

Periods of Modular Forms  
and Jacobi Theta Functions

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# Periods of Modular Forms and Jacobi Theta Functions

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**1. Introduction and statement of theorem.** The period polynomial of a cusp form  $f(\tau) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_f(n) e^{2\pi i n \tau}$  ( $\tau \in \mathfrak{H}$  = upper half-plane) of weight  $k$  on  $\Gamma = PSL_2(\mathbf{Z})$  is the polynomial of degree  $k - 2$  defined by

$$r_f(X) = \int_0^{i\infty} f(\tau)(\tau - X)^{k-2} d\tau \quad (1)$$

or equivalently by

$$r_f(X) = - \sum_{n=0}^{k-2} \frac{(k-2)!}{(k-2-n)!} \frac{L(f, n+1)}{(2\pi i)^{n+1}} X^{k-2-n}, \quad (2)$$

where  $L(f, s)$  denotes the L-series of  $f$  (= analytic continuation of  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_f(n) l^{-s}$ ). The Eichler-Shimura-Manin theory tells us that the map  $f \mapsto r_f$  is an injection from the space  $S_k$  of cusp forms of weight  $k$  on  $\Gamma$  to the space of polynomials of degree  $\leq k - 2$  and that the product of the  $n$ th and  $m$ th coefficients of  $r_f$  is an algebraic multiple of the Petersson scalar product  $(f, f)$  if  $n$  and  $m$  have opposite parity. More precisely, for each  $l \geq 1$  the polynomial in two variables

$$\sum_{\substack{f \in S_k \\ \text{eigenform}}} \frac{(r_f(X)r_f(Y))^-}{(2i)^{k-3}(k-2)!(f, f)} a_f(l), \quad (3)$$

has rational coefficients; here  $(r_f(X)r_f(Y))^- = \frac{1}{2}(r_f(X)r_f(Y) - r_f(-X)r_f(-Y))$  is the odd part of  $r_f(X)r_f(Y)$  and the sum is taken over a basis of Hecke eigenforms of  $S_k$ . A rather complicated expression for the coefficients of these polynomials was found in [3].

In this paper we will give a much more attractive formula for the expressions (3) by means of a generating function. First we multiply each expression (3) by  $q^l$  and sum over  $l$ , i.e., we replace  $a_f(l)$  in (3) by the cusp form  $f(\tau)$  itself. Secondly, we extend the definition of  $r_f$  (and of  $(f, f)$ ) to non-cusp forms, the function  $r_f(X)$  now being  $1/X$  times a polynomial of degree  $k$  in  $X$ , and include the Eisenstein series in the sum (3). Thus we define for even  $k > 0$

$$c_k(X, Y; \tau) = \sum_{\substack{f \in M_k \\ \text{eigenform}}} \frac{(r_f(X)r_f(Y))^-}{(2i)^{k-3}(k-2)!(f, f)} f(\tau), \quad (4)$$

where the sum is now over all Hecke eigenforms in the space  $M_k$  of modular forms of weight  $k$  on  $\Gamma$ . The function  $c_k(X, Y; \tau)$  belongs to  $M_k^{\mathbb{Q}} \otimes X^{-1}Y^{-1}\mathbb{Q}[X, Y]$ , e.g.

$$c_2(X, Y; \tau) \equiv 0,$$

$$c_4(X, Y; \tau) = -\frac{1}{3} \left[ (X^2 - 1)(Y^3 + 5Y + \frac{1}{Y}) + (X^3 + 5X + \frac{1}{X})(Y^2 - 1) \right] G_4(\tau),$$

where  $G_k(\tau) = -\frac{B_k}{2k} + \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} (\sum_{d|l} d^{k-1}) e^{2\pi i l \tau}$  ( $k$  even) is the normalized Eisenstein series of weight  $k$  on  $\Gamma$ . We also set

$$c_0(X, Y; \tau) = c_0(X, Y) = \frac{(XY - 1)(X + Y)}{X^2 Y^2}, \quad c_k(X, Y; \tau) \equiv 0 \text{ for } k \text{ odd},$$

and combine all the  $c_k$  into a single generating function

$$C(X, Y; \tau; T) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k(X, Y; \tau) T^k \in \mathbb{Q}[X, Y, \frac{1}{X}, \frac{1}{Y}][[q, T]] \quad (q = e^{2\pi i \tau}).$$

Then the result we will prove is

**THEOREM.** *The generating function  $C(X, Y; \tau; T)$  is given by*

$$C(X, Y; \tau; T) = \frac{\theta((XY - 1)T) \theta((X + Y)T) \theta'(0)^2 T^2}{\theta(XYT) \theta(XT) \theta(YT) \theta(T)}, \quad (5)$$

where

$$\theta(u) = \theta_{\tau}(u) = 2 \sum_{\substack{n=1 \\ n \text{ odd}}}^{\infty} (-1)^{\frac{n-1}{2}} q^{\frac{n^2}{8}} \sinh\left(\frac{nu}{2}\right) \quad (6)$$

denotes the classical Jacobi theta function,  $\theta'(0) = \left. \frac{\partial \theta_{\tau}(u)}{\partial u} \right|_{u=0} = \sum_n (-1)^{\frac{n-1}{2}} n q^{\frac{n^2}{8}}$ .

From the Jacobi triple product formula

$$\theta(u) = q^{\frac{1}{8}} (e^{\frac{u}{2}} - e^{-\frac{u}{2}}) \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^n)(1 - q^n e^u)(1 - q^n e^{-u})$$

one easily finds

$$\frac{\theta(u)}{u \theta'(0)} = \exp\left(-2 \sum_{k \geq 2} G_k(\tau) \frac{u^k}{k!}\right), \quad (7)$$

so (5) can be rewritten in the form

$$C(X, Y; \tau; T) = c_0(X, Y) \exp\left(2 \sum_{k=4}^{\infty} [(X^k + 1)(Y^k + 1) - (XY - 1)^k - (X + Y)^k] G_k(\tau) \frac{T^k}{k!}\right) \quad (8)$$

(the term  $k = 2$  drops out because  $(X^2 + 1)(Y^2 + 1) = (XY - 1)^2 + (X + Y)^2$ ).

