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# EISENSTEIN PRIMES, CRITICAL VALUES AND GLOBAL TORSION

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We consider congruences between Eisenstein series and cusp forms—of weight  $k$ , level  $N$  and character  $\chi$  of conductor  $N$ —modulo large prime divisors of  $L(1 - k, \chi^{-1})$ . We show that such primes occur in the order of a “global torsion” group attached to the cusp form  $f$ , and (under a certain hypothesis) also in the denominator of the algebraic part of the rightmost critical value  $L_f(k - 1)$ . These occurrences are linked by the Bloch–Kato conjecture.

## 1. Introduction

We set  $\kappa(k) := (-1)^k$  throughout. Let  $f$  be a normalised newform in  $S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$ . Here  $k \geq 2$  and  $N \geq 1$  are integers,  $\chi : (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^\times \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$  is a character, and

$$\Gamma_1(N) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \in \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}) \mid c \equiv 0 \pmod{N}, d \equiv 1 \pmod{N} \right\}.$$

If

$$\Gamma_0(N) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \in \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}) \mid c \equiv 0 \pmod{N} \right\}$$

then the holomorphic function  $f$  on the complex upper half plane satisfies

$$f\left(\frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}\right) = \chi(d)(c\tau + d)^k f(\tau) \quad \text{for all } \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \in \Gamma_0(N).$$

Since  $\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \in \Gamma_0(N)$  and  $f \neq 0$ , necessarily  $\chi(-1) = (-1)^k$ . The Fourier expansion of  $f$  is of the form  $f(\tau) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n q^n$  with  $a_1 = 1$ , where  $q = e^{2\pi i \tau}$ . The  $a_n$  lie in the ring of integers of some finite extension of  $\mathbb{Q}$ , and each Hecke operator  $T_n$  satisfies  $T_n f = a_n f$ .

The  $L$ -series  $L_f(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n n^{-s}$  converges for  $\Re(s) > (k + 1)/2$  and has an Euler product. It defines a function with an analytic continuation to the whole

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complex plane, with

$$(2\pi)^{-s} \Gamma(s) L_f(s) = \int_0^\infty f(iy) y^s \frac{dy}{y}.$$

In fact  $L_f(s)$  is the  $L$ -function attached to a premotivic structure; see [Diamond et al. 2004, 1.1.1] for precise definitions. At precisely the points  $s = 1, \dots, k - 1$ , it is critical in the sense of [Deligne 1979]. As in [Section 7] there, the above integral expression for  $L_f(s)$  enables one to verify the relevant case of Deligne’s conjecture, which interprets the critical values, up to algebraic multiples, as certain periods. The relevant case of the Bloch–Kato conjecture [1990] removes the ambiguity about the algebraic multiple, up to a unit. It predicts that, for  $1 \leq j \leq k - 1$ ,

$$(1) \quad \frac{L_f(j)}{(2\pi i)^j \Omega^{\kappa(j)}} = \frac{\prod_{p \leq \infty} c_p(j) \# \text{III}(j)}{\#H^0(\mathbb{Q}, A(j)) \#H^0(\mathbb{Q}, \check{A}(1-j))}.$$

The various terms will be defined in Section 3, but this should be viewed as analogous to the rank 0 case of the formula of Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer.

For a character  $\chi$  of conductor  $N$ , consider the Eisenstein series  $E_k^{\chi, 1}$ . (We must exclude the case  $k = 2, N = 1$ .) This noncusp form belongs to  $M_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$ , and  $T_p(E_k^{\chi, 1}) = (\chi(p) + p^{k-1})E_k^{\chi, 1}$  for every prime  $p$ . If  $\lambda \nmid 6Nk!$  divides the Dirichlet  $L$ -value  $L(1 - k, \chi^{-1})$ , we show, in Section 2, that there is a newform  $f \in S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$  with  $f \equiv E_k^{\chi, 1} \pmod{\lambda}$  (as Fourier expansions). Here  $\lambda$  is a prime divisor for a number field  $K$  large enough to contain the values of  $\chi$  and the Fourier coefficients of  $f$ . (Actually, Proposition 2.1 deals with a somewhat more general type of Eisenstein series.) Congruences of this type are well known. The case  $k = 12, N = 1$  is Ramanujan’s congruence  $\tau(n) \equiv \sigma_{11}(n) \pmod{691}$ . The case  $k = 2, N = p, \lambda \mid p$  (not satisfying our condition  $\lambda \nmid N$ ) was used by Ribet [1976].

The various terms in (1) depend on a choice of “ $S$ -integral premotivic structure”, though the ratio of the two sides is independent of the choice. We make a natural choice as in [Diamond et al. 2004]. Having done this, there is a 2-dimensional  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda$ -vector space  $A[\lambda]$  with  $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$ -action, which may be viewed as analogous to (a twist of) the group of  $\ell$ -torsion points on an elliptic curve. It follows from the fact that (for all primes  $p$ )  $a_p \equiv \chi(p) + p^{k-1} \pmod{\lambda}$  that  $A[\lambda]$  is reducible, with composition factors  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(\chi^{-1})$  and  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(1 - k)$ . If the latter is a submodule, then  $A[\lambda](k - 1)$  has a trivial submodule. This would contribute to the  $\lambda$ -part of  $\#H^0(\mathbb{Q}, A(k - 1))$  in the denominator of (1) (in the case  $j = k - 1$ ). In [Dummigan 2000], I speculated that this is the case, and, following the proof of [Faltings and Jordan 1995, Theorem 4.6], I proved it [Dummigan 2005, Theorem 7.3] in the case  $N = 1, K = \mathbb{Q}$ , which probably means just  $k = 12, \ell = 691; k = 16, \ell = 3617; k = 18, \ell = 43867; k = 20, \ell = 283 \text{ or } 617; k = 22, \ell = 131 \text{ or } 593; \text{ and } k = 26, \ell = 657931$ .

In [Section 4](#), we see that the proof carries across easily to the more general case considered here. Moreover, we show that the  $\lambda$ -parts of the Tamagawa factors  $c_p(k-1)$ , which appear in the numerator, are trivial, even for  $p \mid N$ . Hence, unless there is nontrivial  $\lambda$ -torsion in  $\text{III}(k-1)$ , we expect to see  $\lambda$  in the denominator of  $L_f(k-1)/((2\pi i)^{k-1}\Omega^{\kappa(k-1)})$ .

In [[Dummigan 2005](#), Section 8] we noted that this can be observed in Stein's [[≥ 2008](#)] numerical data in the case  $N = 1$ ,  $K = \mathbb{Q}$ . In [[Dummigan 2000](#)], we saw the related (but weaker) fact that (again in the case  $N = 1$ ,  $K = \mathbb{Q}$ )  $\lambda = \ell$  appears in various “period ratios”, which are essentially ratios of critical values of  $L_f(s)$ . This was observed numerically, using data of Manin [[1973](#)], and also proved theoretically, using a formula of Kohnen and Zagier [[1984](#)]. In [Sections 5](#), [6](#), and [7](#), we give a proper proof and explanation, in the general case, of why  $\lambda$  appears in the denominator of  $L_f(k-1)/((2\pi i)^{k-1}\Omega^{\kappa(k-1)})$ . We have to impose the condition that  $\lambda$  is not a congruence prime for  $f$  in  $S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$ ; see before [Lemma 6.2](#).

The proof uses the well-established principle that modular symbols provide a bridge between the cohomology of modular curves (with coefficients in appropriate local systems) and critical values of modular  $L$ -functions. To relate congruences of modular forms to congruences of cohomology classes, we make essential use, largely via [[Diamond et al. 2004](#)], of the Fontaine–Lafaille integral theory of crystalline representations, and of Faltings’s comparison theorem.

It is natural to ask whether the condition that  $\lambda$  should not be a congruence prime for  $f$  in  $S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$  is purely a technical convenience or whether it is natural in that, should it fail, there is a reason why  $\lambda$  might not occur in the denominator of  $L_f(k-1)/((2\pi i)^{k-1}\Omega^{\kappa(k-1)})$ . In [Section 8](#) we look into this and see how the failure of the condition might lead to nontrivial  $\lambda$ -torsion in  $\text{III}(k-1)$ .

I am grateful to the referee for several helpful remarks, including the observation that more generally, if there is a newform  $f \in S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$  with  $f \equiv E_k^{\chi, 1} \pmod{\lambda^n}$ , then  $\lambda^n$  divides both  $\#H^0(\mathbb{Q}, A(k-1))$  and the denominator of  $L_f(k-1)/((2\pi i)^{k-1}\Omega^{\kappa(k-1)})$ , if  $\lambda$  is not a congruence prime for  $f$  in  $S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$ . The existence of such an  $f$  may be deduced from  $\lambda^n \mid L(1-k, \chi^{-1})$  if  $\lambda$  is not a congruence prime for  $S_k(\Gamma_1(N))$ . For simplicity we only consider the case  $n = 1$ .

