

Automorphic forms and L -functions for the unitary group^{*}

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Stephen Gelbart
Department of Mathematics
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York 14853/USA

and

Ilya Piatetski-Shapiro
Department of Mathematics
Yale University, New Haven, CT. 06520/USA
Tel Aviv University, Ramat-Aviv, Israel

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Introduction

Our purpose is to define and analyze L -functions attached to automorphic cusp forms on the unitary group $G = \text{U}_{2,1}$ and a six-dimensional representation

$$\rho : {}^L G \rightarrow \text{GL}_6(\mathbb{C})$$

of its L -group.

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[†]seewoo5@berkeley.edu

The motivation for this work is three fold.

Firstly, we use these L -functions to analyze the lifting of cusp forms from $U_{1,1}$ to $U_{2,1}$; here the model for our work is Waldspurger's L -function theoretic characterization of the image of Shimura's map for modular forms of half-integral weight (cf. [Wald]).

A second motivation comes from the need to relate the poles of the L -functions for G , to integrals of cusp forms over cycles coming from $U_{1,1}$. The prototype here is the recent proof of Tate's conjecture for Hilbert modular surfaces due to Harder, Langlands, and Rapaport.

Thirdly, we view this work as a special contribution to the general program of constructing local L and ε factors of Langlands type for representations of arbitrary reductive groups. In [PS1], such a program was sketched generalizing classical methods of Hecke, Rankin–Selberg, and Shimura. Related developments are discussed in [Jacquet], [Novod], [PS2], and [PS3]. For the unitary group $U_{2,1}$ the present paper extends the developments initiated in [PS3].

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Notation

- (i) F is a field (sometimes local, sometimes a global field), E is a quadratic extension of F with Galois involution $z \mapsto \bar{z}$.
- (ii) V is a 3-dimensional vector space over E , with basis $\{\ell_{-1}, \ell_0, \ell_1\}$. $(-, -)_V$ is a Hermitian form on V , with matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

with respect to $\{\ell_{-1}, \ell_0, \ell_1\}$.

- (iii) $G = U_{2,1} = U(V)$ is the unitary group for the form $(-, -)_V$. P =parabolic subgroup stabilizing the isotropic line through $\ell_{-1} = MN$ with

$$M = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \delta & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \bar{\delta}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} : \delta \in E^\times, \beta \in E^1 = \{z : z\bar{z} = 1\} \right\}$$

and unipotent radical

$$N = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b & z \\ 0 & 1 & -\bar{b} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} : z, b \in E, z + \bar{z} = -b\bar{b} \right\}.$$

The center of N is

$$Z = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & z \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} : \bar{z} = -z \right\}$$

❖ Whittaker Models (Ordinary and Generalized)

Some kind of Whittaker model is needed in order to introduce L -functions on G .

Fix F local (not of characteristic two), and suppose (π, H_π) is an irreducible admissible representation of G . Naively, we should look for functionals on H_π which transform under N according to a one-dimensional representation. However, since such functionals need not exist in general, and since there are irreducible representations of N which are not 1-dimensional, it is natural to pursue a more general approach.

1.1

Recall N is the maximal unipotent subgroup of G and E is a quadratic extension of F . We fix, once and for all, an element i in E such that $\bar{i} = -i$, so $\Im(z) = (z - \bar{z})/2i$. Regarding E as a 2-dimensional symplectic space over F with skew-form $\langle z_1, z_2 \rangle = \Im(z_1 \bar{z}_2)$ we have

$$N = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b & z \\ 0 & 1 & -\bar{b} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} : z, b \in E, z + \bar{z} = -b\bar{b} \right\} \simeq H(E),$$

the Heisenberg group attached to E over F . In particular, N is non-abelian, with commutator subgroup

$$[N, N] = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & z \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} = Z,$$

the center of N . The maximal abelian subgroup of N is

$$N' = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & b & z \\ 0 & 1 & -b \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \in N : b \in F \right\}.$$

1.2

The irreducible representations of the Heisenberg group, and hence those of N , are well known:

(i) σ is 1-dimensional.

In this case, σ must be trivial on

$$Z = [N, N]$$

and define a character of N/Z . So

$$N/Z \simeq \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -\bar{a} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \simeq E$$

implies σ corresponds to a character of E , i.e.

$$\sigma = \psi_N \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & a & z \\ 0 & 1 & -\bar{a} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \psi(\mathfrak{I}a)$$

with ψ a character of F .

(ii) σ is infinite-dimensional.

In this case (by the Stone-von Neumann uniqueness theorem), σ is completely determined by its “central” character. In particular, if

$$\sigma \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & z \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \psi(\mathfrak{I}z)I$$

for some (additive) character ψ of F , then

$$\sigma = \rho_\psi = \text{Ind}_{N'}^N \psi_{N'},$$

with $\psi_{N'}$ the character of (the maximal abelian subgroup) N' obtained by trivially extending ψ from Z to N' .

1.3

Definition. By a (generalized) Whittaker functional for (π, H_π) we understand N -map from N_π to some irreducible representation of (σ, L_σ) of N (possibly infinite dimensional).