This formula is surprisingly simple: the coefficient of  $T^k$  in the exponent on the right involves only the Eisenstein series  $G_k(\tau)$ , multiplied by an exceedingly simple polynomial of degree  $k$  in  $X$  and  $Y$ . Yet either it or the equivalent formula given in the theorem contain complete information about all modular forms on  $\Gamma$  and their periods, for by expanding the right-hand side of either formula as a power series in  $T$  (which can be done with any symbolic algebra package) we obtain automatically for each weight  $k$  the canonical basis of Hecke eigenforms of  $M_k$  and the corresponding period polynomials.

The contents of the paper are as follows. In §2 we define the period functions  $r_f$  for  $f \notin S_k$  and prove the basic properties of the extended period mapping. Section 3, which does not use the theory of periods and may be of independent interest, contains the construction of a certain function of three variables  $\tau \in \mathfrak{H}$ ,  $u, v \in \mathbb{C}$  which has nice transformation properties (modular in  $\tau$ , elliptic in  $u$  and  $v$ ) and nice expansions with respect to the variables  $q$ ,  $u$  and  $v$ . In §4 we use this function to prove the main identity (5); the proof will be short. Finally, §5 contains some discussion and numerical examples.

**2. Periods of cusp forms and non-cusp forms.** We begin by reviewing the classical theory of periods for cusp forms on  $\Gamma = PSL_2(\mathbb{Z})$  (for more details, see [4], Chapter 5). Let  $k$  denote a positive even integer,  $S_k$  and  $M_k$  the spaces of cusp forms and modular forms of weight  $k$  on  $\Gamma$ , and  $V_k$  the space of polynomials of degree  $\leq k - 2$ . The *periods* of  $f \in S_k$  are the  $k - 1$  numbers

$$r_n(f) = \int_0^{i\infty} f(\tau) \tau^n d\tau \quad (0 \leq n \leq k - 2)$$

and equal  $i^{n+1} L^*(f, n + 1)$ , where

$$L^*(f, s) = \int_0^\infty f(iy) y^{s-1} dy = (-1)^{k/2} L^*(f, k - s)$$

is the L-series of  $f$  multiplied by its gamma-factor  $(2\pi)^{-s} \Gamma(s)$ . They can be assembled into the polynomial  $r_f(X) = \sum_{n=0}^{k-2} (-1)^n \binom{k-2}{n} r_n(f) X^{k-2-n} \in V_k$  as in (1). The group  $\Gamma$  acts on the space  $V_k$  by

$$(\phi|\gamma)(X) = (\phi|_{2-k}\gamma)(X) = (cX + d)^{k-2} \phi\left(\frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}\right) \quad (\phi \in V_k, \quad \gamma = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma).$$

One checks easily that  $r_f|\gamma$  is given by the same integral as in (1) but taken from  $\gamma^{-1}(0)$  to  $\gamma^{-1}(\infty)$ . In particular,

$$r_f + r_f|S = \int_0^{i\infty} + \int_{i\infty}^0 = 0, \quad r_f + r_f|U + r_f|U^2 = \int_0^{i\infty} + \int_{i\infty}^1 + \int_1^0 = 0,$$

where  $S = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $U = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  are the standard generators of  $\Gamma$  of order 2 and 3, respectively. Therefore  $r_f$  belongs to the space

$$W_k = \phi \in V_k : \phi|(1 + S) = \phi|(1 + U + U^2) = 0$$

where we have extended the action of the group  $\Gamma$  to one of the group ring  $\mathbf{Z}[\Gamma]$  in the obvious way. If  $V_k^+$  (resp.  $V_k^-$ ) denotes the space of even (resp. odd) polynomials in  $V_k$ , then  $r_f$  can be written as  $r_f^+ + r_f^-$  with  $r_f^\pm \in W_k^\pm = W_k \cap V_k^\pm$ . The map  $r^- : f \mapsto r_f^-$  is an isomorphism from  $S_k$  to  $W_k^-$ , while  $r^+$  is an isomorphism from  $S_k$  to a codimension 1 subspace of  $W_k^+$  which was determined in [3], 4.2. Finally, if  $f$  is a normalized Hecke eigenform, then there are non-zero numbers  $\omega_f^+ \in i\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\omega_f^- \in \mathbb{R}$  such that the coefficients of  $r_f^\pm(X)/\omega_f^\pm$  and the number  $\omega_f^+\omega_f^-/i(f, f)$  belong to the number field  $\mathbb{Q}_f$  generated by the Fourier coefficients of  $f$  (and in fact transform by  $\sigma$  if  $f$  is replaced by  $f^\sigma = \sum a_f(l)^\sigma q^l$ ,  $\sigma \in \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$ ). For instance, for  $k = 12$ ,  $f = \Delta = q - 24q^2 + 252q^3 - \dots$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} r_\Delta^+(X) &= \left( \frac{36}{691}X^{10} - X^8 + 3X^6 - 3X^4 + X^2 - \frac{36}{691} \right) \omega_\Delta^+, \\ r_\Delta^-(X) &= (4X^9 - 25X^7 + 42X^5 - 25X^3 + 4X) \omega_\Delta^-, \quad \text{where} \\ \omega_\Delta^+ &= 0.114379\dots i, \quad \omega_\Delta^- = 0.00926927\dots, \quad \frac{\omega_\Delta^+\omega_\Delta^-}{i(\Delta, \Delta)} = 2^{10} \in \mathbb{Q} = \mathbb{Q}_\Delta. \end{aligned}$$