## 2. Eisenstein series and congruences with cusp forms

Choose a weight  $k \geq 3$ , a level  $N \geq 1$ , and a Dirichlet character  $\chi$  whose conductor divides  $N$ . Let  $\psi$  and  $\phi$  be primitive Dirichlet characters of conductors  $u$  and  $v$ , respectively, with  $\psi\phi = \chi$ ,  $uv \mid N$ , and  $\chi(-1) = \kappa(k)$ . Then there is an Eisenstein series  $E_k^{\psi, \phi}$  belonging to  $M_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$ . In fact, for all  $\psi, \phi$  as above and positive  $t$  such that  $t \mid N/(uv)$ , the  $E_k^{\psi, \phi}(t\tau)$  form a basis for  $M_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)/S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$ .

If  $uv = N$  then  $E_k^{\psi, \phi}$  is said to be *new* at  $N$ . If  $k = 2$ , a slight modification is needed: for  $N = 1$  the (only) triple  $\psi = \phi = \mathbf{1}$ ,  $t = 1$  must be excluded, and for  $N > 1$ ,  $t \mid N$ , one uses  $E_2^{\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1}}(\tau) - tE_2^{\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1}}(t\tau)$  in place of  $E_2^{\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1}}(t\tau)$ .

At infinity, the  $q$ -expansion is

$$E_k^{\psi, \phi}(\tau) = \delta(\psi)L(1 - k, \psi^{-1}\phi) + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sigma_{k-1}^{\psi, \phi}(n)q^n,$$

where

$$\delta(\psi) := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \psi = \mathbf{1}, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_{k-1}^{\psi, \phi}(n) := \sum_{m \mid n, m > 0} \psi(n/m)\phi(m)m^{k-1}.$$

For all this, see [Diamond and Shurman 2005, Theorems 4.5.1 and 4.6.2]. Recall that  $L(1 - k, \psi^{-1}\phi) \in \mathbb{Q}(\psi^{-1}\phi)$ , which is the extension of  $\mathbb{Q}$  generated by the values of that character.

**Proposition 2.1.** *Suppose that  $E_k^{\psi, \phi}$  is new at level  $N \geq 1$ , with  $k \geq 2$ . Let  $\lambda' \nmid 6N$  be a prime of  $\mathbb{Z}[\psi, \phi]$  such that  $\text{ord}_{\lambda'}(L(1 - k, \psi^{-1}\phi)) > 0$ . Then there exists a normalised Hecke eigenform  $f = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n q^n \in S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$  such that  $a_n \equiv \sigma_{k-1}^{\psi, \phi}(n) \pmod{\lambda'}$  for all  $n \geq 1$ , where  $\lambda \mid \lambda'$  is a prime of the ring of integers of the extension of  $\mathbb{Q}(\psi, \phi)$  generated by the  $a_n$ .*

*Proof.* For any  $\mathbb{Z}[1/N]$ -algebra  $R$ , let  $M_k(\Gamma_1(N), R)$  be the  $R$ -module of Katz modular forms, and let  $S_k(\Gamma_1(N), R)$  be the submodule of cusp forms. See [Edixhoven 1997, Section 1] for the definitions and basic properties. Consider  $E_k^{\psi, \phi}$  as an element of  $M_k(\Gamma_1(N), R)$ , where  $R = \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_N, \psi, \phi]_{(\lambda'')}$ ,  $\lambda''$  is any prime divisor of  $\lambda'$  and  $\zeta_N$  is a primitive  $N^{\text{th}}$ -root of unity. That we may do this follows from the  $q$ -expansion principle [Katz 1973, 1.6] since  $X_1(N)$  is connected and the coefficients in the  $q$ -expansion of  $E_k^{\psi, \phi}$  at the cusp  $\infty$  lie in  $R$ . According to [Faltings and Jordan 1995, Theorem 3.20], the constant term of  $E_k^{\psi, \phi}$  at each (oriented) cusp is of the form  $uL(1 - k, \psi^{-1}\phi)$ , with  $u$  a unit in  $\mathbb{Z}[1/(2N), \zeta_N, \psi, \phi]$ . Therefore, since  $\text{ord}_{\lambda'}(L(1 - k, \psi^{-1}\phi)) > 0$ , we have  $\overline{E}_k^{\psi, \phi} \in S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \mathbb{F}_{\lambda''})$ , where  $\overline{E}^{\psi, \phi}$  denotes the base-change of  $E_k^{\psi, \phi}$  to  $M_k(\Gamma_1(N), \mathbb{F}_{\lambda''})$ , and  $\mathbb{F}_{\lambda''}$  is the residue field.

For each prime  $p$  let  $T_p$  be the Hecke operator for  $\Gamma_1(N)$ , and for  $(d, N) = 1$  let  $\langle d \rangle$  be the diamond operator. Then by [Diamond and Shurman 2005, Proposition 5.2.3],  $E_k^{\psi, \phi}$  is an eigenfunction for all the  $T_p$  and  $\langle d \rangle$ , in fact,

$$\begin{aligned} T_p E_k^{\psi, \phi} &= (\psi(p) + \phi(p)p^{k-1})E_k^{\psi, \phi} \\ \langle d \rangle E_k^{\psi, \phi} &= \chi(d)E_k^{\psi, \phi}. \end{aligned}$$

For  $p \mid N$  this uses the fact that  $E_k^{\psi, \phi}$  is new. The same equations hold for  $\overline{E}^{\psi, \phi}$  in  $S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \mathbb{F}_{\lambda''})$ . By [Edixhoven 1997, Lemma 1.9], the base-change map from  $S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \overline{\mathbb{Z}}_{\ell})$  to  $S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \overline{\mathbb{F}}_{\ell})$  is surjective, where  $\lambda \mid \ell$ . (Note that if  $N \neq 1$

or  $k \not\equiv 2 \pmod{12}$ , we could allow  $\ell = 3$ .) The existence of an eigenform  $f \in S_k(\Gamma_1(N))$  with eigenvalues satisfying the desired congruences now follows easily (if not quite directly) from [Deligne and Serre 1974, Lemme 6.11]. That we may take  $f \in S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$  is a consequence of Carayol's lemma [Edixhoven 1997, 1.10].  $\square$

Note that, since the character  $\chi$  has maximal conductor  $N$ ,  $f$  is a newform for  $\Gamma_1(N)$ . (Recall that  $\psi\phi = \chi$ , and we assumed that  $E_k^{\psi,\phi}$  is new.)

### 3. The Bloch–Kato conjecture

For  $k \geq 2$ ,  $N \geq 1$  and a character  $\chi$  whose conductor divides  $N$ , let  $f = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n q^n \in S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$  be a normalised newform. Attached to  $f$  is its  $L$ -function  $L_f(s)$ , which is defined by the Dirichlet series  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n n^{-s}$  for  $\Re(s) > (k+1)/2$  but has an analytic continuation to the whole complex plane. Also attached to  $f$  is a “premotivic structure”  $M_f$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$  with coefficients in  $K$ , the extension of  $\mathbb{Q}(\chi)$  generated by the  $a_n$ . Thus there are 2-dimensional  $K$ -vector spaces  $M_{f,B}$  and  $M_{f,dR}$  (the Betti and de Rham realisations) and, for each finite prime  $\lambda$  of  $O_K$ , a 2-dimensional  $K_\lambda$ -vector space  $M_{f,\lambda}$ , the  $\lambda$ -adic realisation. These come with various structures and comparison isomorphisms, such as  $M_{f,B} \otimes_K K_\lambda \simeq M_{f,\lambda}$ . See [Diamond et al. 2004, 1.1.1] for the precise definition of a premotivic structure, and see [Diamond et al. 2004, 1.6.2] for the construction of  $M_f$ . The  $\lambda$ -adic realisation  $M_{f,\lambda}$  comes with a continuous linear action of  $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$ . For each prime number  $p$ , the restriction to  $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p/\mathbb{Q}_p)$  may be used to define a local  $L$ -factor, and the Euler product is precisely  $L_f(s)$  [Carayol 1986]. As the  $L$ -function attached to a premotivic structure, its orders of vanishing and leading terms at integer points may be interpreted via the Bloch–Kato conjecture.

On  $M_{f,B}$  there is an action of  $\text{Gal}(\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R})$ , and the eigenspaces  $M_{f,B}^\pm$  are 1-dimensional. On  $M_{f,dR}$  there is a decreasing filtration, with  $F^j$  a 1-dimensional space precisely for  $1 \leq j \leq k-1$ . The de Rham isomorphism  $M_{f,B} \otimes_K \mathbb{C} \simeq M_{f,dR} \otimes_K \mathbb{C}$  induces isomorphisms between  $M_{f,B}^\pm \otimes \mathbb{C}$  and  $(M_{f,dR}/F) \otimes \mathbb{C}$ , where  $F := F^1 = \dots = F^{k-1}$ . Define  $\Omega^\pm$  to be the determinants of these isomorphisms. These depend on the choice of  $K$ -bases for  $M_{f,B}^\pm$  and  $M_{f,dR}/F$ , so they should be viewed as elements of  $\mathbb{C}^\times/K^\times$ . For  $1 \leq j \leq k-1$ , the Tate-twisted premotivic structure  $M_f(j)$  is *critical* (that is, the above map is an isomorphism, with  $F = F^j$ ), and its Deligne period  $c^+$  (see [Deligne 1979]) is  $(2\pi i)^j \Omega^{K(j)}$ . Deligne's conjecture for  $M_f(j)$ , known in this case, asserts then that  $L_f(j)/(2\pi i)^j \Omega^{K(j)}$  is an element of  $K$ .