1.4

Remark. The torus

$$T = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \delta & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \bar{\delta}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} : \delta \in E^\times \right\}$$

acts by conjugation on N , taking

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & b & z \\ 0 & 1 & -\bar{b} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{to} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \delta b & \delta \bar{\delta} z \\ 0 & 1 & -\bar{\delta} \bar{b} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

So if ψ_N denotes the 1-dimensional representation of N corresponding to the fixed character of F as in 1.2 (i), Pontrygin duality for $E \simeq N/Z$ implies that any other 1-dimensional representation is trivial or of the form

$$\psi_N^\delta(n) = \psi_N \left(\begin{bmatrix} \delta & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & \bar{\delta}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} n \begin{bmatrix} \delta & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & \bar{\delta}^{-1} \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \right)$$

for some $\delta \in E^\times$.

1.5

If σ is a one-dimensional representation of N of the form ψ_N , a given irreducible admissible representation (π, H_π) need not possess a nontrivial ψ_N -Whittaker

functional \mathcal{L} . However, if it does, then by 1.4 it possesses a σ -Whittaker functional for any one-dimensional representation ψ_N^δ , given by the formula

$$\mathcal{L}^\delta(v) = \mathcal{L}\left(\pi\left(\begin{bmatrix} \delta & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & \bar{\delta}^{-1} \end{bmatrix}v\right)\right), \quad v \in H_\pi.$$

In this case, we call (π, H_π) non-degenerate. By a well-known theorem of Shalika and Gelfand-Kazhdan (cf. [Sha1]), the space of such σ -Whittaker functionals is one-dimensional. In particular, the corresponding Whittaker models

$$\mathcal{W}(\pi, \psi) = \{W(g) = \mathcal{L}(\pi(g)v) : v \in H_\pi\}$$

are unique.

1.6

In general, (π, H_π) is not non-degenerate, examples being provided by the Weil representations discussed in §??. Thus it is necessary to consider σ -Whittaker models for infinite dimensional σ as well. Such σ , however, are completely determined by their central character ψ_Z , so it is convenient to work with a slight thickening of N . More precisely, consider the stabilizer R in P of the central character ψ_Z of Z . Because $\begin{bmatrix} \delta & & \\ & \beta & \\ & & \bar{\delta}^{-1} \end{bmatrix}$ conjugates $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & z \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ to $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & \delta\bar{\delta}z \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$,

$$R = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \delta & * & * \\ 0 & \beta & * \\ 0 & 0 & \delta \end{bmatrix} \in P : \delta, \beta \in E^1 \right\} \simeq (E^1 \times E^1) \ltimes N.$$

In particular, each irreducible infinite dimensional representation ρ_ψ of N extends to a like representation ρ_ψ^α of R with α a character of $E^1 \times E^1$.

Theorem (Existence and Uniqueness of Generalized Whittaker Models: [PS3].) Any (π, H_π) possesses a ρ_ψ^α -Whittaker functional for some choice of ρ_ψ^α ; moreover, the space of such functionals is at most one dimensional.

We shall discuss this result in more detail in the global context of §??.

❖ Some Fourier Expansions and Hypercuspidality

Now F is a global field not of characteristic 2, and π is an automorphic cuspidal representation of $G(\mathbb{A})$ which we suppose realized in some subspace of cusp

forms H_π in $L_0^2(G(F)\backslash G(\mathbb{A}))$. To attach an L -function to π , it is useful to take forms f in H_π and examine their Fourier coefficients along the maximal unipotent subgroup N . When such coefficients are non-zero, π is non-degenerate, and we are led back to the local Whittaker models of 1.5; in this case, we can (and eventually do) introduce L -functions using Jacquet's generalization of the "Rankin-Selberg method".

On the other hand, if these Fourier coefficients represent zero, then π is hypercuspidal; in this case, looking at Fourier expansions along Z will bring us back to the generalized Whittaker models of 1.6, and ultimately allow us to introduce an L -function for π using the so-called "Shimura method".

Henceforth, let us fix a non-trivial character ψ of $F\backslash\mathbb{A}$, and define characters ψ_N and ψ_Z of $N = N(\mathbb{A})$ and $Z = Z(\mathbb{A})$ by

$$\psi_N \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & a & z \\ 0 & 1 & -\bar{a} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \psi(\Im a)$$

and

$$\psi_Z \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & z \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \psi(\Im z).$$

2.1

Fix f in H_π . To obtain a Fourier expansion of f "along N ", we introduce the familiar ψ -th coefficient

$$W_f^\psi(g) = \int_{N(F)\backslash N(\mathbb{A})} f(n g) \overline{\psi_N(n)} dn.$$

The transitivity of $T(\mathbb{A}) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \delta & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & \bar{\delta}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \right\}$ acting on $Z(\mathbb{A})\backslash N(\mathbb{A})$ implies - as in the local theory - that

$$\begin{aligned} W_f^{\psi^\delta}(g) &= \int_{N(F)\backslash N(\mathbb{A})} f(n g) \overline{\psi_N^\delta(n)} dn \\ &= \int_{N(F)\backslash N(\mathbb{A})} f(n g) \psi_N \left(\begin{bmatrix} \delta & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & \bar{\delta}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} n \begin{bmatrix} \delta & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & \bar{\delta}^{-1} \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \right) dn \\ &= W_f^\psi \left(\begin{bmatrix} \delta & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & \bar{\delta}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} g \right). \end{aligned}$$

In other words, knowing W_f^ψ determines $W_f^{\psi^\delta}$ for all $\psi^\delta, \delta \in E^\times$.

However, through $N(F) \backslash N(\mathbb{A})$ is compact, it is not abelian; to obtain a nice Fourier expansion, we must bring into play the compact abelian group $N(F)Z(\mathbb{A}) \backslash N(\mathbb{A})$.