Now suppose that  $f$  is a modular form of weight  $k$  but not a cusp form, say  $f = \sum_{l=0}^\infty a_f(l)q^l$  with  $a_f(0) \neq 0$ . The function  $L^*(f, s)$  is now defined for  $\text{Re}(s) \gg 0$  by

$$L^*(f, s) = \int_0^\infty (f(iy) - a_f(0)) y^{s-1} dy = (2\pi)^{-s} \Gamma(s) L(f, s), \quad L(f, s) = \sum_{l=1}^\infty a_f(l) l^{-s};$$

it still has a meromorphic continuation to all  $s$  and satisfies the functional equation  $L^*(f, s) = (-1)^{k/2} L^*(f, k-s)$ , but now has (as its only singularities) simple poles of residue  $-a_f(0)$  and  $(-1)^{k/2} a_f(0)$  at  $s = 0$  and  $s = k$ , respectively. On the other hand, the binomial coefficient  $\binom{k-2}{n}$ , interpreted as  $\frac{\Gamma(k-1)}{\Gamma(n+1)\Gamma(k-1-n)}$ , has a simple zero at all  $n \in \mathbf{Z}$ ,  $n \notin \{0, 1, \dots, k-2\}$ , the values of its derivatives at  $n = -1$  and  $n = k-1$  being  $1/(k-1)$  and  $-1/(k-1)$ , respectively. Hence the natural way to interpret the formula  $r_f(X) = \sum_{n \in \mathbf{Z}} i^{1-n} \binom{k-2}{n} L^*(f, n+1) X^{k-2-n}$  (valid for cusp forms) is to define  $r_f$  by

$$r_f(X) = \frac{a_f(0)}{k-1} (X^{k-1} + X^{-1}) + \sum_{n=0}^{k-2} i^{1-n} \binom{k-2}{n} L^*(f, n+1) X^{k-2-n}. \quad (9)$$

This is no longer in  $V_k$  but instead in the bigger space

$$\widehat{V}_k = \bigoplus_{-1 \leq n \leq k-1} \mathbb{C}X^n = X^{-1} \cdot \{\text{polynomials of degree } \leq k \text{ in } X\}.$$

Using the standard formula

$$\begin{aligned} L^*(f, s) &= \int_{t_0}^\infty (f(it) - a_f(0)) t^{s-1} dt + \int_0^{t_0} \left( f(it) - \frac{a_f(0)}{(it)^k} \right) t^{s-1} dt \\ &\quad - a_f(0) \left[ \frac{t_0^s}{s} + \frac{(-1)^{k/2} t_0^{k-s}}{k-s} \right] \quad (t_0 > 0 \text{ arbitrary}), \end{aligned}$$

we can give an alternative formulation of the definition as

$$r_f(X) = \int_{\tau_0}^{i\infty} (f(\tau) - a_f(0)) (\tau - X)^{k-2} d\tau + \int_0^{\tau_0} (f(\tau) - \frac{a_f(0)}{\tau^k}) (\tau - X)^{k-2} dy \\ + \frac{a_f(0)}{k-1} \left[ (X - \tau_0)^{k-1} + \frac{1}{X} \left(1 - \frac{X}{\tau_0}\right)^{k-1} \right] \quad (\tau_0 \in \mathfrak{H} \text{ arbitrary}) \quad (10)$$

(that the right-hand side does not depend on  $\tau_0$  can be checked easily by differentiation). Note that we do not have to write  $\widehat{r}_f$  for our new element of  $\widehat{V}_k$ , since when  $f$  is a cusp form the new definition agrees with the old one. As before, we denote by  $\widehat{V}_k^+$  and  $\widehat{V}_k^-$  the even and odd parts of  $\widehat{V}_k$  and by  $r_f^\pm$  the component of  $r_f$  in  $\widehat{V}_k^\pm$ .

**THEOREM.** *The function  $r_f(X)$  belongs to the subspace*

$$\widehat{W}_k = \{\phi \in \widehat{V}_k : \phi|_{2-k}(1+S) = \phi|_{2-k}(1+U+U^2) = 0\}.$$

of  $\widehat{V}_k$ . This space is the direct sum of the two subspaces  $\widehat{W}_k^\pm = \widehat{W}_k \cap \widehat{V}_k^\pm$ ;  $\widehat{W}_k^+$  equals  $W_k^+$ , while  $\widehat{W}_k^-$  contains  $W_k^-$  with codimension 1 unless  $k = 2$ , when  $\widehat{W}_k^\pm = W_k^\pm = \{0\}$ . The maps  $r^\pm : M_k \rightarrow \widehat{W}_k^\pm$  are both isomorphisms.

**Remarks.** Note that the result here is *simpler* than the corresponding result for cusp forms, where only one of the two maps  $r^\pm : S_k \rightarrow W_k^\pm$  was an isomorphism and the determination of the image of the other was a difficult problem. This simplification on passing from  $S_k$  to  $M_k$  is a main theme of this paper. We should also remark that  $\widehat{V}_k$  is not a  $\Gamma$ - or  $\mathbf{Z}[\Gamma]$ -module since  $\phi|_{2-k}\gamma$  for  $\phi \in \widehat{V}_k$  and  $\gamma \in \Gamma$  is not in general in  $\widehat{V}_k$ ; nevertheless,  $\phi|\gamma$  is a well-defined rational function and the definition of  $\widehat{W}_k$  makes sense.

To prove the relations  $r_f|(1+S) = r_f|(1+U+U^2) = 0$  for  $f \in M_k$  we could proceed as before, writing  $r_f|\gamma$  as an integral from  $\gamma^{-1}(0)$  to  $\gamma^{-1}(\infty)$  via  $\gamma^{-1}(\tau_0)$  and worrying about the contribution from  $a_f(0)$ . However, since  $M_k = S_k \oplus \langle G_k \rangle$  and we will need the period polynomials of the Eisenstein series anyway, it is more convenient to simply check the assertions of the theorem directly for  $G_k$ . Thus we will deduce the theorem from

**PROPOSITION.** (i) *For  $k > 2$  the functions*

$$p_k^+(X) = X^{k-2} - 1, \quad p_k^-(X) = \sum_{\substack{-1 \leq n \leq k-1 \\ n \text{ odd}}} \frac{B_{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \frac{B_{k-n-1}}{(k-n-1)!} X^n.$$

belong to  $\widehat{W}_k^+$  and  $\widehat{W}_k^-$ , respectively.