If we choose  $K$ -bases for  $M_{f,B}$  and  $M_{f,dR}$  to pin down  $\Omega^\pm$ , then the Bloch–Kato conjecture predicts the prime factorisation of the element  $L_f(j)/(2\pi i)^j \Omega^{K(j)}$  of  $K$ . In fact, we shall choose an  $O_K$ -submodule  $\mathfrak{M}_{f,B}$  that generates  $M_{f,B}$  over

$K$  but is not necessarily free, and likewise choose an  $O_K[1/S]$ -submodule  $\mathfrak{M}_{f,dR}$  that generates  $M_{f,dR}$  over  $K$ , where  $S$  is the set of primes dividing  $Nk!$ . We take these as in [Diamond et al. 2004, 1.6.2]. They are part of the “ $S$ -integral premotivic structure” associated to  $f$ . With these choices, it is still natural to talk of an element “ $L_f(j)/(2\pi i)^j \Omega^{k(j)}$ ” of the group of fractional ideals of  $O_K[1/S]$ , and the Bloch–Kato conjecture predicts its prime factorisation.

To define the various terms appearing in the conjecture, we shall need the elements  $\mathfrak{M}_{f,\lambda}$  of the  $S$ -integral premotivic structure, for each prime  $\lambda$  of  $O_K$ , and also the crystalline realisation  $\mathfrak{M}_{f,\lambda\text{-crys}}$  for each  $\lambda \notin S$ . We choose these as in [Diamond et al. 2004, 1.6.2]. For each  $\lambda$ ,  $\mathfrak{M}_{f,\lambda}$  is a  $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$ -stable  $O_\lambda$ -lattice in  $M_{f,\lambda}$ . Let  $A_\lambda := M_{f,\lambda}/\mathfrak{M}_{f,\lambda}$ . Define  $\check{A}_\lambda := \check{M}_{f,\lambda}/\check{\mathfrak{M}}_{f,\lambda}$ , where  $\check{M}_{f,\lambda}$  is the vector space dual to  $M_{f,\lambda}$ , where  $\check{\mathfrak{M}}_{f,\lambda}$  is  $O_\lambda$ -lattice dual to  $\mathfrak{M}_{f,\lambda}$ , and where both are acted upon naturally by  $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$ . Let  $A := \bigoplus_\lambda A_\lambda$ , et cetera.

Following [Bloch and Kato 1990, Section 3] for  $p \neq \ell$  (including  $p = \infty$ ), let

$$H_f^1(\mathbb{Q}_p, M_{f,\lambda}(j)) = \ker(H^1(D_p, M_{f,\lambda}(j)) \rightarrow H^1(I_p, M_{f,\lambda}(j))).$$

Here  $D_p$  is a decomposition subgroup at a prime above  $p$ ,  $I_p$  is the inertia subgroup, and  $M_{f,\lambda}(j)$  is a Tate twist of  $M_{f,\lambda}$ , et cetera. The cohomology is for continuous cocycles and coboundaries. For  $p = \ell$ , let

$$H_f^1(\mathbb{Q}_\ell, M_{f,\lambda}(j)) = \ker(H^1(D_\ell, M_{f,\lambda}(j)) \rightarrow H^1(D_\ell, M_{f,\lambda}(j) \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}_\ell} B_{\text{crys}})).$$

(See [Bloch and Kato 1990, Section 1] for the definition of Fontaine’s ring  $B_{\text{crys}}$ .) Let  $H_f^1(\mathbb{Q}, M_{f,\lambda}(j))$  be the subspace of those elements of  $H^1(\mathbb{Q}, M_{f,\lambda}(j))$  whose local restrictions lie in  $H_f^1(\mathbb{Q}_p, M_{f,\lambda}(j))$  for all primes  $p$ . There is a natural exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathfrak{M}_{f,\lambda}(j) \longrightarrow M_{f,\lambda}(j) \xrightarrow{\pi} A_\lambda(j) \longrightarrow 0.$$

Define  $H_f^1(\mathbb{Q}_p, A_\lambda(j)) = \pi_* H_f^1(\mathbb{Q}_p, M_{f,\lambda}(j))$ , and define the  $\lambda$ -Selmer group  $H_f^1(\mathbb{Q}, A_\lambda(j))$  to be the subgroup of elements of  $H^1(\mathbb{Q}, A_\lambda(j))$  whose local restrictions lie in  $H_f^1(\mathbb{Q}_p, A_\lambda(j))$  for all primes  $p$ . Note that the condition at  $p = \infty$  is superfluous unless  $\ell = 2$ . Define the Shafarevich–Tate group

$$\text{III}(j) = \bigoplus_\lambda \frac{H_f^1(\mathbb{Q}, A_\lambda(j))}{\pi_* H_f^1(\mathbb{Q}, M_{f,\lambda}(j))}.$$

For a finite prime  $p$ , let  $H_f^1(\mathbb{Q}_p, \mathfrak{M}_{f,\lambda}(j))$  be the inverse image of  $H_f^1(\mathbb{Q}_p, M_{f,\lambda}(j))$  under the natural map. Suppose now that  $p \neq \ell$ . If  $k$  is odd, suppose also that  $j \neq (k-1)/2$ . Then  $H^0(\mathbb{Q}_p, M_{f,\lambda}(j))$  is trivial (because the eigenvalues of  $\text{Frob}_p^{-1}$

acting on  $M_{f,\lambda}$  are algebraic integers of absolute value  $p^{(k-1)/2}$ ). By inflation-restriction,  $H_f^1(\mathbb{Q}_p, M_{f,\lambda}(j)) \simeq (M_{f,\lambda}(j)^{I_p}) / (1 - \text{Frob}_p)(M_{f,\lambda}(j)^{I_p})$ . This is trivial, since  $H^0(\mathbb{Q}_p, M_{f,\lambda}(j))$  is. Hence, using the exact sequence above, we see  $H_f^1(\mathbb{Q}_p, \mathfrak{M}_{f,\lambda}(j))$  is the torsion part of  $H^1(\mathbb{Q}_p, \mathfrak{M}_{f,\lambda}(j))$ . Reusing the triviality of  $H^0(\mathbb{Q}_p, M_{f,\lambda}(j))$ , we may identify  $H_f^1(\mathbb{Q}_p, \mathfrak{M}_{f,\lambda}(j))$  with  $H^0(\mathbb{Q}_p, A_\lambda(j))$ .

This has an  $O_\lambda$ -submodule that is given by  $(M_{f,\lambda}(j)^{I_p} / \mathfrak{M}_{f,\lambda}(j)^{I_p})^{\text{Frob}_p = \text{id}}$  and whose “order” — that is,  $\lambda$  raised to its length — is the  $\lambda$ -part of  $P_p(p^{-j})$ , where  $P_p(p^{-s}) = \det(1 - \text{Frob}_p^{-1} p^{-s} \mid (M_{f,\lambda})^{I_p})$  is the Euler factor at  $p$  in  $L_f(s)$  (strictly speaking, its reciprocal). When  $p \nmid N$ , so that  $M_{f,\lambda}(j)^{I_p} = M_{f,\lambda}(j)$  maps surjectively to  $A_\lambda(j)$ , the submodule is the whole of  $H^0(\mathbb{Q}_p, A_\lambda(j))$ , but in general we define the  $\lambda$ -part of the Tamagawa factor  $c_p(j)$  to be the index of the submodule.

It is also possible to define a  $\lambda$ -part of  $c_p(j)$  for  $\lambda \mid p$ , using a measure of  $H_f^1(\mathbb{Q}_p, \mathfrak{M}_{f,\lambda}(j))$  arising from the Bloch–Kato exponential map. See [Bloch and Kato 1990] for details.

**Conjecture 3.1.** *Suppose that  $1 \leq j \leq k - 1$ . Then the Bloch–Kato conjecture predicts the following equality of fractional ideals of  $O_K[1/S]$ :*

$$\frac{L_f(j)}{(2\pi i)^j \Omega^\kappa(j)} = \frac{\prod_{p \leq \infty} c_p(j) \# \text{III}(j)}{\# H^0(\mathbb{Q}, A(j)) \# H^0(\mathbb{Q}, \check{A}(1 - j))}.$$

The Tamagawa factor  $c_\infty(j)$  is at worst a power of 2. We shall ignore  $\# \text{III}(j)$ , except to note that it is integral. By [Dummigan et al. 2003, Lemmas 4.3 and 4.6], for  $\lambda \nmid S$  the  $\lambda$ -part of  $c_p(j)$  can only possibly be nontrivial if  $p \mid N$ . (The proof of [Lemma 4.6], that is, the case  $\lambda \mid p$ , uses  $\mathbb{V}(\mathfrak{M}_{f,\lambda\text{-crys}}) = \mathfrak{M}_{f,\lambda}$ , where  $\mathbb{V}$  is the version of the Fontaine–Lafaille functor used in [Diamond et al. 2004].)

