8.1.1]), the space of p -adic Hilbert modular forms is then

$$V := V_{\infty,\infty} := \varprojlim_m V_{\infty,m}.$$

We identify $V_{\infty,\infty}$ with the ring of global sections of the structure sheaf of a formal scheme parametrizing Hilbert–Blumenthal abelian varieties with p^∞ -level structure.

An advantage of this construction is that it provides a canonical map from the space of Hilbert modular forms to the space V of p -adic Hilbert modular forms (as in, e.g., [46, Theorem (1.10.15)]).

Remark 4.3. More generally, this construction can be modified to produce p -adic automorphic forms in other cases, such as in the setting of Shimura varieties of PEL type. For a detailed treatment, see [11, 24, 39].

4.1.2. q -expansion principles. Like in Serre’s construction, Deligne and Ribet’s approach also relies substantially on properties of q -expansions of Eisenstein series. So we now will need some q -expansion principles, i.e. theorems that explain to what degree Hilbert modular forms are determined by their q -expansions. In Proposition 4.4 and Theorem 4.6, we choose the level structure so that the reduction of \mathcal{M} is connected. (Alternatively, we could modify the statements of Proposition 4.4 and Theorem 4.5 to take a q -expansion at a cusp on each connected component.)

Proposition 4.4 (algebraic q -expansion principle for Hilbert modular forms). Let f be a Hilbert modular form defined over a ring R .

- (1) If the algebraic q -expansion of f vanishes at some cusp, then $f = 0$.
- (2) Let $R_0 \subseteq R$ be a ring. If the q -expansion of f at some cusp has coefficients in R_0 , then f is defined over R_0 .

The proof of Statement (1) relies on the irreducibility results in [61, 62], and Statement (2) can be proved as a consequence of (1) (similarly to the proof of [45, Corollary 1.6.2]).

The Fourier coefficients of the Eisenstein series needed for studying L -values of totally real Hecke characters have coefficients in the ring of integers \mathcal{O} of a number field. So as a consequence of Proposition 4.4(2) and the fact that the algebraic and analytic q -expansions of a Hilbert modular form agree (by [46, Equation (1.7.6)]), we have that our Eisenstein series are actually defined over \mathcal{O} .

In order to construct the p -adic L -functions, we will also need a p -adic q -expansion principle for Hilbert modular forms.

Theorem 4.5 (p -adic q -expansion principle for Hilbert modular forms, [18, (5.13)]). *If $f \in V$ and the q -expansion of f vanishes at some cusp, then $f = 0$. Furthermore, if R_0 is flat over \mathbb{Z}_p , then the R_0 -submodule V_{R_0} of p -adic modular forms defined over R_0 consists of the elements $f \in V_{R_0} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}_p} \mathbb{Q}_p$ whose q -expansion coefficients lie in R_0 , and if the q -expansion of a p -adic modular form f at some cusp has coefficients in R_0 , then the same is true at all the cusps.*

As an important consequence of Theorem 4.5, we obtain Corollary 4.6.

Corollary 4.6 ([18, Corollary (5.14)]). *Let $f \in V_{R_0} \otimes \mathbb{Q}_p$, and suppose that at some cusp, all the q -expansion coefficients, aside possibly from the constant term, of f lie in R_0 . Then the difference between the constant terms of the q -expansions of f at any two cusps also lies in R_0 .*

Proof. Let $v \in V_{R_0} \otimes \mathbb{Q}_p$ be such that at some cusp, all the q -expansion coefficients, aside possibly from the constant term, of f lie in R_0 . Let a be the constant term of f at that cusp. Then a is a weight 0 modular form, and all the coefficients of $f - a \in V_{R_0} \otimes \mathbb{Q}_p$ lie in R_0 . So by Theorem 4.5, $f - a \in V_{R_0}$ and all the q -expansion coefficients of $f - a$, in particular its constant term, at any other cusp lie in R_0 . So the difference between any two constant terms of f lies in R_0 . \square

As an immediate corollary of Corollary 4.6, we obtain:

Corollary 4.7. *If the abstract Kummer congruences hold for all the non-constant terms of the q -expansions of a family of p -adic modular forms f at some cusp, then they also hold for the difference between the constant terms at two cusps.*

To prove Theorem 4.1, it then suffices to realize $L^{(p)}(1 - k, \rho)$ in the constant term of a q -expansion of an Eisenstein series $E_{k,\rho}$ and observe that the constant term of $E_{k,\rho}$ at a cusp corresponding to a fractional ideal \mathfrak{A} is $\rho(\mathfrak{A})\mathbf{N}(\mathfrak{A})^k L^{(p)}(1 - k, \rho)$, which is proved in [18, Theorem (6.1)].