(ii) *The period polynomial of the Eisenstein series  $G_k$  is given by*

$$r_{G_k}(X) = \omega_{G_k}^- p_k^- + \omega_{G_k}^+ p_k^+, \quad \text{where } \omega_{G_k}^- = -\frac{(k-2)!}{2}, \quad \omega_{G_k}^+ = \frac{\zeta(k-1)}{(2\pi i)^{k-1}} \omega_{G_k}^-.$$

**PROOF:** For (i) we must check that  $p_k^\pm \in \widehat{W}_k$ , since  $p_k^\pm \in \widehat{V}_k^\pm$  is obvious. The condition  $p_k^\pm|(1+S) = 0$  just says that the coefficients of  $X^n$  and  $X^{k-2-n}$  in  $p_k^\pm$  differ by a factor

$(-1)^{n+1}$ , which is clear. Hence we need only check  $p_k^\pm|(1+U+U^2) = 0$ . For  $p_k^+$  this is immediate, since  $p_k^+|U = (X-1)^{k-2} - X^{k-2}$ ,  $p_k^+|U^2 = 1 - (X-1)^{k-2}$ . For  $p_k^-$  it is convenient to introduce the generating function

$$\begin{aligned} P(X, T) &= \frac{1}{XT^2} + \sum_{\substack{k=2 \\ k \text{ even}}}^{\infty} p_k^-(X) T^{k-2} \\ &= \left( \sum_{\substack{n=0 \\ n \text{ even}}}^{\infty} \frac{B_n}{n!} (XT)^{n-1} \right) \left( \sum_{\substack{m=0 \\ m \text{ even}}}^{\infty} \frac{B_m}{m!} T^{m-1} \right) = \frac{1}{4} \coth \frac{XT}{2} \coth \frac{T}{2}. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

The addition law for the hyperbolic cotangent function, which can be written in the form

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 0 \implies \coth \alpha \coth \beta + \coth \beta \coth \gamma + \coth \gamma \coth \alpha = -1,$$

now tells us that

$$P(X, T) + P\left(1 - \frac{1}{X}, XT\right) + P\left(\frac{1}{X-1}, (X-1)T\right) = -\frac{1}{4},$$

and comparing the coefficients of  $T^{k-2}$  ( $k \neq 2$ ) on both sides gives the desired conclusion. Note that for  $p_2^-(X) = \frac{1}{12}(X + X^{-1})$  we have  $p_2^-|_0(1+U+U^2) = -\frac{1}{4}$ . Thus  $p_2^+ \equiv 0$  and  $p_2^- \notin \widehat{W}_2^-$ ; for  $k = 0$ , on the other hand, both functions  $p_0^+(X) = X^{-2} - 1$  and  $p_0^-(X) = X^{-1}$  do satisfy the period relations.

For (ii) we use the definition (9) of  $r_f$ , observing that  $a_{G_k}(0) = -B_k/2k$  and  $L(G_k, s) = \zeta(s)\zeta(s-k+1)$ . The assertions follow after a short calculation using the values  $\zeta(1-n) = -B_n/n$ ,  $\zeta(n) = -(2\pi i)^n B_n/2n!$  ( $n > 0$  even),  $\zeta(1-n) = 0$  ( $n > 1$  odd).

The proof of the theorem is now immediate:  $r_f \in \widehat{W}_k$  for any  $f \in M_k$  because  $M_k$  is the direct sum of  $S_k$  and  $\langle G_k \rangle$ ,  $\widehat{W}_k^+ = W_k^+$  because  $\widehat{V}_k^+ = V_k^+$ ,  $W_k^-$  has codimension 1 in  $\widehat{W}_k^-$  for  $k > 2$  because  $p_k^- \notin V_k$  and because the codimension of  $W_k$  in  $\widehat{W}_k$  is  $\leq 1$  (since  $\phi|(1+S) = 0$  implies that the coefficients of  $X^{-1}$  and  $X^{k-1}$  in any  $\phi \in \widehat{W}_k$  are equal), and  $r^\pm : M_k \rightarrow \widehat{W}_k^\pm$  is an isomorphism because  $r^+ : S_k \rightarrow W_k^+/\langle p_k^+ \rangle$  and  $r^- : S_k \rightarrow W_k^-$  are isomorphisms.

We have now extended the definition of  $r_f^\pm$  to all  $f \in M_k$ . In [7], §5, we defined the Petersson scalar product of arbitrary modular forms in  $M_k$  by Rankin's method, i.e.,

$$(f, g) = \frac{\pi (k-1)!}{3 (4\pi)^k} \operatorname{Res}_{s=k} \left[ \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_f(l) \overline{a_g(l)}}{l^s} \right] \quad (f, g \in M_k).$$

For the Petersson norm of the Eisenstein series this gives

$$\begin{aligned} (G_k, G_k) &= \frac{\pi (k-1)!}{3 (4\pi)^k} \operatorname{Res}_{s=k} \left[ \frac{\zeta(s)\zeta(s-k+1)^2 \zeta(s-2k+2)}{\zeta(2s-2k+2)} \right] \\ &= \frac{(k-1)!}{2^{2k-1} \pi^{k+1}} \zeta(k) \zeta'(2-k) \\ &= \frac{(k-1)!(k-2)!}{2^{3k-2} \pi^{2k-1} i^{k-2}} \zeta(k) \zeta(k-1) \\ &= \frac{(k-2)!}{(4\pi)^{k-1}} \frac{B_k}{k} \zeta(k-1). \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

(The formula given on p. 435 of [7] contains a misprint:  $2^{3k-3}$  should be  $2^{3k-2}$ .) Comparing this with part (ii) of the proposition, we see that we have the same assertion  $\omega_f^+ \omega_f^- / i(f, f) \in \mathbb{Q}_f$  for  $G_k$  as for Hecke eigenforms  $f \in S_k$ .