In Section 7 we shall show, under a certain condition, that for  $f$  and  $\lambda$  as in Proposition 2.1 with  $\psi = \chi$  and  $\phi = \mathbf{1}$  (and also  $\lambda \nmid k!$ ), we have

$$\text{ord}_\lambda \left( \frac{L_f(k - 1)}{(2\pi i)^{k-1} \Omega^\kappa(k-1)} \right) < 0.$$

(The condition is that  $\lambda$  is not a “congruence prime” for  $f$  in  $S_k(\Gamma_1, \chi)$ .) Given that  $\text{ord}_\lambda(\# \text{III}(k - 1)) \geq 0$  and  $\text{ord}_\lambda(c_p(k - 1)) \geq 0$  (for  $p \nmid N$  it is actually 0), the Bloch–Kato conjecture predicts that  $H^0(\mathbb{Q}, A_\lambda(k - 1))$  or  $H^0(\mathbb{Q}, \check{A}_\lambda(2 - k))$  must be nonzero. Now  $\check{A}[\lambda](2 - k)$  has composition factors  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(\chi)(2 - k)$  and  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(1)$  — see the first paragraph of Section 4 — neither of which is trivial. Note that  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(\chi)$  denotes a 1-dimensional  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda$ -vector space on which  $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$  acts via the reduction of the character  $\chi$ . The nontriviality of  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(\chi)(2 - k)$  follows from  $\ell > k$  and the fact that  $\chi$  is unramified, but nontrivial if  $k = 2$ . Hence  $H^0(\mathbb{Q}, \check{A}_\lambda(2 - k))$  is zero. We shall confirm in the next section that  $H^0(\mathbb{Q}, A_\lambda(k - 1))$  is nonzero.

In fact, we shall show also that  $\text{ord}_\lambda(c_p(k - 1)) = 0$  even for  $p \mid N$ , so that the contribution of  $H^0(\mathbb{Q}, A_\lambda(k - 1))$  to the denominator is not cancelled by Tamagawa



factors. This depends on  $\chi$  having conductor exactly  $N$ , as will the proof that

$$\text{ord}_\lambda \left( \frac{L_f(k-1)}{(2\pi i)^{k-1} \Omega^{\kappa(k-1)}} \right) < 0.$$

We mention that the functional equation relates  $L_f(s)$  to  $L_{f_{\chi^{-1}}}(k-s)$ . The form  $f_{\chi^{-1}}$ , the twist of  $f$  by the character  $\chi^{-1}$ , lives in  $S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi^{-1})$ , and it is congruent to  $E_k^{1, \chi^{-1}} \pmod{\lambda}$ .

#### 4. Global torsion and Tamagawa factors

Recall that we have chosen a weight  $k \geq 2$ , a level  $N \geq 1$ , a character  $\chi$  of conductor precisely  $N$  with  $\chi(-1) = \kappa(k)$ , and a cusp form  $f \equiv E_k^{\chi, 1} \pmod{\lambda}$ , where  $\lambda \nmid 6Nk!$  is a prime of  $O_K$  ( $K$  being the extension of  $\mathbb{Q}(\chi)$  generated by the Fourier coefficients  $a_n$  of  $f$  at  $\infty$ ) such that  $\text{ord}_\lambda(L(1-k, \chi^{-1})) > 0$ . For all primes  $p \nmid N$ ,  $a_p \equiv \chi(p) + p^{k-1} \pmod{\lambda}$ . In fact this holds even for  $p \mid N$ , with  $\chi(p) = 0$  for such  $p$ . Since  $a_p$  is the trace of  $\text{Frob}_p^{-1}$  on  $M_{f, \lambda}$ , it follows that  $A[\lambda]$  (that is, the  $\lambda$ -torsion in  $A_\lambda$ ) is reducible as an  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda[\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})]$ -module, with composition factors  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(\chi^{-1})$  and  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(1-k)$ . Here we identify  $\chi$  with a character of  $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$  via an Artin map that sends  $p$  to  $\text{Frob}_p$ .

**Theorem 4.1.** *In the situation of the preceding paragraph,  $A[\lambda]$  has  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(1-k)$  as a submodule.*

**Corollary 4.2.**  *$H^0(\mathbb{Q}, A_\lambda(k-1))$  is nontrivial.*

Before proving this we need a few preliminaries. Diamond, Flach and Guo, in [Diamond et al. 2004, 1.4.2], construct “premotivic structures”  $M(N, \chi)$ ,  $M(N, \chi)_c$ , and  $M(N, \chi)!$  for the space of modular forms of level  $N$  and character  $\chi$ . Fixing choices of  $N$  and  $\chi$ , we call these  $M$ ,  $M_c$  and  $M!$ . (There is a map from  $M_c$  to  $M$  with image  $M!$ .) Each has Betti, de Rham, and (for each prime  $\lambda$  of  $O_K$ )  $\lambda$ -adic realisations, denoted  $M_B$ ,  $M_{\text{dR}}$ ,  $M_\lambda$ , and so on. The Betti and de Rham realisations are  $K$ -vector spaces and the  $\lambda$ -adic realisations are  $K_\lambda$ -vector spaces. Here we choose  $K$  as above, though the construction works for any number field containing  $\mathbb{Q}(\chi)$ . Temporarily  $\lambda$  denotes any prime of  $O_K$ . There are various additional structures and comparison maps, discussed in detail in [Diamond et al. 2004]. For example,  $M_\lambda$  supports a continuous representation of  $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$ . There are also  $S$ -integral premotivic structures  $\mathfrak{M}$ ,  $\mathfrak{M}_c$  and  $\mathfrak{M}!$ , where  $S$  is the set of primes dividing  $Nk!$ . These have realisations  $\mathfrak{M}_B$  (an  $O_K$ -lattice in  $M_B$ ),  $\mathfrak{M}_{\text{dR}}$  (an  $O_K[1/S]$ -lattice in  $M_{\text{dR}}$ ), and  $\mathfrak{M}_\lambda$  (a  $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$ -stable  $O_\lambda$ -lattice in  $M_\lambda$ ) for all primes  $\lambda$ , et cetera. There are canonical isomorphisms such as  $\mathfrak{M}_B \otimes_{O_K} O_\lambda \simeq \mathfrak{M}_\lambda$ . For  $\lambda \notin S$  there is also a crystalline realisation  $\mathfrak{M}_{\lambda\text{-crys}}$ .

Let  $\mathbb{T}'$  be the ring generated over  $O_K$  by all the Hecke operators  $T_n$  acting on  $M_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$ . There are compatible actions of  $\mathbb{T}'$  on all of the above, by

[Diamond et al. 2004, Proposition 1.3]. Let  $\mathcal{I}$  be the ideal of  $\mathbb{T}'$  generated by  $T_p - (\chi(p) + p^{k-1})$  for all primes  $p$ , and let  $\mathfrak{m}$  be the maximal ideal generated by  $\mathcal{I}$  and  $\lambda$ .

For  $\lambda \notin S$ ,  $\mathfrak{M}_{\lambda\text{-crys}}$  is a filtered  $O_\lambda$  module with graded pieces of degrees 0 and  $k-1$ . There is a Hecke-equivariant isomorphism  $\text{Fil}^{k-1}\mathfrak{M}_{\lambda\text{-crys}} \simeq M_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, O_\lambda)$ . It has an injective Frobenius endomorphism  $\phi$  and is strongly divisible in the sense that  $\mathfrak{M}_{\lambda\text{-crys}} = \phi\mathfrak{M}_{\lambda\text{-crys}} + \phi_{k-1}(\text{Fil}^{k-1}\mathfrak{M}_{\lambda\text{-crys}})$ , where  $\ell^{k-1}\phi_{k-1} : \text{Fil}^{k-1}\mathfrak{M}_{\lambda\text{-crys}} \rightarrow \mathfrak{M}_{\lambda\text{-crys}}$  is the restriction of  $\phi$ ; see the end of [Diamond et al. 2004, 1.4.2]. Similar statements apply to  $\mathfrak{M}_c$  and  $\mathfrak{M}_l$  when the submodule  $M_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, O_\lambda)$  is replaced by  $S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, O_\lambda)$ . When  $\mathfrak{M}_\lambda$ ,  $\mathfrak{M}_{c,\lambda}$ , and  $\mathfrak{M}_{l,\lambda}$  are viewed as  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell$ -modules with the  $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell/\mathbb{Q}_\ell)$ -action, they may be identified respectively with  $\mathbb{V}(\mathfrak{M}_{\lambda\text{-crys}})$ ,  $\mathbb{V}(\mathfrak{M}_{c,\lambda\text{-crys}})$ , and  $\mathbb{V}(\mathfrak{M}_{l,\lambda\text{-crys}})$ , where  $\mathbb{V}$  is the covariant version of Fontaine and Lafaille's functor used in [Diamond et al. 2004].

