

## 99. On Hilbert Modular Forms

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**Introduction.** In the theory of elliptic modular forms, it is known that every modular form whose Fourier coefficients lie in  $\mathbf{Z}[1/6]$  is an isobaric polynomial in  $E_4$  and  $E_6$  with coefficients in  $\mathbf{Z}[1/6]$ , where  $E_4$  and  $E_6$  are the normalized Eisenstein series of respective weights four and six.

In this paper, we give an analogous result for Hilbert modular forms for the real quadratic field  $K = \mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{5})$ . Namely, we show that every symmetric Hilbert modular form for  $K$  whose Fourier coefficients lie in  $\mathbf{Z}[1/2]$  can be represented as an isobaric polynomial in certain forms  $X_2$ ,  $X_6$  and  $X_{10}$  with coefficients in  $\mathbf{Z}[1/2]$ .

**§ 1. Hilbert modular forms for  $\mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{5})$ .** Let  $\mathfrak{o}_K$  be the ring of integers in  $K = \mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{5})$ . Let  $H$  denote the upper half-plane. Put  $\Gamma_K = SL(2, \mathfrak{o}_K)$  and for an element  $\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$  of  $\Gamma_K$ , we put  $\gamma^* = \begin{pmatrix} a^* & b^* \\ c^* & d^* \end{pmatrix}$  where the star denotes the conjugation in  $K$ .

We let  $\Gamma_K$  operate on  $H^2 = H \times H$  by :

$$\gamma \cdot (z_1, z_2) = (\gamma z_1, \gamma^* z_2) = \left( \frac{az_1 + b}{cz_1 + d}, \frac{a^*z_2 + b^*}{c^*z_2 + d^*} \right), \quad (z_1, z_2) \in H^2.$$

Further, for any  $\tau = (z_1, z_2) \in H^2$  and  $\nu \in K$ , we put

$$N(\nu\tau) = \nu z_1 \cdot \nu^* z_2, \quad \text{tr}(\nu\tau) = \nu z_1 + \nu^* z_2.$$

A holomorphic function  $f(\tau)$  on  $H^2$  is called a *symmetric Hilbert modular form of weight  $k$*  if it satisfies the following conditions :

(1) For every element  $\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$  of  $\Gamma_K$ ,  $f(\tau)$  satisfies a functional equation of the form

$$f(\gamma \cdot \tau) = N(c\tau + d)^k f(\tau);$$

(2)  $f((z_1, z_2)) = f((z_2, z_1))$ .

The set of such functions forms a complex vector space  $A_{\mathbf{C}}(\Gamma_K)_k$ . Any element  $f(\tau)$  in  $A_{\mathbf{C}}(\Gamma_K)_k$  admits a Fourier expansion of the form

$$f(\tau) = \sum_{\substack{\nu \equiv 0 \pmod{(1/\sqrt{5})} \\ \nu \gg 0 \text{ or } 0}} a_{\nu}(\nu) \exp [2\pi i \text{tr}(\nu\tau)],$$

where the sum extends over all totally positive numbers  $\nu$  in  $K$  satisfying  $\nu \equiv 0 \pmod{(1/\sqrt{5})}$ .

For a subring  $R$  of  $\mathbf{C}$ , we put

$$A_R(\Gamma_K)_k = \{f \in A_{\mathbf{C}}(\Gamma_K)_k \mid a_{\nu}(\nu) \in R \text{ for all } \nu \equiv 0 \pmod{(1/\sqrt{5})}, \nu \gg 0 \text{ or } 0\}.$$

Then  $A_R(\Gamma_K)_k$  is an  $R$ -module and we put  $A_R(\Gamma_K) = \bigoplus_{k \geq 0} A_R(\Gamma_K)_k$ . Any element  $f(z)$  in  $A_C(SL(2, \mathbf{Z}))_k$  has a Fourier expansion :

$$f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_f(n) \exp(2\pi i n z).$$

For any subring  $R$  of  $C$ , put

$$A_R(SL(2, \mathbf{Z}))_k = \{f \in A_C(SL(2, \mathbf{Z}))_k \mid a_f(n) \in R \text{ for all } n \geq 0\}.$$