It follows from (13) and part (ii) of the proposition that, if we decompose the expression (4) into a cuspidal part  $c_k^0(X, Y; \tau)$  and an Eisenstein part  $c_k^E(X, Y; \tau)$ , then the latter is given by

$$c_k^E(X, Y; \tau) = \frac{2k}{B_k} (p_k^+(X)p_k^-(Y) + p_k^-(X)p_k^+(Y)).$$

Splitting up the generating function  $C(X, Y; \tau; T)$  as a sum  $C^0 + C^E$  in the corresponding way, we find for the value at the cusp  $\tau = i\infty$ ,  $q = 0$ , the value

$$\begin{aligned} C(X, Y; i\infty; T) &= C^E(X, Y; i\infty; T) \\ &= \frac{(XY - 1)(X + Y)}{X^2 Y^2} - \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} [(X^{k-2} - 1)p_k^-(Y) + (Y^{k-2} - 1)p_k^-(X)] T^k \\ &= T^2 (P(X, T) + P(Y, T) - P(Y, XT) - P(X, YT)) \end{aligned}$$

(with  $P(X, T)$  defined as in (12))

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{T^2}{4} \left( \coth \frac{XT}{2} + \coth \frac{YT}{2} \right) \left( \coth \frac{T}{2} - \coth \frac{XYT}{2} \right) \\ &= \frac{T^2 \sinh \frac{(X+Y)T}{2} \sinh \frac{(XY-1)T}{2}}{4 \sinh \frac{T}{2} \sinh \frac{XT}{2} \sinh \frac{YT}{2} \sinh \frac{XYT}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

This proves (5) in the limit as  $\tau \rightarrow i\infty$ , since  $\left. \frac{\theta(u)}{\theta'(0)} \right|_{q=0} = 2 \sinh \frac{u}{2}$ .

**3. A meromorphic Jacobi form.** In this section we study the function of three variables  $\tau \in \mathfrak{H}$ ,  $u, v \in \mathbb{C}$  defined (for  $-\Im(u) < \Im(\tau)$  and  $\Im(v) < \Im(\tau)$ ) by

$$F_\tau(u, v) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\eta^{-n}}{q^{-n}\xi - 1} - \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{\xi^m \eta}{q^{-m} - \eta} \quad (q = e^{2\pi i \tau}, \xi = e^u, \eta = e^v).$$

We write  $G_k(\tau)$  for the Eisenstein series defined in §1 if  $k > 0$  is even and set  $G_k \equiv 0$  for  $k$  odd.

**PROPOSITION.** *The function  $F_\tau(u, v)$  has the following properties:*

(i) (Symmetry)  $F_\tau(u, v) = F_\tau(v, u) = -F_\tau(-u, -v)$ .

(ii) (Analytic continuation)  $F_\tau(u, v)$  extends meromorphically to all values of  $u, v$ . It has a simple pole in  $u$  of residue  $\eta^{-n}$  at  $2\pi i(n\tau + s)$  ( $n, s \in \mathbb{Z}$ ) and a simple pole in  $v$  of residue  $\xi^{-m}$  at  $2\pi i(m\tau + r)$  ( $m, r \in \mathbb{Z}$ ), and is holomorphic for  $u, v \notin \Lambda = 2\pi i(\mathbb{Z}\tau + \mathbb{Z})$ .

(iii) (Fourier expansion) The coefficients of  $F_\tau$  as a power series in  $q$  are elementary hyperbolic functions of  $u$  and  $v$ :

$$F_\tau(u, v) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \coth \frac{u}{2} + \coth \frac{v}{2} \right) - 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \sum_{d|n} \sinh \left( du + \frac{n}{d} v \right) \right) q^n. \quad (14)$$

(iv) (Laurent expansion) The Taylor coefficients of  $F_\tau(u, v) - \frac{1}{u} - \frac{1}{v}$  are derivatives of Eisenstein series:

$$F_\tau(u, v) = \frac{1}{u} + \frac{1}{v} - 2 \sum_{r,s=0}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{2\pi i} \frac{d}{d\tau} \right)^{\min\{r,s\}} G_{|r-s|+1}(\tau) \frac{u^r v^s}{r! s!}. \quad (15)$$

(v) (Elliptic property)  $F_\tau(u + 2\pi i(n\tau + s), v + 2\pi i(m\tau + r)) = q^{-mn} \xi^{-m} \eta^{-n} F_\tau(v, u)$  for  $m, n, r, s \in \mathbf{Z}$ .

(vi) (Modular property)  $F_{\frac{a\tau+b}{c\tau+d}} \left( \frac{u}{c\tau+d}, \frac{v}{c\tau+d} \right) = (c\tau + d) e^{\frac{cu+dv}{c\tau+d}} F_\tau(u, v)$  for  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma$ .

(vii) (Relation to theta functions) Let  $\theta(u) = \theta_\tau(u)$  be as in (6). Then

$$F_\tau(u, v) = \frac{\theta'(0)\theta(u+v)}{\theta(u)\theta(v)}.$$

(viii) (Logarithm)  $F_\tau(u, v) = \frac{u+v}{uv} \exp \left( \sum_{k>0} \frac{2}{k!} [u^k + v^k - (u+v)^k] G_k(\tau) \right)$ .