4.2. The case where χ is a Hecke character of a CM field. Given that we just considered the case of Hecke characters of totally real fields, it is natural now to move to CM fields K . Fix a CM type Σ for K , i.e. a set of $[K : \mathbb{Q}]/2$ embeddings $K \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that exactly one representative from each pair of complex conjugate embeddings $\{\sigma, \bar{\sigma}\}$ lies in Σ . In [46], Katz considered the case where $\chi : K^\times \backslash \mathbb{A}_K^\times \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a Hecke character of type A_0 , i.e. χ is of the form

$$\chi = \chi_{\text{fin}} \prod_{\sigma \in \Sigma} \left(\frac{1}{\sigma} \right)^k \left(\frac{\bar{\sigma}}{\sigma} \right)^{d(\sigma)},$$

with k a positive integer, $d(\sigma)$ a nonnegative integer for all $\sigma \in \Sigma$, and χ_{fin} a finite order character. Building on ideas of Eisenstein, the study of the algebraicity properties of the values $L(0, \chi)$ was initiated Damerell and later extended and completed by Goldstein–Schappacher [27, 28], Shimura [66], and Weil [74]. (A summary of the historical development is in [34, Section 5].)

For χ of type A_0 as above, the values $L(0, \chi)$ can be expressed (in what is known as *Damerell's formula*) as finite sums of values of Eisenstein series in the space of Hilbert modular forms. Thus, it is natural to try to construct Eisenstein measures suited to this application and adapt the techniques introduced thus far.

Indeed, this is what Katz did in [46], but there are several new challenges Katz had to solve in this setting, which also helped uncover paths toward generalizations. Because these challenges also arise more broadly, we continue the discussion in Section 5.

5. Generalizations and challenges

Various constructions of automorphic L -functions are closely tied to Eisenstein series. This includes Damerell's formula, the Rankin–Selberg method, and pullback methods like the doubling method. Each of these methods was used to prove algebraicity of certain values of the corresponding automorphic L -functions. Given the developments discussed thus far, it is therefore natural to try to construct Eisenstein measures valued in appropriate spaces of p -adic automorphic forms and use those to construct p -adic L -functions. Those familiar with any of these methods might recall, though, that the Eisenstein series occurring in the constructions of the L -functions can be quite intricate (and likewise for computations of the Fourier coefficients), and furthermore, the L -functions are not simply realized as constant terms of these particular Eisenstein series.

In addition, on the p -adic side, the slightest modification to input can have drastic geometric consequences. For example, changing a prime from split to inert can lead to the entire ordinary locus employed in the definition

of p -adic modular forms described above to disappear in certain settings. In another direction, working with the full range of Hecke characters from Section 4.2 requires considering Eisenstein series that are not holomorphic.

Extending the approach of constructing Eisenstein measures to produce p -adic L -functions attached to Hecke characters of CM fields, as well as those considered in higher rank generalizations like [20, 21, 23], involves working in a setting where:

- The approach of using constant terms (from [18, 63]) no longer applies, due to the fact that for Eisenstein series occurring in particular formulas for L -functions, the Fourier expansions of those Eisenstein series at cusps where it is convenient to work lack constant terms. For example, the Fourier expansions of the particular Eisenstein series employed in the formulas in [46] turn out to lack constant terms at the cusps where they computed, as seen in, e.g., [46, Theorem (3.2.3)]. (That said, if one has a convenient way to compute and study the Fourier coefficients at a cusp where the constant term is nonzero, then this issue disappears.)
- The Eisenstein series are substantially more complicated to construct.
- The constructions of the L -functions require considering values of C^∞ (not necessarily holomorphic) Eisenstein series.
- The points in the ordinary locus needed in the construction of the L -functions might be empty.