Next, we consider the ordinary Eisenstein series  $G_k(\tau)$  of weight  $k$  associated with the modular group  $\Gamma_K$ , which is normalized as the constant term equal to unity (cf. Gundlach [2]). The series  $G_k(\tau)$  belongs to  $A_C(\Gamma_K)_k$  ( $k \geq 2$ ) and admits a Fourier expansion :

$$G_k(\tau) = 1 + \sum_{\substack{\nu \equiv 0 \pmod{(1/\sqrt{5})} \\ \nu \gg 0}} b_k(\nu) \exp[2\pi i \nu \tau],$$

$$b_k(\nu) = \kappa_k \sum_{(\mu) \mid \nu \sqrt{5}} |N(\mu)|^{k-1},$$

$$\kappa_k = (2\pi)^{2k} \cdot \sqrt{5} / [(k-1)!]^2 \cdot 5^k \cdot \zeta_K(k),$$

where  $\zeta_K(s)$  is the Dedekind zeta function for the field  $K = \mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{5})$ .

**Example 1.**  $\kappa_2 = 2^3 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$ ,  $\kappa_4 = 2^4 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$ ,  $\kappa_6 = 2^3 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 67^{-1}$ ,  $\kappa_{10} = 2^3 \cdot 3 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 11 \cdot 412751^{-1}$ ,  $\kappa_{12} = 2^4 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 13 \cdot 691^{-1} \cdot 1150921^{-1}$ .

Gundlach [2] constructed a function  $\chi_{10}(\tau)$  on  $H^2$  as a product of certain theta series on  $H^2$  satisfying the following properties: (1)  $\chi_{10} \in A_C(\Gamma_K)_{10}$ . (2)  $\chi_{10}(\tau)$  vanishes on the domain  $\Omega = \{\tau = (z_1, z_2) \in H^2 \mid z_1 = z_2\}$ . The following theorem is proved in [2].

**Theorem 1.** *If  $f(\tau) \in A_C(\Gamma_K)_k$  satisfies  $f((z, z)) = 0$ , then  $f/\chi_{10} \in A_C(\Gamma_K)_{k-10}$ .*

Now we shall define a linear order among the numbers  $\nu \in K$  satisfying  $\nu \equiv 0 \pmod{(1/\sqrt{5})}$  and  $\nu \gg 0$  (or  $\nu = 0$ ) as follows: First of all, we put

$$\nu = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \frac{\alpha + \beta\sqrt{5}}{2}, \quad \alpha, \beta \in \mathbf{Z}, \quad \alpha \equiv \beta \pmod{2}.$$

Then the conjugation  $\nu^*$  of  $\nu$  is given by  $\nu^* = (1/\sqrt{5})((- \alpha + \beta\sqrt{5})/2)$  and  $tr(\nu) = \beta$ .

1. We arrange  $\nu$  in order of  $tr(\nu)$ .

2. When the traces are equal, we arrange them in order of  $\alpha$  in  $\nu$ .

We write the numbers  $\nu$  as  $\nu_0, \nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3, \dots$  according to this order. We list them for  $tr(\nu) \leq 2$ .

trace	$\nu \equiv 0 \pmod{(1/\sqrt{5})}$ ,	$\nu \gg 0$	or	0
0	$\nu_0 = 0$			
1	$\nu_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \frac{-1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}$ ,	$\nu_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \frac{1 + \sqrt{5}}{2}$		
2	$\nu_3 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \frac{-4 + 2\sqrt{5}}{2}$ ,	$\nu_4 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \frac{-2 + 2\sqrt{5}}{5}$		
	$\nu_5 = 1$ ,	$\nu_6 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \frac{2 + 2\sqrt{5}}{2}$ ,	$\nu_7 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \frac{4 + 2\sqrt{5}}{2}$	

Now we shall prove a lemma which is required later.