**Lemma 4.3.** *Suppose that  $\lambda \notin S$ ,  $\lambda \nmid 6$ , and  $\text{ord}_\lambda(L(1-k, \chi^{-1})) > 0$ . The  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda[\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})]$ -module  $(\mathfrak{M}_{l,\lambda}/\lambda\mathfrak{M}_{l,\lambda})[\mathfrak{m}]$  has a submodule that becomes isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(1-k)$  upon restriction to  $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_N))$ , and it is the unique subquotient with this property.*

*Proof.* This is based on the proof of [Faltings and Jordan 1995, Proposition 4.6]. The rank-one  $O_\lambda$ -submodule  $\mathcal{E}$  of  $M_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, O_\lambda)$  generated by the Eisenstein series  $E_k^{\chi,1}$  is the kernel of  $\mathcal{I}$  on  $\mathfrak{M}_{\lambda\text{-crys}}$ , and so it is stable under  $\phi_{k-1}$ , since  $\phi$  commutes with the Hecke operators. Since  $\phi$  is injective and  $\mathfrak{M}_{\lambda\text{-crys}}$  is strongly divisible, we must have  $\phi_{k-1}(\mathcal{E}) = \mathcal{E}$ , so  $\mathcal{E}$  is a strongly divisible filtered  $\phi$ -module. The functor  $\mathbb{V}$  takes  $\mathcal{E}$  to a rank-one  $O_\lambda$ -submodule  $E$  of  $\mathfrak{M}_\lambda$ , which is stable under  $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell/\mathbb{Q}_\ell)$ . In fact, since  $\mathbb{V}$  respects Hecke operators, we have  $E = \mathfrak{M}_\lambda[\mathcal{I}]$ , and so it is stable under  $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$ . In fact,  $E \simeq O_\lambda(1-k)$  as a  $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_N))$ -module since  $M_{l,\lambda}[\mathcal{I}] = 0$ , and by [Scholl 1990, 1.2.0] the cokernel of the inclusion of  $M_{l,\lambda}$  in  $M_\lambda$  becomes, upon restriction to  $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_N))$ , isomorphic to a direct sum of copies of  $K_\lambda(1-k)$ .

Let  $M_k = M_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, O_\lambda)$  and  $S_k = S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, O_\lambda)$ . The image of  $\mathcal{E}$  in  $M_k/\lambda M_k$  actually lies in  $S_k/\lambda S_k$ , as noted in the proof of Proposition 2.1. This gives a  $\phi_{k-1}$ -stable, one-dimensional  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda$ -subspace  $\overline{\mathcal{E}}$  of the finite-length filtered  $O_\lambda$ -module  $\mathfrak{M}_{l,\lambda\text{-crys}}/\lambda\mathfrak{M}_{l,\lambda\text{-crys}}$ . This subspace lies inside  $\text{Fil}^{k-1}$ , and since  $\mathcal{E}$  is killed by  $\mathcal{I}$ , we have  $\overline{\mathcal{E}} \subset (\mathfrak{M}_{l,\lambda\text{-crys}}/\lambda\mathfrak{M}_{l,\lambda\text{-crys}})[\mathfrak{m}]$ .

We may apply a finite-length version of the functor  $\mathbb{V}$  (see [Diamond et al. 2004, 1.1.2]) to get a one-dimensional subspace  $W$  of  $(\mathfrak{M}_{l,\lambda}/\lambda\mathfrak{M}_{l,\lambda})[\mathfrak{m}]$ . Inside  $(\mathfrak{M}_\lambda/\lambda\mathfrak{M}_\lambda)[\mathfrak{m}]$ ,  $W$  is just the reduction of  $E$  and so is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(1-k)$  as a module for  $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_N))$ . Let  $L$  be the finite unramified extension of  $\mathbb{Q}_\ell$  corresponding to  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_N)$ , and let  $\psi$  be any ( $O_\lambda$ -valued) character of  $\text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q}_\ell)$ .

By the  $q$ -expansion principle,  $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_\lambda}(S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, \mathbb{F}_\lambda)[\mathfrak{m}]) = 1$ , and hence

$$\mathrm{Fil}^{k-1}(((\mathfrak{M}_{1,\lambda\text{-crys}}/\lambda\mathfrak{M}_{1,\lambda\text{-crys}})[\mathfrak{m}])/\overline{\mathcal{E}}) = 0.$$

But

$$\mathbb{V}(((\mathfrak{M}_{1,\lambda\text{-crys}}/\lambda\mathfrak{M}_{1,\lambda\text{-crys}})[\mathfrak{m}])/\overline{\mathcal{E}}) = ((\mathfrak{M}_{1,\lambda}/\lambda\mathfrak{M}_{1,\lambda})[\mathfrak{m}])/W,$$

and the filtered module  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda\{\psi\}\{1-k\}$  such that  $\mathbb{V}(\mathbb{F}_\lambda\{\psi\}\{1-k\}) = \mathbb{F}_\lambda(\psi)(1-k)$  has  $\mathrm{Fil}^{k-1}\mathbb{F}_\lambda\{\psi\}\{1-k\} = \mathbb{F}_\lambda\{\psi\}\{1-k\}$ , and so  $(\mathfrak{M}_{1,\lambda}/\lambda\mathfrak{M}_{1,\lambda})[\mathfrak{m}]$  cannot have any more composition factors isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(1-k)$  upon restriction to  $\mathrm{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell/L)$ .  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 4.1.* By construction,  $\mathfrak{M}_{f,\lambda}$  is a submodule of  $\mathfrak{M}_{1,\lambda}$ , and hence  $A[\lambda]$  is a submodule of  $(\mathfrak{M}_{1,\lambda}/\lambda\mathfrak{M}_{1,\lambda})[\mathfrak{m}]$ . In the latter, as above,  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(1-k)$  has multiplicity at most one and appears as a submodule, if at all. It remains to observe that the subquotients of  $A[\lambda]$  are  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(\chi^{-1})$  and  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(1-k)$ ; so the latter must be a submodule. Note that since  $\chi$  is unramified at  $\ell$  and  $k < \ell$ , these factors remain distinct upon restriction to  $\mathrm{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell/L)$ , the latter being ramified.  $\square$

Write  $\chi = \prod_{p|N} \chi_p$ , where the conductor of  $\chi_p$  is the power of  $p$  in  $N$ .

**Proposition 4.4.** *In the same situation as above,  $\mathrm{ord}_\lambda(c_p(j)) = 0$  for any integer  $j$  and any prime  $p \mid N$  such that the order of  $\chi_p$  is not a power of  $\ell$  (for example, if  $\ell \nmid p-1$ ).*

*Proof.* Since  $a_p \equiv \chi(p) + p^{k-1} = p^{k-1} \not\equiv 0 \pmod{\lambda}$ , the Euler factor  $(1 - a_p p^{-s})$  must have degree 1. Recalling that this Euler factor is the reciprocal of

$$\det(1 - \mathrm{Frob}_p^{-1} p^{-s} \mid (M_{f,\lambda})^{I_p}),$$

we see that  $\dim (M_{f,\lambda})^{I_p} = 1$ . Now  $\mathrm{ord}_\lambda(c_p(j))$  could be nonzero only if the map from  $(M_{f,\lambda})^{I_p}$  to  $(A_\lambda)^{I_p}$  is not surjective. This would force  $\dim A[\lambda]^{I_p} > 1$ , so  $A[\lambda]^{I_p} = A[\lambda]$ . This cannot be the case, since the composition factors of  $A[\lambda]$  are  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(1-k)$  and  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(\chi^{-1})$ , and  $\chi$ , having exact conductor  $N$ , is ramified at  $p$ . The condition on the order of  $\chi_p$  ensures that the reduction  $(\bmod \lambda)$  of  $\chi$  (which we also call  $\chi$ , by abuse of notation) is still ramified at  $p$ .  $\square$

### 5. The Hecke action on boundary symbols

Let  $R$  be a commutative ring in which 6 is invertible. Let  $A$  be a right  $R[\Sigma]$ -module, where  $\Sigma = M_2(\mathbb{Z}) \cap \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Q})$ . Let  $\mathcal{D}$  be the group of divisors supported on  $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q})$ , with  $\mathcal{D}_0$  the subgroup of divisors of degree zero. There is a natural left action of  $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Q})$  on  $\mathcal{D}$ . If  $\Gamma$  is any congruence subgroup of  $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ , let  $\mathrm{Symb}_\Gamma(A)$  (the group of  $A$ -valued modular symbols for  $\Gamma$ ) be the set of homomorphisms  $\Phi : \mathcal{D}_0 \rightarrow A$  such that  $\Phi \mid g = \Phi$  for all  $g \in \Gamma$ , where  $(\Phi \mid g)(D) := (\Phi(gD)) \mid g$ . Replacing  $\mathcal{D}_0$  by  $\mathcal{D}$ , we likewise define  $\mathrm{Bound}_\Gamma(A)$ , the group of  $A$ -valued boundary symbols for

$\Gamma$ . Restriction from  $\mathcal{D}$  to  $\mathcal{D}_0$  provides a natural homomorphism from  $\text{Bound}_\Gamma(A)$  to  $\text{Symb}_\Gamma(A)$ . A useful reference for modular symbols is [Greenberg and Stevens 1993, Section 4].