2.2

We compute

$$\begin{aligned} W_f^\psi(g) &= \int_{N(F) \backslash N(\mathbb{A})} f(n g) \overline{\psi_N(n)} dn \\ &= \int_{N(F)Z(\mathbb{A}) \backslash N(\mathbb{A})} \int_{Z(F) \backslash Z(\mathbb{A})} f(n z g) dz \overline{\psi_N(n)} dn \\ &= \int_{N(F)Z(\mathbb{A}) \backslash N(\mathbb{A})} f_{00}(n g) \overline{\psi_N(n)} dn \end{aligned}$$

with

$$f_{00}(g) = \int_{Z(F) \backslash Z(\mathbb{A})} f(z g) dz \quad (1)$$

the constant term (in the Fourier expansion) of $f(z g)$ along Z .

Fix g in $G(\mathbb{A})$. As a function on the compact abelian group $N(F)Z(\mathbb{A}) \backslash N(\mathbb{A})$, $f_{00}(n g)$ has a Fourier expansion

$$f_{00}(g) = \sum_{\delta \in E^\times} W_F^{\psi^\delta}(g) + \int_{N(F)Z(\mathbb{A}) \backslash N(\mathbb{A})} f_{00}(n' g) dn'. \quad (2)$$

Indeed, the last paragraph says precisely that $W_f^\psi(g)$ is the ψ -th Fourier coefficient of $f_{00}(n g)$ along $Z \backslash N \simeq E$. Moreover, the constant term is actually zero since f cuspidal implies

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{N(F)Z(\mathbb{A}) \backslash N(\mathbb{A})} f_{00}(n' g) dn' &= \int_{N(F)Z(\mathbb{A}) \backslash N(\mathbb{A})} \int_{Z(F) \backslash Z(\mathbb{A})} f(z n' g) dz dn' \\ &= \int_{N(F) \backslash N(\mathbb{A})} f(n g) dn = 0. \end{aligned}$$

2.3

Let $\mathcal{W}(\pi, \psi)$ denote the space of ψ -th Fourier coefficients $W_f^\psi(g)$, $f \in H_\pi$.

Proposition 2.1. The vanishing or nonvanishing of $\mathcal{W}(\pi, \psi)$ is independent of ψ ; in particular, $\mathcal{W}(\pi, \psi) = 0$ if and only if

$$f_{00}(g) = 0 \quad \forall f \in H_\pi.$$

Proof. According to (1) and (2),

$$\begin{aligned} f_{00}(g) &= \sum_{\delta \in E^\times} W_f^{\psi^\delta}(g) \\ &= \sum_{\delta \in E^\times} W_f^\psi \left(\begin{bmatrix} \delta & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & \bar{\delta}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} g \right) \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

with

$$W_f^\psi(g) = \int_{N(F)Z(\mathbb{A}) \backslash N(\mathbb{A})} f_{00}(ng) \overline{\psi_N(n)} dn.$$

□

2.4

Definition 2.2. We call (π, H_π) hypercuspidal if $f \in H_\pi$ implies $f_{00} = 0$.

Proposition 2.3. Let $L_{0,1}^2$ be the orthogonal complement in L_0^2 of all cusp forms. Then

- (i) $L_{0,1}^2$ has multiplicity 1.
- (ii) each $(\pi, H_\pi) \subset L_{0,1}^2$ is non-degenerate, and
- (iii) for any $f \in H_\pi \subset L_{0,1}^2$, the constant term

$$f_{00}(g) = \sum_{\delta \in E^\times} W_f^{\psi^\delta}(g)$$

completely determines f .

Proof. We start with (iii). Suppose f and f' are in H_π such that $f_{00} = f'_{00}$. Then $(f - f')_{00} = 0$ implies $f - f' = 0$ (by the hypothesis $H_\pi \in L_{0,1}^2$). This proves (iii). To prove (i) and (ii), suppose there exists $H'_\pi \subset L_{0,1}^2$ such that the right regular representation restricted to H'_π again realizes π . If $f \in H_\pi$ and $f' \in H'_\pi$, then

$$f_{00}(g) = \sum_{\delta \in E^\times} W_f^\psi \left(\begin{bmatrix} \delta & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & \bar{\delta}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} g \right) \quad (4)$$

and

$$f'_{00}(g) = \sum_{\delta \in E^\times} W_{f'}^\psi \left(\begin{bmatrix} \delta & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & \bar{\delta}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} g \right).$$

Note that each W_f^ψ (or $W_{f'}^\psi$) satisfies the condition $W_f^\psi(n g) = \psi(n) W_f^\psi(g)$, $n \in N$, i.e. the spaces (W_f^ψ) and $(W_{f'}^\psi)$ afford Whittaker models for π . But by §2.3 these spaces are nonzero (which proves (ii)) and by the uniqueness of Whittaker models quoted in §1.5, these spaces coincide. Thus by (4), the spaces (f_{00}) and (f'_{00}) coincide; by (iii) the spaces $H_\pi = (f)$ and $H'_\pi = (f')$ also coincide, thereby proving (i). \square

2.5

- Remark.** (i) It is conjectured (c.f. [Flicker]) that multiplicity one holds for the entire space of cusp forms; however, at the present time, we can prove this only for $L_{0,1}^2$.
- (ii) Hypercuspsforms do exist; again, the examples are provided by the Weil representation discussed in §??.
- (iii) Although $\mathcal{W}(\pi, \psi) \neq \{0\}$ implies π non-degenerate (in the sense that an abstract functional exists), the converse is not clear. Indeed, the work of [Wald] indicates that characterizing the nonvanishing of a space of Fourier coefficients is a delicate matter.