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $R$  be a subring of  $\mathbf{Q}$ . Suppose  $f \in A_R(\Gamma_K)_k$ ,  $g \in A_R(\Gamma_K)_{k'}$  ( $k \geq k'$ ). Furthermore, we assume that the first non zero coefficient of  $g$  is invertible in  $R$ . If  $f=gh$ , then  $h \in A_R(\Gamma_K)_{k-k'}$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $g(\tau) = \sum_{m=n}^{\infty} a_g(\nu_m) \exp [2\pi i \tau(\nu\tau)]$ , ( $a_g(\nu_n) \neq 0$ ) and  $h(\tau) = \sum_{j=l}^{\infty} a_h(\nu_j) \exp [2\pi i \tau(\nu\tau)]$ , ( $a_h(\nu_l) \neq 0$ ). By assumption,  $a_g(\nu_n)$  is invertible in  $R$ . Suppose  $h \in A_R(\Gamma_K)_{k-k'}$ . We assume  $a_h(\nu_i)$  is the first coefficient which does not belong to  $R$ . Then the coefficient of  $\exp [2\pi i \tau(\nu_n + \nu_i)\tau]$  in the expansion of  $g(\tau)h(\tau)$  is  $a_g(\nu_n)a_h(\nu_i) + \sum a_g(\nu_s)a_h(\nu_t)$ , where the sum runs over the numbers  $\nu_s$  and  $\nu_t$  ( $s > n$  and  $t < i$ ) such that  $\nu_s + \nu_t = \nu_n + \nu_i$ . By our assumption, the second sum of above expression must be contained in  $R$ . Hence we get  $a_g(\nu_n)a_h(\nu_i) \in R$ . Since  $a_g(\nu_n)$  is invertible in  $R$ , we have  $a_h(\nu_i) \in R$ , which is a contradiction.

**§ 2. Hilbert modular forms over  $Z[1/2]$ .** Let  $R$  be a subring of  $\mathbf{C}$ . It is known that  $f((z, z))$  belongs to  $A_R(SL(2, Z))_{2k}$  for any  $f(\tau) \in A_R(\Gamma_K)_k$ .

**Example 2.**

$$G_2((z, z)) = E_4(z), \quad G_2^3((z, z)) - G_6((z, z)) = 2^6 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 67^{-1} \Delta(z),$$

where

$$\Delta(z) = q \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^n)^{24}, \quad q = \exp(2\pi iz), \quad \Delta \in A_Z(SL(2, Z))_{12}.$$

We define  $X_6(\tau) \in A_Q(\Gamma_K)_6$  by

$$X_6(\tau) = 2^{-6} \cdot 3^{-3} \cdot 5^{-2} \cdot 67(G_2^3(\tau) - G_6(\tau)).$$

**Lemma 2.**  $X_6(\tau) \in A_{Z[1/2]}(\Gamma_K)_6$ .

**Proof.** From § 1, we have

$$G_2(\tau) = 1 + 2^3 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \sum b_2(\nu) \exp [2\pi i \tau(\nu\tau)],$$

$$G_6(\tau) = 1 + 2^3 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 67^{-1} \sum b_6(\nu) \exp [2\pi i \tau(\nu\tau)].$$

Hence we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} G_2^3(\tau) &= 1 + 2^3 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \sum b_2(\nu) \exp [2\pi i \tau(\nu\tau)] \\ &\quad + 2^6 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 5^2 (\sum b_2(\nu) \exp [2\pi i \tau(\nu\tau)])^2 \\ &\quad + 2^9 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 5^3 (\sum b_2(\nu) \exp [2\pi i \tau(\nu\tau)])^3. \end{aligned}$$

By comparing the second terms of  $G_2^3(\tau)$  and  $G_6(\tau)$ , it suffices to prove that

$$2^3 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 67 b_2(\nu) \equiv 2^3 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 b_6(\nu) \pmod{3^3 \cdot 5^2},$$

for all  $\nu$ . Since  $b_k(\nu) = \sum |N(\mu)|^{k-1}$ , the above congruence is reduced to the relation  $67n \equiv 7n^5 \pmod{3 \cdot 5}$ . But we can show this by easy calculation, so we obtain  $X_6(\tau) \in A_{Z[1/2]}(\Gamma_K)_6$ .

**Remark.**  $X_6(\tau)$  does not belong to  $A_Z(\Gamma_K)_6$ .

The following result is well known.