For  $g \in \Sigma$ , if  $\Gamma g \Gamma = \bigcup_i \Gamma g_i$  then, for  $\Phi \in \text{Bound}_\Gamma(A)$  or  $\text{Symb}_\Gamma(A)$ , let

$$\Phi | T(g) := \sum_i \Phi | g_i.$$

When  $g = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & p \end{bmatrix}$ , we abbreviate  $T(g)$  to  $T(p)$ .

From now on, we fix a choice of weight  $k \geq 2$  and level  $N$ , and let  $\Gamma = \Gamma_1(N)$ . We let  $A = \text{Sym}^{k-2} R^2$  be the module of polynomials of degree  $k-2$  over  $R$  in variables  $X$  and  $Y$ . The right  $\Sigma$ -action is defined by  $(F | g)(X, Y) = F((X, Y)g^*)$ , where for

$$g = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{we define} \quad g^* := \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}.$$

Sometimes we may write  $\text{Symb}_k(\Gamma_1(N), R)$  instead of  $\text{Symb}_{\Gamma_1(N)}(\text{Sym}^{k-2} R^2)$ . If  $\psi : (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^\times \rightarrow R^\times$  is a character, we may view  $\psi$  as a character of  $\Gamma_0(N)$  in the usual way:  $\psi \left( \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \right) = \psi(d)$ . Then let  $\text{Symb}_k(\Gamma_1(N), \psi, R) := \{\Phi \in \text{Symb}_k(\Gamma_1(N), R) : \Phi | g = \psi(g)\Phi \text{ for all } g \in \Gamma_0(N)\}$ . Likewise for  $\text{Bound}$ . By [Greenberg and Stevens 1993, Theorem 4.3],  $\text{Bound}_k(\Gamma_1(N), \psi, R)$  may be viewed as a subgroup of  $\text{Symb}_k(\Gamma_1(N), \psi, R)$ . In fact, using a theorem of Ash and Stevens (see Section 6 below) to identify  $\text{Symb}_k(\Gamma_1(N), \psi, R)$  with a certain compactly supported cohomology group, we see  $\text{Bound}_k(\Gamma_1(N), \psi, R)$  is the kernel of the projection onto parabolic cohomology.

**Proposition 5.1.** *Let  $\chi$  be an  $R$ -valued character of conductor  $N$ . There is an element  $\Phi_\chi$  of  $\text{Bound}_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, R)$  that is supported on the  $\Gamma_0(N)$ -orbit of  $\infty$  and is such that  $\Phi_\chi(\infty) = X^{k-2}$ . For all primes  $p$ , it satisfies*

$$\Phi_\chi | T(p) = (p^{k-1} + \chi(p))\Phi_\chi.$$

*It spans the submodule of  $\text{Bound}_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, R)$  comprising all  $\Phi$  on which the  $T(p)$  act in this manner.*

*Proof.* The stabiliser of  $\infty$  in  $\Gamma_1(N)$  is the subgroup generated by  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ . The submodule of  $\text{Sym}^{k-2} R^2$  fixed by this subgroup is spanned by  $X^{k-2}$ . Therefore, up to a scalar, we are forced to choose  $\Phi_\chi(\infty) = X^{k-2}$ . Now the values of  $\Phi_\chi$  on the  $\Gamma_0(N)$ -orbit of  $\infty$  are determined by  $\Phi_\chi | g = \chi(g)\Phi_\chi$ , so that  $\Phi_\chi(g\infty) = \chi(g)\Phi_\chi(\infty) | g^{-1}$  for all  $g \in \Gamma_0(N)$ . We complete the definition of  $\Phi_\chi$  by decreeing that it take the value 0 outside the  $\Gamma_0(N)$ -orbit of  $\infty$ .

Next we calculate the action of  $T(p)$ . According to [Diamond and Shurman 2005, Proposition 5.2.1], if  $p \nmid N$  then

$$\Phi_\chi | T(p) = \sum_{j=0}^{p-1} \Phi_\chi \left| \begin{bmatrix} 1 & j \\ 0 & p \end{bmatrix} \right. + \Phi_\chi \left| \begin{bmatrix} m & n \\ N & p \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} p & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right.,$$

where  $mp - nN = 1$ . In the sum from 0 to  $p - 1$ , each  $g_i$  fixes  $\infty$ , so each of the  $p$  terms, evaluated at  $\infty$ , is  $(pX)^{k-2}$ . If  $g = \begin{bmatrix} m & n \\ N & p \end{bmatrix}$  then  $g \in \Gamma_0(N)$ , and so  $\Phi_\chi | g = \chi(p)\Phi_\chi$ ; so  $(\Phi_\chi | g)(\infty) = \chi(p)X^{k-2}$ . Now  $\begin{bmatrix} p & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  fixes both  $\infty$  and  $X^{k-2}$ . So we find that

$$(\Phi_\chi | T(p))(\infty) = (p^{k-1} + \chi(p))\Phi_\chi(\infty).$$

The fact that  $T(p)$  commutes with the diamond operators  $\langle d \rangle$  (see the calculation in [Diamond and Shurman 2005, p. 169]) allows us to extend this from  $\infty$  to the whole  $\Gamma_0(N)$ -orbit of  $\infty$ .

It remains to sketch a proof of the uniqueness property of  $\Phi_\chi$ . If  $\psi$  and  $\phi$  are primitive Dirichlet characters of conductors  $u$  and  $v$ , respectively, with  $\psi\phi = \chi$  and  $uv = N$ , then we may apply the above construction to  $\psi\phi^{-1}$  and then apply a twisting operator  $\Phi | R_\phi = \sum_{a=0}^{v-1} \phi(a)\Phi | \begin{bmatrix} 1 & a \\ 0 & v \end{bmatrix}$ ; see [Greenberg and Stevens 1993, 4.10]. Thus we get some  $\Phi \in \text{Bound}_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, R)$  such that, for all primes  $p$ ,  $\Phi | T(p) = (\phi(p)p^{k-1} + \psi(p))\Phi$ . If there were a  $\Phi \in \text{Bound}_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, R)$  that satisfies  $\Phi | T(p) = (p^{k-1} + \chi(p))\Phi$  for all primes  $p$  and that is not a multiple of  $\Phi_\chi$ , then, together with what we have constructed,  $\Phi$  would span over  $\mathbb{C}$  a space of dimension greater than that of  $M_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)/S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$ ; recall the first paragraph of Section 2. This would contradict that  $\text{Bound}_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, \mathbb{C})$  has the same dimension as  $M_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)/S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$ . (This fact follows from comparing the dimensions of the graded pieces of  $M_{c, \text{dR}}$  and  $M_{1, \text{dR}}$ .)  $\square$

The spaces  $\text{Symb}_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, R)$  and  $\text{Bound}_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, R)$  are broken into  $\pm$  eigenspaces by the involution  $\iota = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$ . It is easy to check that  $\Phi_\chi$  is in the  $\kappa(k - 2) = \kappa(k)$ -eigenspace, that is,  $\Phi_\chi | \iota = \kappa(k)\Phi_\chi$ .

### 6. A congruence of modular symbols

Let  $R$  be a commutative ring in which 6 is invertible,  $A$  be a right  $R[\Sigma]$ -module, and  $\Gamma$  be any congruence subgroup of  $\text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ . Then by a theorem of Ash and Stevens [1986] [Greenberg and Stevens 1993, Theorem 4.2], there is a natural isomorphism

$$\text{Symb}_\Gamma(A) \simeq H_c^1(\Gamma \backslash \mathfrak{H}, A).$$

Letting  $\Gamma = \Gamma(N)$  and  $A = \text{Sym}^{k-2}R^2$  with  $R = \mathcal{O}_\lambda$ , then taking the part on which  $\Gamma_0(N)$  acts via  $\chi$ , we get  $\text{Symb}_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, \mathcal{O}_\lambda)$  from the left, while from the right,

following the construction in [Diamond et al. 2004, 1.2–1.4], we get  $\mathfrak{M}_{c,\lambda}$ . In other words:

**Lemma 6.1.**  $\text{Symb}_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, O_\lambda) \simeq \mathfrak{M}_{c,\lambda}$ .

The action of  $\iota$  on the left matches the action of  $\text{Gal}(\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R})$  on the right.