PROOF: By expanding the fractions in the terms  $n \neq 0$ ,  $m \neq 0$  in the definition of  $F$  as geometric series, we can express  $F$  as a double series

$$F_\tau(u, v) = \frac{\xi\eta - 1}{(\xi - 1)(\eta - 1)} - \sum_{m,n=1}^{\infty} (\xi^m \eta^n - \xi^{-m} \eta^{-n}) q^{mn};$$

this makes the symmetry properties (i) obvious and also gives the Fourier expansion (iii). The double series converges if  $|\Im(u)|$  and  $|\Im(v)|$  are less than  $2\pi|\Im(\tau)|$ . To get the analytic continuation in  $u$  and  $v$ , we choose a positive integer  $N$ , break up the double series into the terms with  $n < N$  and those with  $n \geq N$ , and sum over  $m$  in the former and  $n$  in the latter terms. This gives

$$F_\tau(u, v) = \frac{1}{\xi - 1} - \sum_{n=1}^{N-1} \left( \frac{\eta^n \xi}{1 - q^n \xi} - \frac{\eta^{-n} \xi^{-1}}{1 - q^n \xi^{-1}} \right) q^n \\ + \frac{\eta}{\eta - 1} - \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{\xi^m \eta}{1 - q^m \eta} - \frac{\xi^{-m} \eta^{-1}}{1 - q^m \eta^{-1}} \right) q^{Nm}.$$

The infinite sum converges for  $|\Im(u)| < 2\pi N |\Im(\tau)|$ , since then  $\xi q^N$  and  $\xi^{-1} q^N$  are less than 1 in absolute value. Taking  $N$  large enough thus gives the meromorphic continuation to all values of  $u$  and  $v$ , the positions and residues of the poles being as stated in (ii)

of the proposition. The elliptic property (v) is also easily deduced: taking  $N = 1$  and replacing  $\eta$  by  $q\eta$ , we find

$$\begin{aligned}\xi F_\tau(u, v + 2\pi i\tau) &= \frac{\xi}{\xi - 1} + \frac{q\xi\eta}{q\eta - 1} - \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{\xi^{m+1}q^{m+1}\eta}{1 - q^{m+1}\eta} + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{\xi^{-m+1}q^{m-1}\eta^{-1}}{1 - q^{m-1}\eta^{-1}} \\ &= \frac{\xi}{\xi - 1} + \frac{1}{\eta - 1} - \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{\xi^m q^m \eta}{1 - q^m \eta} + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{\xi^{-m} q^m \eta^{-1}}{1 - q^m \eta^{-1}} = F_\tau(u, v),\end{aligned}$$

which proves (v) for  $m = 1, n = 0$ ; the general case follows by interchanging  $u$  and  $v$  and by induction on  $m$  and  $n$ .

Inserting the Taylor expansions

$$\frac{1}{2} \coth \frac{u}{2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{B_n}{n!} u^n, \quad \sinh(u + v) = \sum_{\substack{d=1 \\ t \text{ odd}}}^{\infty} \frac{(u + v)^t}{t!} = \sum_{\substack{r, s \geq 0 \\ r+s \text{ odd}}} \frac{u^r v^s}{r! s!},$$

into (14), we find

$$F_\tau(u, v) = \frac{1}{u} + \frac{1}{v} - 2 \sum_{\substack{r, s \geq 0 \\ r+s \text{ odd}}} \left( -\frac{1}{2} \frac{B_{r+1}}{r+1} \delta_{s,0} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{B_{s+1}}{s+1} \delta_{r,0} + \sum_{m, n \geq 1} m^r n^s q^{mn} \right) \frac{u^r v^s}{r! s!}$$

and the expressions in brackets is clearly  $(2\pi i)^{-\nu} G_k^{(\nu)}(\tau)$  where  $\nu = \min\{r, s\}$  and  $k = |r - s| + 1$ . This proves formula (15). We can rewrite (15) as

$$F_\tau(u, v) = -2 \sum_{k \geq 2} \tilde{G}_k(\tau, uv)(u^{k-1} + v^{k-1})$$

with

$$\tilde{G}_k(\tau, \lambda) = \sum_{\nu=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\lambda/2\pi i)^\nu}{\nu!(\nu + k - 1)!} G_k^{(\nu)}(\tau) - \frac{\delta_{k,2}}{2\lambda}.$$

A result of H. Cohen and N. Kuznetsov (cf. [2], p. 35) implies the transformation law  $\tilde{G}_k\left(\frac{a\tau+b}{c\tau+d}, \frac{\lambda}{c\tau+d}\right) = (c\tau + d)^k e^{c\lambda/(c\tau+d)} \tilde{G}_k(\tau, \lambda)$  for  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma$ . The modular transformation property (vi) follows.

The closed formula (vii) is an easy consequence of the elliptic transformation properties of  $F_\tau$ . Indeed, it is well-known (and elementary) that  $\theta(u)$  has simple zeros at all points of the lattice  $\Lambda$  and no other poles. Since  $F_\tau(u, v)$  has simple poles for  $u$  or  $v$  in  $\Lambda$ , is otherwise holomorphic, and vanishes for  $u + v \in \Lambda$  (because of the antisymmetry property  $F_\tau(u, -v) = -F_\tau(v, -u)$ ), the quotient  $\theta(u)\theta(v)F_\tau(u, v)/\theta(u + v)$  is holomorphic in  $u$  and  $v$ . Now using (v) and the transformation properties  $\theta(u + 2\pi i) = \theta(u)$ ,  $\theta(u + 2\pi i\tau) = -e^{-\pi i\tau - u}\theta(u)$ , both of which are obvious from the definition of  $\theta$  as either a sum or a product, one finds that the quotient in question is invariant under  $u \mapsto u + \omega$  or  $v \mapsto v + \omega$  for all  $\omega \in \Lambda$ . It must therefore be a constant (for  $\tau$  fixed); taking the

limit as  $u \rightarrow 0$ , we find that this constant equals  $\theta'(0)$ . This proves (vii) and also—in view of the known modularity properties of  $\theta(u)$ —leads to another proof of (vi). Finally, the identity given in (viii) follows from the formula (7). This identity again makes the modular transformation properties of  $F_\tau$  clear, since  $(c\tau + d)^k G_k(\gamma\tau)$  is equal to  $G_k(\tau)$  for  $k > 2$  but to  $G_2(\tau) + 4\pi ic(c\tau + d)$  for  $k = 2$ .