Moving beyond Hecke characters to Rankin–Selberg L -functions and L -functions associated to automorphic forms (e.g. through the doubling method), we also must content with the following:

- L -functions might be represented not as finite sums of values of Eisenstein series, but instead as integrals of cusp form(s) against restrictions of Eisenstein series to certain spaces (e.g. as in the doubling method)

5.1. Strategies of Katz, and beyond. As noted in Section 4.2, Damerell’s formula expresses values of the L -functions associated to Hecke characters of CM fields in terms of finite sums of values of Eisenstein series from the space of Hilbert modular forms. In his construction of p -adic L -functions for CM fields [46], Katz exploits the fact that the Eisenstein series get evaluated only at CM points, i.e. Hilbert–Blumenthal abelian varieties with complex multiplication. He constructs an Eisenstein measure and then constructs a p -adic measure at each of these CM points \mathfrak{A} by evaluating the Eisenstein series in the image of his Eisenstein measure at \mathfrak{A} .

Constructing the Eisenstein series and measure is considerably more involved than in the examples mentioned so far, though, and it is the subject

of [46, Chapter III and Section 4.2]. Part of Katz's strategy is to introduce a *partial Fourier transform* ([46, Section 3.1]), which allows him to construct an Eisenstein series amenable to computations for L -functions but which also has q -expansion coefficients that satisfy congruences (so that he can employ the q -expansion principles from above). The key point with the partial Fourier transform is to take the Fourier transform of appropriate data that interpolates well to produce the Eisenstein series and then exploit the close relationship between the Fourier transform and the Fourier transform of the Fourier transform, namely that the Fourier transform of the Fourier transform of $t \mapsto f(t)$ is $t \mapsto f(-t)$. Hence we get an Eisenstein measure whose coefficients interpolate well.

To handle the C^∞ Eisenstein series that occur in the construction of L -functions for CM fields, Katz must consider certain differential operators. The C^∞ Eisenstein series in the construction can be obtained by applying the Maass–Shimura differential operators to holomorphic Eisenstein series. Katz exploits the Hodge theory of Hilbert–Blumenthal abelian varieties to construct p -adic analogues (built out of the Gauss–Manin connection and Kodaira–Spencer morphism) of those differential operators [46, Chapter II]. On q -expansions, these operators are a generalization of the operator $q \frac{d}{dq}$, and they preserve interpolation properties of the Hilbert modular forms to which they are applied.

These techniques for constructing Eisenstein measures have since been extended to the PEL setting. For example, differential operators on p -adic automorphic forms on unitary groups are the subject of [19, 22] (which also builds on [35]), and they were used as a starting point in the construction of Eisenstein measures taking values in the space of p -adic automorphic forms on unitary groups in [20, 21], which were in turn employed in the constructions of p -adic L -functions in [23, 25].

Like in Section 4.1.1, Katz's construction is over the ordinary locus. This introduces a serious obstacle, namely that there are no ordinary CM points, if p is inert. Given that Damerell's formula is a sum over CM points, this means Katz's approach did not address p inert.

Over four decades passed before an approach to p inert was introduced. In [1], Andreatta and Iovita explain how to adapt Katz's approach to the case of quadratic imaginary fields with p inert. In separate work [48], Kriz also introduced an approach for inert p . Parts of [1] are also being extended to the case of CM fields in [3, 30]. The idea of Andreatta and Iovita is to work instead with *overconvergent* p -adic modular forms and modify the approach to handling the differential operators. Whereas Katz exploits Dwork's *unit root splitting* that exists over the ordinary locus, Andreatta and Iovita build an operator from the Gauss–Manin connection and then take pairings that do not require projecting modulo a unit root splitting.

5.2. Working with pairings and pullback methods. Katz's approach to constructing Eisenstein measures provides a starting point for other cases, in particular automorphic forms in the PEL setting. Since we are often faced with representations of L -functions not as a finite sum but rather as an integral of an Eisenstein series against cusp form(s), we now briefly explain the key ideas for adapting such a representation to the p -adic setting. We discuss this strategy in the context of the Rankin–Selberg zeta function, where it was first developed (by Hida in [37]), but it has also since been extended to various settings, including, among others, in [23, 38, 53, 54, 58].

The Rankin–Selberg product of a weight k holomorphic cusp form $f = \sum_{n \geq 1} a_n q^n$ and a weight $\ell \leq k$ holomorphic modular form $g = \sum_{n \geq 0} b_n q^n$ is a zeta series

$$D(s, f, g) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_n b_n}{n^s}.$$

Shimura and Rankin proved in [60, 67] that

$$D(k-1-r, f, g) = c \pi^l \langle \tilde{f}, g \delta_{\lambda}^{(r)} E \rangle,$$