Though it is not necessary for the truth of the lemma, we now put ourselves in the situation described in the first paragraph of Section 4. Recall that  $\mathbb{T}'$  is the ring generated over  $O_K$  by all the Hecke operators  $T_n$  acting on  $M_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$ , and  $\mathcal{I}$  is the ideal of  $\mathbb{T}'$  generated by  $T_p - (\chi(p) + p^{k-1})$  for all primes  $p$ . Let  $\mathcal{I}_f$  be the ideal of  $\mathbb{T}'$  generated by  $T_p - a_p$  for all primes  $p$ . Define  $\Phi_f$  to be any generator for the free rank-1  $O_\lambda$ -module  $\text{Symb}_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, O_\lambda)^{\kappa(k)}[\mathcal{I}_f]$ . Let  $\Phi_\chi$  be as in Proposition 5.1. We say that  $\lambda$  is a congruence prime for  $f$  in  $S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$  if there exists  $g \in S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, O_{K'})$  that is orthogonal to  $f$  (with  $K'$  some sufficiently large finite extension of  $K$ ) such that  $f \equiv g \pmod{\lambda'}$  (where  $\lambda' \mid \lambda$ ). By applying the eigenspace-killing procedure described in the proof below, one may assume that  $g$  is an eigenvector for  $\mathbb{T}'$ .

**Lemma 6.2.** *Suppose that  $\lambda$  is not a congruence prime for  $f$  in  $S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$ . We may choose  $\Phi_f$  in such a way that  $\Phi_f - \Phi_\chi \in \lambda \text{Symb}_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, O_\lambda)$ .*

*Proof.* Define

$$\begin{aligned} M_{f,E} &:= M_\lambda[\mathcal{I}] \oplus M_\lambda[\mathcal{I}_f], & \mathfrak{M}_{f,E} &:= M_{f,E} \cap \mathfrak{M}_\lambda \\ M_{c,f,E} &:= M_{c,\lambda}[\mathcal{I}] \oplus M_{c,\lambda}[\mathcal{I}_f], & \mathfrak{M}_{c,f,E} &:= M_{c,f,E} \cap \mathfrak{M}_{c,\lambda}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\ell > k - 2$ , the duality morphisms of [Diamond et al. 2004, 1.5] induce perfect  $O_\lambda$ -valued pairings between  $\mathfrak{M}_{c,\lambda}$  and  $\mathfrak{M}_\lambda$ , and between  $\mathfrak{M}_{c,\lambda}^{\kappa(k)}$  and  $\mathfrak{M}_\lambda^{\kappa(k-1)}$ . Restriction gives a pairing between  $\mathfrak{M}_{c,f,E}^{\kappa(k)}$  and  $\mathfrak{M}_{f,E}^{\kappa(k-1)}$ . Let

$$\begin{aligned} v_f &\text{ be a generator for } M_\lambda^{\kappa(k-1)}[\mathcal{I}_f] \cap \mathfrak{M}_{f,E}^{\kappa(k-1)}; \\ v_E &\text{ be a generator for } M_\lambda^{\kappa(k-1)}[\mathcal{I}] \cap \mathfrak{M}_{f,E}^{\kappa(k-1)}; \\ w_f &\text{ be a generator for } M_{c,\lambda}^{\kappa(k)}[\mathcal{I}_f] \cap \mathfrak{M}_{f,E}^{\kappa(k)}; \\ w_E &\text{ be a generator for } M_{c,\lambda}^{\kappa(k)}[\mathcal{I}] \cap \mathfrak{M}_{f,E}^{\kappa(k)}. \end{aligned}$$

In fact we choose  $w_f$  and  $w_E$  to be the images of  $\Phi_f$  and  $\Phi_\chi$  under the isomorphism of Lemma 6.1. We wish to show that  $w_f - w_E \in \lambda \mathfrak{M}_{c,f,E}^{\kappa(k)}$ . Complex conjugation in  $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$  acts on  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(1-k)$  as  $\kappa(k-1)$  but on  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(\chi^{-1})$  as  $\kappa(k)$ . Therefore it must be the former that is spanned by the image of  $v_f$  in  $\mathfrak{M}_\lambda/\lambda\mathfrak{M}_{f,\lambda}$ . Applying Lemma 4.3 and choosing scalar multiples appropriately, we find without losing generality that  $v_f - v_E \in \lambda \mathfrak{M}_{f,E}^{\kappa(k-1)}$ . Let  $r$  be the largest integer such that  $v_f - v_E \in \lambda^r \mathfrak{M}_{f,E}^{\kappa(k-1)}$ . Since the Hecke operators  $T_p$  (for  $p \nmid N$ ) are self-adjoint

for the pairing, we have  $\langle w_f, v_E \rangle = \langle w_E, v_f \rangle = 0$ . Now let  $\lambda$  denote also some uniformiser in  $O_\lambda$ . If  $v_f - v_E = \lambda^r v$ , then we have

$$\langle w_f, v_f \rangle = \lambda^r \langle w_f, v \rangle \quad \text{and} \quad \langle w_E, v_E \rangle = -\lambda^r \langle w_E, v \rangle.$$

If  $w_f$  and  $w_E$  do not span  $\mathfrak{M}_{c,f,E}^{\kappa(k)}$ , then we may choose them in such a way that  $w_f - w_E \in \lambda \mathfrak{M}_{c,f,E}^{\kappa(k)}$ , as required. So suppose that  $w_f$  and  $w_E$  do span  $(\mathfrak{M}_{c,f,E})^{\kappa(k)}$ .

By perfectness of the pairing between  $\mathfrak{M}_{c,\lambda}^{\kappa(k)}$  and  $\mathfrak{M}_\lambda^{\kappa(k-1)}$ , there exists some  $g \in \mathfrak{M}_\lambda^{\kappa(k-1)}$  such that

$$\langle w_f, g \rangle = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \langle w_E, g \rangle = 0.$$

Then  $g = (v_f - h)/\lambda^r$  for some  $h \in \mathfrak{M}_\lambda^{\kappa(k-1)}$ , that is,  $h = v_f - \lambda^r g$ . There is a decomposition of  $M_\lambda^{\kappa(k-1)} \otimes K_{\lambda'}$ , when  $K_{\lambda'}$  is some sufficiently large finite extension of  $K_\lambda$ , into one-dimensional  $\mathbb{T}'$ -eigenspaces, all “new” because  $\chi$  has conductor  $N$ . This parallels the decomposition of  $M_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$ . The element  $h$  is a linear combination of eigenvectors, with  $v_E$  and  $v_f$  excluded, since by design  $\langle h, w_f \rangle = \langle h, w_E \rangle = 0$ . If there is a system of eigenvalues  $\{b_p\}$  such that  $a_p \not\equiv b_p \pmod{\lambda'}$  for some  $p$ , then by applying  $(T_p - b_p)/(a_p - b_p)$ , we can kill the eigenspace corresponding to  $\{b_p\}$  in the expression  $g = (v_f - h)/\lambda^r$ . Since  $h$  is necessarily nontrivial, there must be a system of eigenvalues  $\{b_p\}$  (corresponding to some cusp form in  $S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$  different from  $f$ ) such that  $a_p \equiv b_p \pmod{\lambda'}$  for every  $p$ . In other words,  $\lambda$  is a congruence prime for  $f$  in  $S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$ .  $\square$

### 7. The denominator of the $L$ -value

Throughout this section, we are in the situation described in the first paragraph of Section 4. We need to consider the period  $\Omega^{\kappa(k-1)}$ . Since we are looking just at the  $\lambda$ -part of the Bloch–Kato conjecture, this period matters only up to a unit in  $O_{(\lambda)}$ , the localisation at  $\lambda$  of  $O_K$ . Recall that in Section 3,  $\Omega^\pm$  were defined as determinants of isomorphisms from  $M_{f,B}^\pm \otimes \mathbb{C}$  to  $(M_{f,dR}/F) \otimes \mathbb{C}$ , calculated with respect to bases arising from  $\mathfrak{M}_{f,B}$  and  $\mathfrak{M}_{f,dR}$ . (We can choose bases for  $\mathfrak{M}_{f,B} \otimes O_{(\lambda)}$  and  $\mathfrak{M}_{f,dR} \otimes O_{(\lambda)}$ .) Let  $\omega^\pm$  be the determinants of isomorphisms going the other way, that is, from  $F \otimes \mathbb{C}$  to  $M_{f,B}^\pm \otimes \mathbb{C}$ , that arise from the inverse of the comparison isomorphism  $I : M_{f,B} \otimes \mathbb{C} \rightarrow M_{f,dR} \otimes \mathbb{C}$ , also calculated with respect to bases coming from  $\mathfrak{M}_{f,B}$  and  $\mathfrak{M}_{f,dR}$ .