❖ L -functions à la Rankin–Selberg–Jacquet

We are now ready to attach (global) L -functions to (non-degenerate) cuspidal representations π of $G(\mathbb{A})$. The method used goes back to [Rankin] and [Selberg] who used it to analytically continue the convolution of Dirichlet series corresponding to classical holomorphic modular forms. The reformulation of their construction in the language of representation theory was carried out in detail by [Jacquet], for $GL_2 \times GL_2$, and by [PS 1] in general (but without details or explicit computation). In this Section (and the next), we carry out the construction for $G = U_{2,1}$.

3.1

Recall V is a 3-dimensional vector space over E/F and $(-, -)_V$ is a hermitian form on V whose matrix with respect to the basis $\{\ell_{-1}, \ell_0, \ell_1\}$ is $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$.

Let $H \subset G$ denote the stabilizer of the anisotropic line $\langle \ell_0 \rangle$. Then H also preserves the orthocomplement of $\langle \ell_0 \rangle$, namely

$$W = \langle \ell_{-1}, \ell_1 \rangle.$$

Regarding W as a 2-dimensional Hermitian space (whose matrix with respect to the basis $\{\ell_{-1}, \ell_1\}$ is $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$), we have $H \simeq U(W) \simeq U_{1,1}$ via the embedding

$$\begin{bmatrix} * & * \\ * & * \end{bmatrix} \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} * & 0 & * \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ * & 0 & * \end{bmatrix}.$$

Let B denote the standard maximal parabolic (Borel) subgroup

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & 0 & \beta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \bar{\alpha}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \right\} \text{ of } H$$

so that $B \simeq T \ltimes Z$, with T the torus

$$T = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & \bar{\alpha}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} : \alpha \in E^\times \right\}$$

and Z is the center of N .

3.2

Given an automorphic cuspidal realization (π, H_π) of $G(\mathbb{A})$, and $f \in H_\pi$, we shall analyze a global zeta-integral of the form

$$L^\mu(f, F, s) = \int_{H(F) \backslash H(\mathbb{A})} f(h) E^\mu(h, F, s) dh. \quad (5)$$

First we need to describe the (as yet) undefined terms μ, F, E etc.

Fix a (not necessarily unitary) character μ of the idèle class group $E^\times \backslash \mathbb{A}_E^\times$ of E , and $s \in \mathbb{C}$, define a character ω_μ^s of the Borel subgroup B by the formula

$$\omega_\mu^s \left(\begin{bmatrix} \alpha & 0 & \beta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \bar{\alpha}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \right) = \mu(\alpha) |\alpha|_E^s, \quad \alpha \in \mathbb{A}_E^\times. \quad (6)$$

Fixing an arbitrary Schwartz-Bruhat function ϕ in the space $\mathcal{S}(W(\mathbb{A}_E))$, set

$$F_\phi(h) = \int_{\mathbb{A}_E^\times} (h \cdot \phi)(t\ell_{-1})\mu(t)|t|_E^s d^\times t \quad (7)$$

where $(h \cdot \phi)(w) = \phi(h^{-1} \cdot w)$, and $h \cdot w$ denotes the natural action of $H(\mathbb{A})$ on $W(\mathbb{A}) \subset V(\mathbb{A})$; as usual, this integral converges for $\Re(s)$ sufficiently large, and continues meromorphically to define a function of h on $H(\mathbb{A})$ for all s in \mathbb{C} . Note

$$F(bh) = \omega_\mu^s(b)F(h) \text{ for } b \in B(\mathbb{A}), h \in H(\mathbb{A}).$$

Finally, the Eisenstein series $E^\mu(h, F, s)$ is defined by the familiar series

$$E^\mu(h, F, s) = \sum_{\gamma \in B(F) \backslash H(F)} F(\gamma h);$$

it converges initially only for $\Re(s)$ large, but the Selberg–Langlands theory of Eisenstein series implies that the function it defines continues meromorphically in s and defines an automorphic form on $H(\mathbb{A})$.

3.3

Remark. (i) Because $E(h, F, s)$ is a automorphic form on H , and the restriction of the cusp form f from $G(\mathbb{A})$ to $H(\mathbb{A})$ is still rapidly decreasing, the integral defining $L^\mu(f, F, s)$ (cf. (5)) is convergent. The resulting function of s - the global zeta-function of f - has poles which can arise only from poles of $E(h, F, s)$.

(ii) The function $E(h, F, s)$ is essentially the familiar GL_2 -Eisenstein series discussed (for example) in [Jacquet]. Indeed, SL_2 is isomorphic to a subgroup of H , namely $SU_{2,1}$, and $H \simeq SU_{2,1} \rtimes U_1$, where $U_1 \simeq \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} : \alpha \in E^1 \right\}$ and $\begin{bmatrix} \alpha & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ acts on $SU_{2,1}$ by conjugation. Thus the restriction of $E(h, F, s)$ to $SU_{2,1}$ is the familiar Eisenstein series on $SL_2(\mathbb{A})$ with functional equation and non-trivial residue given by the constant function (arising from the pole at $s = 1$). At the $U_{2,1}$ level, these residues become proportional to $\mu(\det h)$, and the functional equation relates $E(h, F, s)$ to a “partially Fourier transformed” Eisenstein series at $1 - s$.