**Lemma 3.** *For any  $f(z) \in A_{Z[1/2]}(SL(2, Z))_k$ , there exists an isobaric polynomial  $P(X_1, X_2) \in Z[1/2][X_1, X_2]$  such that  $f = P(E_4, \Delta)$ , where  $\Delta$  was defined in Example 2.*

We define  $X_{10}(\tau) = \chi_{10}(\tau)$ .

**Lemma 4.**  $X_{10}(\tau) \in A_Z(\Gamma_K)_{10}$  and the coefficient of first term of the expansion in  $X_{10}(\tau)$  is power of 2.

**Proof.** First we note that  $\chi_{10}$  is expressed as a product of theta series (cf. [2]) and has the following expression.

$$X_{10}(\tau) = \frac{2^2 \cdot 412751}{3^5 \cdot 5^5 \cdot 7} G_{10} - \frac{2^2 \cdot 67 \cdot 2293}{3^5 \cdot 5^4 \cdot 7} G_6 G_2^2 + \frac{2^4 \cdot 4231}{3^4 \cdot 5^5} G_2^5 \\ = 2^{12} \exp [2\pi i \operatorname{tr}(\nu_4 \tau)] + \dots$$

From this relation, we see that  $X_{10}(\tau) \in A_Z(\Gamma_K)_{10}$  and the first coefficient is power of 2.

Now we define  $X_2(\tau) = G_2(\tau)$ . From Example 1 in § 1, we see  $X_2(\tau) \in A_Z(\Gamma_K)_2 \subset A_{Z[1/2]}(\Gamma_K)_2$ .

**Theorem 2.** For any  $f(\tau) \in A_{Z[1/2]}(\Gamma_K)_k$ , there exists an isobaric polynomial  $F(X_1, X_2, X_3) \in Z[1/2][X_1, X_2, X_3]$  such that  $f = F(X_2, X_6, X_{10})$ .

In other words, the graded  $Z[1/2]$ -algebra

$$A_{Z[1/2]}(\Gamma_K) = \bigoplus_{k \geq 2} A_{Z[1/2]}(\Gamma_K)_k$$

is generated by  $X_2, X_6$  and  $X_{10}$ .

**Proof.** If  $f(\tau) \in A_{Z[1/2]}(\Gamma_K)_k$ , then one verifies, by Lemma 3 that,  $f((z, z)) = P_0(E, \Delta)$  for some  $P_0(X_1, X_2) \in Z[1/2][X_1, X_2]$ . From Example 2, the function

$$f(\tau) - P_0(G_2(\tau), 2^{-6} \cdot 3^{-3} \cdot 5^{-2} \cdot 67(G_2^3(\tau) - G_6(\tau)))$$

vanishes on  $\Omega = \{\tau = (z_1, z_2) \in H^2 \mid z_1 = z_2\}$ . Hence, from Theorem 1, the above function is divided by  $\chi_{10} = X_{10}$ . This implies that

$$f(\tau) = P_0(X_2(\tau), X_6(\tau)) + f_1(\tau)X_{10}(\tau)$$

for some  $f_1(\tau) \in A_Q(\Gamma_K)_{k'}$ ,  $k' + 10 = k$ . If we apply Lemmas 1 and 4 in the case  $R = Z[1/2]$ , then we get  $f_1(\tau) \in A_{Z[1/2]}(\Gamma_K)_{k'}$ . We continue to apply a similar argument for  $f_1(\tau)$  to obtain

$$f(\tau) = P_0(X_2, X_6) + P_1(X_2, X_6)X_{10} + \dots + P_j(X_2, X_6)X_{10}^j, \\ P_i(X_1, X_2) \in Z[1/2][X_1, X_2] \quad \text{for } 0 \leq i \leq j.$$

This concludes the proof of Theorem 2.

**Remark.** J.-I. Igusa determined the generators of the graded ring of Siegel modular forms of degree 2 with rational integral Fourier coefficients (cf. [3]). Some related topics are also found in a recent paper of W. L. Baily, Jr. [1].

### References

- [1] W. L. Baily, Jr.: A theorem on the finite generation of an algebra of modular forms (1981) (preprint).
- [2] K. B. Gundlach: Die Bestimmung der Funktionen zur Hilbertschen Modulgruppe des Zahlkörpers  $Q(\sqrt{5})$ . Math. Ann., **152**, 226–256 (1963).
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