3.1. Results

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The following questions therefore are suggestive:

1) if one starts with an arbitrary $F \in M_{1/2, k-1/2}(\Gamma_2)$, does the above limit process produce skew-holomorphic Jacobi forms of weight k?

2) define $M^*_{1/2, k-1/2}(\Gamma_2)$ as the subspace of $M_{1/2, k-1/2}(\Gamma_2)$ consisting of the intersection of the kernels of the operators $\mathscr{E}_p$ for all primes p. Does there exist a natural map V from skew-holomorphic Jacobi forms of weight k and index 1 to $M^*_{1/2, k-1/2}(\Gamma_2)$ similar as in the case of holomorphic Jacobi forms?

Recently, N.-P. Skoruppa [36] has developed a theory of theta lifts from skew-holomorphic Jacobi forms to automorphic forms on Sp_2. It would be interesting to investigate if his lifts would provide (at least partial) answers to the above questions.

iii) So far a generalization of the Maass space to higher genus $n > 2$ has not been given; in fact, in the general case it does not seem to be quite clear what one has to look for, except that (the cuspidal part) of a "Maass space" eventually should be generated by Hecke eigenforms which do not satisfy a generalized Ramanujan-Petersson conjecture. Note that there is a partial negative result by Ziegler [40, 4.2. Thm.] who showed by means of specific examples that for $n \geqslant 33$ the map which sends a Siegel modular form of weight 16 on $\Gamma_n := \mathrm{Sp}_n(\mathbf{Z})$ to its first Fourier-Jacobi coefficient is not surjective.

On the other hand, there are very interesting numerical calculations for $n = 3$ due to Miyawaki [30] which suggest that a Siegel-Hecke eigenform F of even integral weight k on Γ_3 could be constructed from a pair (f, g) of elliptic Hecke eigenforms of weights (k_1, k_2) equal to $(k, 2k-4)$ or $(k-2, 2k-2)$ such that the (formal) spinor zeta function of F should be equal to $L_f(s - k_2/2) L_f(s - k_2/2 + 1) L_{f \otimes g}(s)$ where $L_{f \otimes g}(s)$ essentially is the Rankin convolution of f and g ([*loc. cit.*, §4]; note that for $n > 2$ the analytic continuation of the spinor zeta function of a holomorphic Hecke eigenform on Γ_n is not known).

§3. Spinor zeta functions

3.1. Results

Although the Maass space $S^*_k(\Gamma_2)$ as discussed in the previous section is an important subspace of $S_k(\Gamma_2)$ in its own right, one quickly realizes that the "true" Siegel cusp forms on Γ_2 should lie in the orthogonal complement of $S^*_k(\Gamma_2)$ (cf. Theorem 2 in §2 and its discussion). Is is therefore even more surprising that forms in the Maass space can be used to study forms in $S_k^*(\Gamma_2)^\perp$ (in fact, spinor zeta functions of Hecke eigenforms in $S_k^*(\Gamma_2)^\perp$). Thus the importance of the Maass space seems to go much beyond that what is expected from § 2.

Let F and G be Siegel cusp forms of integral weight k on Γ_2. Denote by ϕ_m and $\psi_m (m \geqslant 1)$ the Fourier-Jacobi coefficients of F and G, respectively and define a formal Dirichlet series of Rankin-type by

$$D_{F,G}(s) := \zeta(2s - 2k + 4) \sum_{m \geqslant 1} \langle \phi_m, \psi_m \rangle m^{-s} \tag{6}$$

(this series was introduced by Skoruppa and the author in [18]).

A variant of the classical Hecke argument shows that $\langle \phi_m, \psi_m \rangle \ll_{F,G} m^k$ so that $D_{F,G}(s)$ is absolutely convergent for $\mathrm{Re}(s) > k + 1$. We put

$$D^*_{F,G}(s) := (2\pi)^{-2s}\Gamma(s)\Gamma(s - k + 2)D_{F,G}(s) \qquad (\mathrm{Re}(s) > k + 1) .$$

THEOREM 1 [18]. *The function $D_{F,G}(s)$ has a meromorphic continuation to* $\mathbf{C}$ *which is holomorphic except for a possible simple pole of residue*

$$\frac{4^k \pi^{k+2}}{(k-2)!} \langle F, G \rangle$$

at $s = k$. Furthermore, the functional equation

$$D^*_{F,G}(2k - 2 - s) = D^*_{F,G}(s)$$

holds.

THEOREM 2 [18]. *Let k be even. Let $F \in S_k(\Gamma_2)$ be a Hecke eigenform and G be a function in the Maass space $S_k^*(\Gamma_2)$. Then*

$$D_{F,G}(s) = \langle \phi_1, \psi_1 \rangle Z_F(s) .$$

The proof of Theorem 1 is based on the Rankin-Selberg method applied with an Eisenstein series of Klingen-type on Sp_2. The proof of Theorem 2 uses Theorem 1 of § 2 applied with ϕ a Poincaré series; furthermore, an explicit formula for the action on Fourier coefficients of the operator V_m^* adjoint to V_m w.r.t the Petersson scalar products and the relations due to Andrianov [1, Chap. 2] between eigenvalues and Fourier coefficients of Hecke eigenforms play an important role. Let us mention that Theorem 2 could also be deduced from results of Gritsenko [13, p. 266].

In [38], Yamazaki using the theory of Eisenstein series à la Langlands studied the analytic properties of generalizations to arbitrary genus n of the 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].