3.4

From the theory above, we conclude that $L^\mu(f, F, s)$ is meromorphic in \mathbb{C} with functional equation relating values at s and $1 - s$; more significantly for the

sequel, the only possible residues of $L^\mu(f, F, s)$ are proportional to

$$\int_{H(F) \backslash H(\mathbb{A})} f(h) \mu(\det h) dh. \quad (8)$$

In particular, if this last integral vanishes, then the zeta-function $L^\mu(f, F, s)$ is entire.

Regarding $H(F) \backslash H(\mathbb{A})$ as an (algebraic) cycle in $G(F) \backslash G(\mathbb{A})$, we (ultimately) obtain the following statement: The existence of a pole for $L^\mu(f, F, s)$ (and ultimately the L -function $L(s, \pi, \mu)$) is related to the non-vanishing integral of f in H_π (suitably tensored with μ) over the cycle coming from $U_{1,1}$.

We shall return to these considerations in §??. For the moment, we content ourselves with a factorization of $L^\mu(f, F, s)$ into local integrals.

3.5

Proposition.

$$L^\mu(f, F, s) = \int_{Z(\mathbb{A}) \backslash H(\mathbb{A})} W_f^\psi(h) F(h) dh.$$

Proof. From the definition of the series E ,

$$\begin{aligned} L^\mu(f, F, s) &= \int_{H(F) \backslash H(\mathbb{A})} \sum_{B(F) \backslash H(F)} f(\gamma h) F(\gamma h) dh \\ &= \int_{B(F) \backslash H(\mathbb{A})} f(h) F(h) dh. \end{aligned}$$

Recall our subgroups

$$Z = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & z \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \subset H = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} * & 0 & * \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ * & 0 & * \end{bmatrix} \right\}$$

Since $F(h)$ is invariant by $Z(\mathbb{A})$ (c.f. (6)),

$$\begin{aligned} L^\mu(f, F, s) &= \int_{B(F)Z(\mathbb{A}) \backslash H(\mathbb{A})} F(h) \left(\int_{Z(F) \backslash Z(\mathbb{A})} f(zh) dz \right) dh \\ &= \int_{B(F)Z(\mathbb{A}) \backslash H(\mathbb{A})} F(h) f_{00}(h) dh \end{aligned}$$

Now recall the Fourier expansion

$$f_{00}(h) = \sum_{\delta \in E^\times} W_f^\psi \left(\begin{bmatrix} \delta & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & \bar{\delta}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} h \right),$$

c.f. (1). Since

$$B_F = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \delta & & z \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \bar{\delta}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} : \delta \in E^\times, z \in E \right\}$$

we have

$$Z(\mathbb{A}) \backslash B(F)Z(\mathbb{A}) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \delta & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & \bar{\delta}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} : \delta \in E^\times \right\}$$

and therefore

$$\begin{aligned} L^\mu(f, F, s) &= \int_{B(F)Z(\mathbb{A}) \backslash H(\mathbb{A})} \left(\sum_{b \in Z(\mathbb{A}) \backslash B(F)Z(\mathbb{A})} W_f^\psi(bh) \right) F(h) dh \\ &= \int_{Z(\mathbb{A}) \backslash H(\mathbb{A})} W_f^\psi(h) F(h) dh \end{aligned}$$

as was to be shown. \square

Remark. (i) We defined $L^\mu(f, F, s)$ for any $f \in H_\pi$ without assuming H_π orthogonal to all hypercusps. However, this last proposition shows that $L^\mu(f, F, s)$ is identically 0 if $\mathcal{W}(\pi, \psi) = \{0\}$, i.e. if f is a hypercuspidal form. This is why the Rankin–Selberg method fails for arbitrary π , and why (in §??) we need to use Shimura’s method.

(ii) The significance of this Proposition is that it allows to factor $L^\mu(f, F, s)$ into local zeta-integrals, one for each place v of F . Note that whenever v splits in E , i.e. whenever $E \otimes_F F_v$ splits as the direct sum of two fields E_{w_1} and E_{w_2} (isomorphic to F_v), we have

$$G_v = G(F_v) \simeq \mathrm{GL}_3(F_v).$$

3.6

Proposition 3.1. Suppose $\Phi = \prod_v \Phi_v$ in $\mathcal{S}(W(\mathbb{A}_E))$, the product being taken over all the primes w of E . Assuming f is not hypercuspidal, we have

$$L^\mu(f, F, s) = \prod_v \int_{Z_v \backslash H_v} W_v(h) F_v(h) dh$$

where v is an arbitrary place of F , W_v belongs to the local Whittaker space $W(\pi_v, \psi_v)$, and

$$F_v(h_v) = \prod_{w|v} \int_{E_w^\times} (h_v \cdot \Phi_w)(t \ell_{-1}) \mu_w(t) |t|_w^s d^\times t.$$

Proof. Since the domain of the integration factors, we need only check that the integrand does also. By uniqueness of Whittaker models, $W(h)$ in $\mathcal{W}(\pi, \psi)$ with $\psi = \prod_v \psi_v$ implies $W(h) = \prod_v W_v(h_v)$, with each $W_v \in \mathcal{W}(\pi_v, \psi_v)$. Also, from the definition of $F_\Phi(h)$, it follows

$$F_\Phi(h) = \prod_v \left(\prod_{w|v} \int_{E_w^\times} (h_v \cdot \Phi_w)(t\ell_{-1}) \mu_w(t) |t|_w^s d^\times t \right)$$

as claimed. \square

3.7

When v splits in E , each integral

$$\int_{E_{w_i} \simeq F_v} (h_v \cdot \Phi)(t\ell_{-1}) \mu_{w_i}(t) |t|_{w_i}^s d^\times t$$

reduces to the distribution $z(\alpha^s \mu, h \cdot \Phi)$ treated in §14 of [Jacquet]. Indeed, in this case, $H_v \simeq U_{1,1} \simeq GL_2(F_v)$, and ℓ_{-1} corresponds to the vector $(0, 1)$ in F_v^2 fixed by the unipotent subgroup of $GL_2(F_v)$ (under the action $(x, y) \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$).

