1.2 Problems

series (6). Recently, Krieg [24] gave a more elementary proof of (some of) the results of [38] using well-known properties of Epstein zeta functions. However, it is clear from the Γ-factors and the type of the functional equations that for $n > 2$ there cannot be any direct connection between the series studied in [24, 38] and spinor zeta functions.

1.2 Problems

i) Suppose that k is even. If F is a non-zero Hecke eigenform in $S_k(\Gamma_2)$, is $\phi_1 \neq 0$? (This question was already asked in [33].) The answer is positive for $k \leqslant 32$ as numerical computations due to Skoruppa [35] show. Note that by Theorem 2 a positive answer gives a new proof for the analytic continuation and the functional equation of $Z_F(s)$.

ii) Let F be a Hecke eigenform in $S_k(\Gamma_2)$. The only critical point of $Z_F(s)$ in Deligne's sense is $s = k - 1$, i.e. the center of symmetry of the functional equation as is easily checked. Conjecturally therefore $Z_F(k-1)$ should be equal to the determinant of a "period matrix" times an algebraic number (one may suppose that k is even since otherwise $Z_F(k-1) = 0$ as follows from the sign in the functional equation). To the author's knowledge, nothing so far in this direction has been proved. Could Theorem 2 eventually be useful in this context?

As a side remark, let us mention here that Böcherer [4] motivated by Waldspurger's results [37] about the central critical values of quadratic twists of Hecke L-functions of elliptic Hecke eigenforms, for k even has conjectured that the central critical value of the twist of $Z_F(s)$ by a quadratic Dirichlet character of conductor $D < 0$ should be proportional to the *square* of $\sum_{\{T>0\}/\sim,\, \operatorname{disc} T = D} a(T)$ where $a(T)$ are the Fourier coefficients of F and the sum is over a set of Γ_1-representatives of positive definite integral binary quadratic forms T of discriminant D. This conjecture is true if F is in the Maass space as follows from Theorem 2 in §2 in connection with Waldspurger's results, cf. [4]. The conjecture when generalized to level > 1 is also true if the corresponding form has weight 2 and is the Yoshida lift of two elliptic cusp forms [6].

iii) Let F be a cuspidal Hecke eigenform and assume that F is in $S_k^*(\Gamma_2)^\perp$ if k is even. Does the function $D_{F,F}(s)$ have any intrinsic arithmetical meaning? (This question was already asked in [33], too; note that $D_{F,F}(s)$ for F as above cannot be proportional to $Z_F(s)$ since $D_{F,F}(s)$ has a pole at $s = k$ while $Z_F(s)$ is holomorphic there, cf. §2). For some numerical computations in this direction in the case $k = 20$ (the first case where $S_k^*(\Gamma_2)^\perp \neq \{0\}$) we refer to [23].