where E denotes a particular weight $\lambda := k - \ell - 2r$ Eisenstein series, $\tilde{f}(z) := \overline{f(-\bar{z})}$, $\delta_{\lambda}^{(r)}$ is a Maass–Shimura operator that raises the weight of a modular form of weight λ by $2r$ (so $\delta_{\lambda}^{(r)} := \partial_{\lambda+2r-2} \circ \partial_{\lambda+2} \circ \partial_{\lambda}$ with $\delta_{\lambda} := \frac{1}{2\pi i} \left(\frac{\lambda}{2iy} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right)$), $c = \frac{\Gamma(k-\ell-2r)}{\Gamma(k-1-r)\Gamma(k-\ell-r)} \frac{(-1)^r 4^{k-1} N}{3} \prod_{p|N} (1 + p^{-1})$ (with N the level of the modular forms), and $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ denotes the Petersson inner product. As a consequence, Shimura proved in [67, Theorem 2] that

$$\frac{\pi^{-k} D(m, f, g)}{\langle f, f \rangle}$$

is algebraic for all integers k, ℓ, m satisfying $\ell < k$ and $\frac{k+\ell-2}{2} < m < k$.

In [37], Hida constructed p -adic Rankin–Selberg zeta functions by building on Shimura's approach to studying algebraicity. In particular, the idea to interpret the Rankin–Selberg zeta function in terms of the Petersson pairing plays a key role, and this remains true in extensions to higher rank groups (including in the discussions of algebraicity in [35] and in extensions to the p -adic case in PEL settings involving the doubling method in [23, 53, 54]). The idea is to reinterpret the linear Petersson pairing $\langle h_1, h_2 \rangle$ as a functional $\ell_{h_1}(h_2)$. This suggests identifying a space of modular forms with its dual space, which in turn leads to use of the associated Hecke algebra. This is the point that allows Hida to integrate Eisenstein measures (generally coming from familiar families of Eisenstein series, at least in the case of modular forms) into the construction of p -adic L -functions. While this approach makes sense in higher rank (e.g. in the context of the doubling method), putting it into practice is nontrivial for various reasons, including

geometric issues (like those mentioned above) and new properties of the Hecke algebra that must be taken into account.

5.3. Some remaining challenges and future directions. Putting aside the bigger goal of proving the Greenberg–Iwasawa main conjectures, challenges still remain for producing p -adic L -functions. Even in settings where we have constructions of L -functions closely tied to the behavior of Eisenstein series and we anticipate the existence of Eisenstein measures, actually carrying out the construction can be nontrivial. We conclude by highlighting three categories of challenges and suggest some future directions toward resolving them:

- (1) As noted in Section 5.2, the pairings that arise from integral representations of L -functions can be useful for p -adic interpolation, but one often has to deal with significant technical challenges. Properties of Hecke algebras (and the *ordinary* Hecke algebras where one often works in practice) can present obstacles. For example, a Gorenstein property is often useful, but not necessarily known, in this context. Pilloni’s higher Hida theory seems to present a promising and natural alternative framework for interpreting these pairings [8, 55, 59].
- (2) As noted in Section 5.1, cases where the prime p does not split can lead to considerable geometric challenges, which have been recently addressed in low rank in [1]. For unitary groups, work on differential operators in [24, 64, 65] and Hecke operators in [9] addresses some challenges that arise when the ordinary locus is empty, but work remains in the inert case (even just for constructing appropriate Eisenstein series for the Eisenstein measure) to construct the full p -adic L -functions. In one of the most promising directions, the work in [3, 30] suggests the possibility of extending the techniques of [1] to the PEL setting, but again, details of the Eisenstein measures would still need to be worked out by adjusting the choices of local data that feed into the partial Fourier transforms in [21].
- (3) At a more fundamental level, before one can construct p -adic L -functions via the method of Eisenstein measures, one needs a representation of the L -function in terms of Eisenstein series. Such a representation, though, is insufficient unless we also can reinterpret it algebraically. For example, given the success in adapting the doubling method to the p -adic setting in [23, 25, 53], it is natural to try to adapt the *twisted doubling* representation of L -functions (i.e. for producing L -functions associated to a twist of a cuspidal automorphic representation by a representation of GL_n for some n) in [10] to the p -adic setting. As of yet, though, we do not have an appropriate

interpretation in terms of algebraic geometry or another familiar algebraic tool, and without an algebraic interpretation, are unlikely to see a path toward a p -adic realization. There is currently active work to produce integral representations of various L -functions. It will be interesting to see which ones become suitable for proving algebraicity results, either in terms of the techniques described above or in terms of those yet to be discovered.

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