In this case, our local zeta-integral takes the form

$$\int_{GL_2} W_v(h) z(\alpha^s \mu_{w_1}, h \cdot \Phi_{w_1}) z(\alpha^s \mu_{w_2}, h \cdot \Phi_{w_2}) dh$$

where $W_v(h)$ is a Whittaker function on GL_3 restricted to GL_2 (via the embedding $\begin{bmatrix} * & * \\ * & * \end{bmatrix} \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} * & 0 & * \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ * & 0 & * \end{bmatrix}$), and w_1, w_2 are the two primes of E which divide v .

✱ Local L -functions (non-degenerate π)

4.1

Suppose E (quadratic) over F is local and π is an irreducible admissible representation of $G(F)$. Because of Proposition 3.1, it is natural to define local zeta-integrals (of Rankin–Selberg–Jacquet type) by

$$L^\mu(W, F_\Phi, s) = \int_{Z \backslash H} W(h) F(h) d^\times h$$

where $W \in \mathcal{W}(\pi, \psi_N)$, μ is a character of E^\times , Φ is a Schwartz–Bruhat function on the two-dimensional E -vector space $W = \langle \ell_{-1}, \ell_1 \rangle$, and

$$F^\mu(h) = \int_{E^\times} (h \cdot \Phi)(t\ell_{-1}) \mu(t) |t|_E^s d^\times t.$$

Note

$$F(bh) = \mu(\alpha)|\alpha|_E^s F(h)$$

for all $h \in H$, and

$$b = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha & 0 & \beta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \bar{\alpha}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \in B.$$

Remark. There are other kinds of local integrals to consider, namely those which arise from the splitting primes for E ; cf. §3.7. Since these zeta integrals involve the more familiar groups GL_3 and GL_2 , we shall concentrate on the unitary integrals instead (dealing with the splitting primes only parenthetically).

4.2

Suitably modifying the problem in §14 of [Jacquet] one can obtain the following:

Proposition 4.1. For each W, Φ , and μ as above, the local zeta-integrals $L^\mu(W, F_\Phi, s)$ converge for $\Re(s) \gg 0$ and define rational functions of q^{-s} satisfying the following conditions:

- (i) The subspace of $\mathbb{C}(q^{-s})$ spanned by $L^\mu(W, F_\Phi, s)$ is in fact a fractional ideal of the ring $\mathbb{C}[q^{-s}, q^s]$ generated by some polynomial Q_0 in $\mathbb{C}[q^{-s}]$ which is Independent of W and Φ ;
- (ii) There is a rational function of q^{-s} , denoted $\gamma(s)$, and a “contragradient” L -function $\tilde{L}^{\mu^{-1}}(W, F_{\widehat{\Phi}}, s)$, such that for all W and Φ (and $\widehat{\Phi}$ a special kind of “partial Fourier transform”),

$$\tilde{L}^{\mu^{-1}}(W, F_{\widehat{\Phi}}, 1-s) = \gamma(s)L^\mu(W, F_\Phi, s).$$

4.3

Remark. (i) If we demand that $Q_0(0) = 1$, then $L(s, \pi, \mu) = Q_0(q^{-s})^{-1}$ is the unique Euler factor such that

$$\frac{L^\mu(W, \Phi, s)}{L(s, \pi, \mu)}$$

is entire (actually polynomial in q^s and q^{-s}) for all W and Φ , and equal to 1 for appropriately chosen W and Φ . A similar statement holds for $L(s, \tilde{\pi}, \mu)$ and $\tilde{L}^{\mu^{-1}}(W, \Phi, s)$. As usual, we regard $L(s, \pi, \mu)$ as the normalized g.c.d. of the zeta-functions $L^\mu(W, \Phi, s)$, and as the local component of a (soon to be defined) global L -function $L(s, \pi, \mu)$.

(ii) If we let

$$\varepsilon(s, \pi, \psi) = \frac{L(1-s, \tilde{\pi}, \mu^{-1})\gamma(s)}{L(s, \pi, \mu)},$$

then ε is the monomial factor relating

$$\frac{L^{\mu^{-1}}(W, \widehat{\Phi}, 1-s)}{L(s, \tilde{\pi}, \mu^{-1})} \text{ and } \frac{L^{\mu}(W, \Phi, s)}{L(s, \pi)}.$$

(iii) Throughout this section, we are implicitly dealing only with nonarchimedean fields; the case of \mathbb{R} (or \mathbb{C}) is an unfortunately thorny yet unavoidable reality.

4.4 Unfamified computations

In the next few sections we shall compute $L(s, \pi, \mu)$ when everything in sight is unfamified.