REMARK: Parts (v) and (vi) of the proposition say that the function  $F_\tau(2\pi iz_1, 2\pi iz_2)$  ( $\tau \in \mathfrak{H}$ ,  $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ ) is a two-variable meromorphic Jacobi form of weight 1 and index  $m = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  (for the theory of Jacobi forms, see [2], where, however, only Jacobi forms of one variable were considered). Equation (14) says that this Jacobi form is singular in the sense that for each term  $q^n \xi^{r_1} \eta^{r_2}$  occurring in its Fourier development the matrix  $\begin{pmatrix} 2n & r \\ r^t & m \end{pmatrix}$  ( $r = (r_1 \ r_2)$ ) has determinant zero.

**4. Proof of the main identity.** In view of part (vii) of the proposition of the last section, the theorem stated in §1 is equivalent to the identity

$$C(X, Y; \tau; T) = T^2 F_\tau(T, -XYT) F_\tau(XT, YT). \quad (16)$$

Denote the right-hand side of (16) by  $B(X, Y; \tau; T)$  and the coefficient of  $T^k$  in it by  $b_k(X, Y; \tau)$ . We must show that  $b_k = c_k$  for every  $k \geq 0$ , the case  $k = 0$  being obvious.

Because the term  $k = 2$  dropped out in (8), and the functions  $G_k$  for  $k > 2$  are modular forms, the right-hand side of (5) (or of (16)) is invariant under  $\tau \mapsto \frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}$ ,  $T \mapsto (c\tau + d)T$  for every  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma$ . This is equivalent to the assertion that  $b_k(X, Y; \tau)$  is a modular form of weight  $k$  (with coefficients in  $\mathbb{C}[X, X^{-1}, Y, Y^{-1}]$ ) for every  $k \geq 0$ . But we already checked the correctness of (16) in the limit  $\tau \rightarrow i\infty$  at the end of §2, so the Eisenstein parts of the modular forms  $b_k(X, Y; \tau)$  and  $c_k(X, Y; \tau)$  agree. We therefore need only check the cuspidal parts, i.e., the assertion that  $b_k$  and  $c_k$  have the same Petersson scalar product with each cusp form  $f \in S_k$ . In view of the definition of  $c_k$ , this is equivalent to proving that

$$(b_k(X, Y; \cdot), f(\cdot)) = \frac{1}{(2i)^{k-3}(k-2)!} (r_f(X)r_f(Y))^- \quad (17)$$

for each normalized Hecke eigenform  $f \in S_k$ .

For brevity of notation, write the Taylor expansion (15) as

$$F_\tau(u, v) = \sum_{h, l \geq 0} g_{h, l}(\tau) (u^l v^{l+h-1} + u^{l+h-1} v^l)$$

with

$$g_{h, l} = \begin{cases} 1 & (h = l = 0), \\ \frac{-2(2\pi i)^{-l}}{l!(l+h-1)!} G_h^{(l)}(\tau) & (h > 0 \text{ even}), \\ 0 & (h \text{ odd or } l > h = 0). \end{cases}$$

Then

$$b_k(X, Y; \tau) = \sum_{\substack{l, h, l', h' \geq 0 \\ h+h'+2(l+l')=k}} g_{h,l}(\tau) g_{h',l'}(\tau) \quad (18)$$

$$\times [(-XY)^{l+h-1} + (-XY)^l][X^{l'}Y^{l'+h'-1} + X^{l'+h'-1}Y^{l'}].$$

The coefficients of  $X^m Y^n$  with  $m$  or  $n$  equal to  $-1$  or to  $k-1$  involve only the Eisenstein series  $G_k$  and have already been taken care of. Also, it is clear that the coefficient of  $X^m Y^n$  on the right of (18) is invariant under  $m \leftrightarrow n$  and  $(-1)^{m+1}$ -invariant under  $m \leftrightarrow k-2-m$ , so we may assume  $0 \leq m < n \leq \frac{1}{2}(k-2)$ . (The middle relation is  $<$  rather than  $\leq$  because  $m$  and  $n$  always have opposite parity.) For such  $m, n$ , the coefficient of  $X^m Y^n$  on the right hand side of (18) equals

$$\sum_{\substack{l, l' \geq 0 \\ l+l'=m}} g_{k-n-m-1, l}(\tau) g_{n-m+1, l'}(\tau) + \delta_{m, n-1}((1 + 2\delta_{n, \frac{1}{2}k-1})g_{k-2n, n}(\tau))$$

$$= \frac{1}{4m!n!(k-n-2)!} F_m(G_{k-n-m-1}, G_{n-m+1}),$$

where  $F_m(G_h, G_{h'})$  for  $h, h' \geq 2$  is defined by

$$F_m(G_h, G_{h'}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi i)^m} \sum_{l=0}^m (-1)^{m-l} \binom{m}{l} \frac{(m+h-1)!(m+h'-1)!}{(l+h-1)!(m-l+h'-1)!} G_h^{(l)}(\tau) G_{h'}^{(m-l)}(\tau)$$

$$+ \frac{m!}{2(2\pi i)^{m+1}} \left( \frac{\delta_{h',2}}{h+m} + (-1)^m \frac{\delta_{h,2}}{h'+m} \right) G_2^{(m+1)}(\tau).$$