**Lemma 7.1.** *Up to a unit in  $O_{(\lambda)}$ ,*

$$\omega^\pm = (2\pi i)^{k-1} \Omega^\mp.$$

*Proof.* Applying [Deligne 1979, Lemma 5.1.6], we find  $\omega^\pm = \Omega^\mp / \det I$ , where the determinant is calculated using bases coming from  $\mathfrak{M}_{f,B}$  and  $\mathfrak{M}_{f,dR}$ . Now  $\det(\mathfrak{M}_{f,B}) = \eta_f \mathfrak{M}_\chi(1-k)_B$  and  $\det(\mathfrak{M}_{f,dR}) = \eta_f \mathfrak{M}_\chi(1-k)_{dR}$ , in the notation of

[Diamond et al. 2004, 1.7.3] ( $\eta_f$  is a certain fractional ideal of  $K$  and  $M_\chi(1-k)$  is a Tate-twist of a Dirichlet motive). We may realise  $\det I$  as the period of  $M_\chi(1-k)$  with respect to the integral structure  $\mathfrak{M}_\chi(1-k)$ , namely  $G(\chi)(2\pi i)^{1-k}$ ; see [Diamond et al. 2004, 1.1.3]). The Gauss sum  $G(\chi)$  is coprime to  $\lambda$ .  $\square$

Recall from Section 4 the premotivic structures  $M_c$ ,  $M$ , and  $M_l$  associated with  $M_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$ , and recall that  $M_l$  is the image of  $M_c$  in  $M$ . The premotivic structure  $M_f$  attached to  $f$  is  $M_l[\mathcal{J}_f]$ . Likewise  $\mathfrak{M}_f = \mathfrak{M}_l[\mathcal{J}_f]$ . There are natural identifications of  $\text{Fil}^{k-1}M_{c,\text{dR}}$  and  $\text{Fil}^{k-1}M_{l,\text{dR}}$  with  $S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, K)$ , such that  $\text{Fil}^{k-1}\mathfrak{M}_{f,\text{dR}} = \mathcal{O}_K[1/S]f$ ; see [Diamond et al. 2004, 1.4.2 and 1.6.2].

To  $f$  we associate a modular symbol  $\psi_f \in \text{Symb}_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, \mathbb{C})$  defined by

$$\psi_f(\{b\} - \{a\}) = (2\pi i)^{k-1} \int_a^b f(\tau)(\tau X + Y)^{k-2} d\tau.$$

Via the Ash-Stevens isomorphism we may view it as an element of  $M_{c,B} \otimes \mathbb{C}$ , which then maps to an element  $\Psi_f$  of  $M_{l,B} \otimes \mathbb{C}$ . In fact  $\psi_f$  and  $\Psi_f$  are killed by  $\mathcal{J}_f$ . The next lemma was used implicitly in [Dummigan et al. 2003, Section 5].

**Lemma 7.2.** *Under the comparison (de Rham) isomorphism  $M_{l,\text{dR}} \otimes \mathbb{C} \rightarrow M_{l,B} \otimes \mathbb{C}$ , the image of  $f \in \text{Fil}^{k-1}M_{f,\text{dR}}$  is  $\Psi_f$ .*

We sketch the reason. As on the line preceding [Diamond et al. 2004, (4)],  $f$  corresponds to a differential  $(2\pi i)^{k-1} f(\tau) dz^{\otimes k-2} d\tau$  on  $\Gamma_1(N) \backslash \mathfrak{H}$ , with coefficients in a certain local system with fibres  $\text{Sym}^{k-2} H_{\text{dR}}^1(E_\tau)$ , where  $E_\tau = \mathbb{C}/\langle 1, \tau \rangle_{\mathbb{Z}}$ . In the cohomology of  $E_\tau$ , the class of  $dz$  may be identified with  $\tau X + Y$ , where  $X$  and  $Y$  are certain generators for the integral cohomology of  $E_\tau$ . Standard arguments show that the comparison map defined in [Diamond et al. 2004, 1.2.4] (in terms of resolving a locally constant sheaf) is effected via integration along chains in  $\Gamma_1(N) \backslash \mathfrak{H}$ .

**Theorem 7.3.** *For  $f$  and  $\lambda$  as above, suppose that  $\lambda$  is not a congruence prime for  $f$  in  $S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$ . Then*

$$\text{ord}_\lambda \left( \frac{L_f(k-1)}{(2\pi i)^{k-1} \Omega^{k(k-1)}} \right) < 0.$$

*Proof.* Let  $\Phi_f$  be a generator of  $\text{Symb}_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, \mathcal{O}_{(\lambda)})^{\kappa(k)}[\mathcal{J}_f]$ . (Tensoring with  $\mathcal{O}_\lambda$ , this can be viewed as the same  $\Phi_f$  in Lemma 6.2.) Let  $\theta_f$  be a generator for  $\mathfrak{M}_{f,B}^{\kappa(k)} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{(\lambda)}$ . Say that  $\Phi_f$  maps to  $b\theta_f$  under the natural map. Say also that  $\Psi_f^{\kappa(k)} = c\Phi_f$ . Then, using Lemma 7.2,  $f \in \text{Fil}^{k-1}\mathfrak{M}_{f,\text{dR}}$  maps to  $bc\theta_f$ , and so by definition,  $\omega^{\kappa(k)} = bc$ . By Lemma 7.1,  $(2\pi i)^{k-1} \Omega^{\kappa(k-1)} = bc$  up to a unit in  $\mathcal{O}_{(\lambda)}$ .

The coefficient of  $X^{k-2}$  in  $\Psi_f^{\kappa(k)}(\{\infty\} - \{0\})$  is  $(2\pi i)^{k-1} \int_0^{i\infty} f(\tau) \tau^{k-2} d\tau = \Gamma(k-1)L_f(k-1)$ . Since  $\ell > k-2$ , the factor of  $\Gamma(k-1)$  does not matter. By Lemma 6.2, the coefficient of  $X^{k-2}$  in  $\Phi_f(\{\infty\} - \{0\})$  is congruent to 1 (mod  $\lambda$ ),



since  $\Phi_\chi(\{\infty\}) = X^{k-2}$  and  $\Phi_\chi(\{0\}) = 0$ . Hence  $L_f(k-1) = cu$  for some unit  $u \in \mathcal{O}_{(\lambda)}$ . We find now that

$$\frac{L_f(k-1)}{(2\pi i)^{k-1} \Omega^{\kappa(k-1)}} = \frac{cu}{bc} = \frac{u}{b},$$

so it suffices to prove that  $\text{ord}_\lambda(b) > 0$ . But this is a direct consequence of [Lemma 6.2](#), given that  $\Phi_\chi \in \text{Bound}_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, \mathcal{O}_{(\lambda)})$ , which is the kernel of the map from  $\text{Symb}_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi, \mathcal{O}_{(\lambda)})$  to  $\mathfrak{M}_{1,B} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{(\lambda)}$ . □

### 8. Failure of the congruence prime condition

Suppose that  $\lambda$  is a congruence prime for  $f$  in  $S_k(\Gamma_1(N), \chi)$ . Then (if we make  $K$  big enough) there is another newform  $g$  such that  $f \equiv g \pmod{\lambda}$ . Let  $\rho_f$  and  $\rho_g$  be the  $\lambda$ -adic realisations of  $\mathfrak{M}_f$  and  $\mathfrak{M}_g$ , considered as representations of  $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$ . The reductions  $\bar{\rho}_f$  and  $\bar{\rho}_g$  are both extensions of  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(\chi^{-1})$  by  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(1-k)$ . Unlike the irreducible case, we cannot be sure that they are isomorphic, but it is conceivable that it could sometimes happen, for example, if  $\dim(\mathfrak{M}_{1,\lambda}/\lambda\mathfrak{M}_{1,\lambda})[\mathfrak{m}] = 2$ . Let us consider the case  $\bar{\rho}_f \simeq \bar{\rho}_g$ . Then  $\rho_f$  and  $\rho_g$  are both deformations of  $\bar{\rho}_f$ . Note that the space of  $\bar{\rho}_f$  is  $A[\lambda]$ . Let  $r$  be minimal such that  $\rho_f$  and  $\rho_g$  are different  $(\text{mod } \lambda^{r+1})$ . Then

$$\rho_g(\sigma) \equiv \rho_f(\sigma)(I + \lambda^r(\theta(\sigma))) \pmod{\lambda^{r+1}}$$

defines a cocycle  $\theta$  of  $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$ , representing a nonzero cohomology class  $[\theta] \in H^1(\mathbb{Q}, \text{ad}^0(\bar{\rho}_f))$ .

Bearing in mind the composition series for  $A[\lambda]$ , we have an exact sequence of  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda[\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})]$ -modules:

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{F}_\lambda(\chi, 1-k) \longrightarrow \text{ad}^0(\bar{\rho}_f) \xrightarrow{\pi} A[\lambda](k-1) \longrightarrow 0.$$

The projection  $\pi$  is evaluation on a generator of the submodule  $\mathbb{F}_\lambda(1-k)$ . This gives us  $\pi_*[\theta] \in H^1(\mathbb{Q}, A[\lambda](k-1))$ . Without going into laborious detail, it is plausible that sometimes this might give us a nonzero element of the Selmer group  $H_f^1(\mathbb{Q}, A_\lambda(k-1))$ . By finiteness of this Selmer group [[Kato 2004](#)], this would give a nonzero element of  $\lambda$ -torsion in  $\text{III}(k-1)$ . In (1) (for  $j = k-1$ ), this could cancel the contribution from  $\#H^0(\mathbb{Q}, A(k-1))$ , making it unnecessary for  $\lambda$  to occur in the denominator of  $L_f(k-1)/((2\pi i)^{k-1} \Omega^{\kappa(k-1)})$ .

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