Thus we suppose F is a local nonarchimedean field of characteristic $\neq 2$, and E is an unramified quadratic extension of F . Let \mathcal{O}_F (resp. \mathcal{O}_E) denote the ring of integers of F (resp. E), ϖ (resp. ϖ_E) a generator of the prime ideal \mathfrak{p} (resp. \mathfrak{p}_E) of \mathcal{O}_F (resp. \mathcal{O}_E), and ψ a character of F trivial on \mathcal{O}_F but not on $\mathfrak{p}^{-1}\mathcal{O}_F$.

Let K denote the standard maximal compact subgroup of $G(F)$ consisting of “integral” matrices (entries in \mathcal{O}_E , determinant in \mathcal{O}_E^\times). Because E is unramified over F , we have

$$G = NAK$$

where

$$A = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} t & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & t^{-1} \end{bmatrix} : t \in F^\times \right\}$$

is the maximal F -split torus of $G(F)$.

4.5 Class 1 Whittaker functions

Suppose π is a class 1 (with respect to K) irreducible admissible representation of $G(F)$. Then π is of the form

$$\pi = \pi(\nu) = \text{Ind}_P^G \nu^*$$

where ν is an unramified (quasi-)character of E^\times ,

$$P = MN = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \delta & * & * \\ 0 & \beta & * \\ 0 & 0 & \bar{\delta}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \right\},$$

and ν^* is defined on $M = P/N$ by

$$\nu^* \left(\begin{bmatrix} \delta & & \\ & \beta & \\ & & \bar{\delta}^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \right) = \nu(\delta).$$

From [Cas Sh] we know $\pi(\nu)$ is non-degenerate; moreover, the K -fixed Whittaker function W in $\mathcal{W}(\pi(\nu), \psi_N)$, normalized by the condition $W(k) = 1$, is uniquely determined by the following formulas:

- (i) $W(nak) = \psi_N(n)W(a)$ for all $n \in N, a \in A$, and $k \in K$;
- (ii) $W \left(\begin{bmatrix} \delta & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & \delta^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \right) = 0$ if $|\delta|_F > 1$; and
- (iii) for all $n \geq 0$,

$$W \left(\begin{bmatrix} \varpi^n & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \varpi^{-n} \end{bmatrix} \right) = |\varpi|_F^{2n} \frac{\nu(\varphi)^{n+1} - \nu(\varpi)^{-(n+1)}}{\nu(\varpi) - \nu(\varpi)^{-1}}.$$

(c.f. Theorem 5.4 of [Cas Sh]).

4.6

We compute $L^\mu(W, F_\Phi, s)$ with μ an unramified character of E^\times , $W(g)$ as in §4.5, and Φ the characteristic function of the \mathcal{O}_E -module in $E\ell_{-1} \oplus E\ell_1$ generated by ℓ_{-1} and ℓ_1 .

Let $K_H = K \cap H$. Since $Z = N \cap H$, we have $H = ZAK_H$, with corresponding integration formula

$$\int_{Z \backslash H} f'(h) dh = \int_{K_H} \int_{F^\times} f' \left(\begin{bmatrix} a & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & a^{-1} \end{bmatrix} k \right) |a|^{-2} d^\times a dk.$$

here f' is a function of $Z \backslash H$, and Haar measure $d^\times a$ on F^\times is normalized so that $d^\times a(\mathcal{O}_F^\times) = 1$.

Note $k \in K_H$ implies

$$F_\Phi \left(\begin{bmatrix} a & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & a^{-1} \end{bmatrix} k \right) = \mu(a) |a|_E^s F^\mu(k)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \mu(a)|a|_E^s \int_{E^\times} (k \cdot \Phi)(t\ell_1) \mu(t) |t|_E^s d^\times t \\
&= \mu(a)|a|_E^s F_\Phi(1)
\end{aligned}$$

since $(k \cdot \Phi)(t\ell_{-1}) = \Phi(t\ell_{-1})$ for our unramified choice of Φ . Thus we have

$$L^\mu(W, F_\Phi, s) = F_\Phi(1) \int_{F^\times} W \left(\begin{bmatrix} a & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & a^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \right) \mu(a) |a|_F^{2s-2} d^\times a$$

with

$$\begin{aligned}
F_\Phi(1) &= \int_{E^\times} \Phi(t\ell_{-1}) \mu(t) |t|_E^s d^\times t \\
&= \int_{E^\times} 1_{\mathcal{O}_E}(t) \mu(t) |t|_E^s d^\times t \\
&= \frac{1}{1 - \mu(\varpi_E) |\varpi_E|^s} = L_E(s, \mu).
\end{aligned}$$

Here $L_E(s, \mu)$ is the local Hecke–Tate factor attached to the quasi-character μ of E^\times ; c.f. [Goldstein], §8.1.

4.7

It remains to compute the integral of our class 1 Whittaker function. From the formula §4.5 (iii), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
&\int_{F^\times} W \left(\begin{bmatrix} a & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & a^{-1} \end{bmatrix} \right) \mu(a) |a|^{2s-2} d^\times a \\
&= \frac{1}{v(\varpi) - v(\varpi)^{-1}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |\varpi^n|^2 \mu(\varpi^n) |\varpi^n|^{2s-2} (v(\varpi)^{n+1} - v(\varpi)^{-(n+1)}) \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mu(\varpi^n) |\varpi^n|^{2s} \sum_{i+j=n} v(\varpi)^i v(\varpi^{-1})^j \\
&= \left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mu(\varpi^n) |\varpi^n|^{2s} v(\varpi)^n \right) \left(\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \mu(\varpi^m) |\varpi^m|^{2s} v(\varpi^{-1})^m \right) \\
&= \left(\frac{1}{1 - \mu(\varpi) v(\varpi) |\varpi|^{2s}} \right) \left(\frac{1}{1 - \mu(\varpi) v^{-1}(\varpi) |\varpi|^{2s}} \right) \\
&= L_F(2s, \mu v) L_F(2s, \mu v^{-1}).
\end{aligned}$$

Summing up,

$$\begin{aligned} L^\mu(W, F_\Phi, s) &= L(s, \pi, \mu) \\ &= L_E(s, \mu) L(2s, \mu\nu) L(2s, \mu\nu^{-1}). \end{aligned}$$

Here μ is regarded as a character of E^\times in the L -factor and (by restriction - along with ν) as a character of F^\times in the remaining two L -factors. Altogether,

$$L(s, \pi, \mu) = Q_0(q^{-s})^{-1}$$

with Q_0 a polynomial of degree 6 in $q^{-s} = |\omega_F|^s$.

4.8

To which conjugacy class and representation of the L -group ${}^L G$ does $L(s, \pi, \mu)$ correspond?

Recall ${}^L G$ is a semi-direct product

$${}^L G = \mathrm{GL}_3(\mathbb{C}) \rtimes W_{E/F}$$

where $W_{E/F}$ fits into the exact sequence

$$1 \rightarrow E^\times \rightarrow W_{E/F} \rightarrow \mathrm{Gal}(E/F) \rightarrow 1$$

and τ in $W_{E/F}$ acts on $\mathrm{GL}_3(\mathbb{C})$ through its projection onto $\mathrm{Gal}(E/F)$. In particular, in the present context, $\mathrm{Gal}(E/F) = \{1, \mathrm{Fr}\}$, with Fr taking

$$g \in \mathrm{GL}_3(\mathbb{C}) \mapsto \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} (g^\tau)^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Now let ρ_0 denote the standard representation of $\mathrm{GL}_3(\mathbb{C})$ and set

$$\rho = \mathrm{Ind}_{\mathrm{GL}_3(\mathbb{C}) \rtimes E^\times}^{{}^L G}(\rho_0).$$

Since $W_{E/F}$ acts non-trivially on ρ_0 (taking it to its “twisted” contragredient), is an irreducible six-dimensional representation of ${}^L G$ whose restriction to ${}^L G^\circ = \mathrm{GL}_3(\mathbb{C})$ is the direct sum of $\rho_0(g)$ and $\tilde{\rho}_0(g) = \rho_0 \left(\begin{bmatrix} & & 1 \\ & -1 & \\ 1 & & \end{bmatrix} (g^\tau)^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} & & 1 \\ & -1 & \\ 1 & & \end{bmatrix} \right)$.

Proposition 4.2. Let t_ν denote the conjugacy class in ${}^L G$ determined (via the Satake isomorphism) by the unramified representation $\pi(\nu)$ of $G(F)$. Then

$$L(s, \pi, 1)^{-1} = \det(I - \rho(t_\nu) |\omega_F|^s)^{-1},$$

the (local) L -function Langlands attaches to the data $\{t_\nu, \rho\}$.

Proof. The conjugacy class t_v determined by $\pi(v)$ is

$$\begin{bmatrix} v(\varpi) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \rtimes \text{Fr} \in {}^L G,$$

so

$$\rho(t_v) = \left[\begin{array}{ccc|ccc} & & & 1 & & \\ & & & & 1 & \\ & & & & & v^{-1}(\varpi) \\ \hline v(\varpi) & & & & & \\ & 1 & & & & \\ & & 1 & & & \end{array} \right].$$

A straightforward calculation with determinants then shows

$$\det(I - \rho(t_v)|\varpi_F|^s)^{-1} = L_E(s, 1)L(2s, \nu)L(2s, \nu^{-1}),$$

as claimed. \square

4.9

Finally, we relate to the standard L -functions on GL_3 over E . Still working locally, let

$$G' = \text{Res}_F^E G_F = \text{Res}_F^E(\text{GL}_3).$$

Then $G'(F) = \text{GL}_3(E)$,

$${}^L G'_F = \text{GL}_3(\mathbb{C}) \times \text{GL}_3(\mathbb{C}) \rtimes W_{E/F}$$

and

$${}^L(\text{GL}_3)_E = \text{GL}_3(\mathbb{C}) \times W_{E/E}.$$

Now consider the representation $\pi^\nu \otimes \mu$ of $G'(F) = \text{GL}_3(E)$ induced from the unramified character

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_1 & * & * \\ 0 & a_2 & * \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 \end{bmatrix} \mapsto \mu\nu(a_1)\mu(a_2)\mu\nu^{-1}(a_3),$$

of the standard Borel subgroup of $\text{GL}_3(E)$. The conjugacy class in ${}^L(\text{GL}_3)_E$ corresponding to $\pi^\nu \otimes \mu$ is

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mu\nu(\varpi) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mu(\varpi) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \mu\nu^{-1}(\varpi) \end{bmatrix} \rtimes \text{Fr}.$$

Therefore, the following L -factors coincide:

- (i) $L(s, \pi^\nu \otimes \mu, \rho_0)$, as an L -factor for GL_3 over E , and
- (ii) $L(s, \pi(\nu), \mu)$, our L -factor attached to G over F .

Note that π^ν is clearly a base change lift of $\pi(\nu)$ on G to G' .