If  $m = 0$  and  $h$  and  $h'$  are both greater than or equal to 4, then  $F_m(G_h, G_{h'})$  is simply the product of the Eisenstein series  $G_h$  and  $G_{h'}$ , and it was shown by Rankin ([R], Theorem 4) that (at least for  $h \neq h'$ ) this product satisfies

$$(G_h G_{h'}, f) = \frac{1}{(2i)^{k-1}} r_{k-2}(f) r_{h'-1}(f)$$

for all normalized Hecke eigenforms in  $S_k$ ,  $k = h + h'$ . If  $m > 0$  and  $h$  and  $h'$  are both  $\geq 4$ , then  $F_m(G_h, G_{h'})$  is the result of applying to the Eisenstein series  $G_h$  and  $G_{h'}$  the operator introduced by H. Cohen in [1] and is a cusp form of weight  $k = h + h' + 2m$ ; here it was shown in [6] (Proposition 6, Corollary) that the scalar product of  $F_m(G_h, G_{h'})$  with a normalized Hecke eigenform  $f \in S_k$  is given by

$$(F_m(G_h, G_{h'}) f) = \frac{(k-2)!}{(2i)^{k-1}(k-2-m)!} r_{k-2-m}(f) r_{h'+m-1}(f).$$

The case when  $h$  or  $h'$  equals 2 is not mentioned explicitly in [1] or [6], but the above assertions remain true then also, as one proves by the same method as in the general case

but using ‘‘Hecke’s trick’’ to define  $G_2$  as  $\lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \sum (\dots)^{-2} |\dots|^{-s}$ . Putting all this together gives the desired result (17).

The calculation we have given and the result we have proved are essentially restatements of Theorem 3 of [3] and its proof. The difference is that there we insisted on obtaining cusp forms and therefore had to modify  $F_m(G_h, G_{h'})$  by subtracting a multiple of  $G_k$  when  $m = 0$ , with the consequence that the final formulas obtained were much more complicated and could not be combined conveniently into a generating function.

**5. Properties of  $C(X, Y; \tau; T)$  and examples.** In this section we take the main theorem in the form (5) or (8) and discuss what consequences can be drawn from it.

In the first place, since  $\theta_\tau(u)$  and  $G_k(\tau)$  have rational coefficients as power series in  $u$  and  $q = e^{2\pi i\tau}$ , it follows immediately from either version of the identity that all of the coefficients of  $X^m Y^n$  in (3) are rational for all  $m$  and  $n$  lying between 0 and  $k - 2$ , i.e., that the numbers  $r_m(f)r_n(f)/i(f, f)$  belong to  $\mathbb{Q}_f$  for all Hecke eigenforms  $f$  and for all  $m$  and  $n$  of opposite parity. We also get integrality statements, e.g., that the coefficients of (4) with respect to  $X, Y$  and  $q$  are  $p$ -integral for all primes  $p \geq k$ . Moreover, as already mentioned in the introduction, either (5) or (8) gives a completely algorithmic way of obtaining a basis of Hecke eigenforms for  $S_k$  and their period polynomials for any  $k$ . Numerical examples will be given at the end of this section.

Secondly, as already mentioned in §4, the fact that the non-modular form  $G_2$  drops out in substituting equation (7) into (5) implies that the right-hand side of (5) is invariant under  $\tau \mapsto \frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}$ ,  $T \mapsto (c\tau + d)T$  for every  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma$  and hence that the coefficient  $c_k(X, Y; \tau)$  of  $T^k$  is a modular form of weight  $k$  in  $\tau$  for every  $k$ . (One must also check that this coefficient contains no negative powers of  $q$ , but this is clear from (8).)

Thirdly, one sees directly from (8) that  $C(X, Y; \tau; T)$  is the product of  $c_0(X, Y)$  and a power series in  $T, XT$ , and  $YT$  which is invariant under  $(X, Y) \mapsto (-X, -Y)$  or  $(X, Y) \mapsto (Y, X)$  and is congruent to 1 modulo  $X$  or  $Y$ . This shows that each coefficient  $c_k(X, Y; \tau)$  ( $k > 0$ ) is symmetric in  $X$  and  $Y$  and contains only monomials  $X^m Y^n$  with  $m \not\equiv n \pmod{2}$  and  $-1 \leq m \leq k - 1$ ,  $-1 \leq n \leq k - 1$ . Moreover, by looking at the extreme coefficients in the exponent in (8), we easily find the coefficients of all monomials with  $m$  or  $n$  equal to  $-1$  or  $k - 1$ ; these coefficients are multiples of  $G_k$  as calculated in §2. For instance, expanding (8) to the first two terms in  $Y$  gives

$$C(X, Y; \tau; T) = -\frac{(1 - XY)(1 + X^{-1}Y)}{XY^2} \left[ 1 - \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{2G_k(\tau)}{(k-1)!} X(X^{k-2} - 1)YT^k + O(Y^2) \right]$$

and hence that the coefficient of  $Y^{-1}$  in  $c_k(X, Y; \tau)$  ( $k > 0$ ) equals  $\frac{2G_k(\tau)}{(k-1)!} (X^{k-2} - 1)$ .

Fourthly, one can ask whether one can ‘‘see’’ the period relations  $r_f|(1 + S) = r_f|(1 + U + U^2) = 0$  ( $f \in M_k$ ) directly from equation (5). These relations are equivalent

to the identities

$$C(X, Y; \tau; T) + C\left(\frac{-1}{X}, Y; \tau; XT\right) = 0,$$

$$C(X, Y; \tau; T) + C\left(1 - \frac{1}{X}, Y; \tau; XT\right) + C\left(\frac{1}{1-X}, Y; (1-X)T\right) = 0.$$

The first of these is immediately obvious from (5) or (8) (using  $\theta(-u) = -\theta(u)$  in the former case). The second, after multiplying through by a common denominator which is a product of six theta functions, is the special case

$$\alpha_0 = T, \quad \alpha_1 = (X-1)T, \quad \alpha_2 = -XT, \quad \beta_i = Y\alpha_i \quad (i = 0, 1, 2)$$

of the following theta series identity:

PROPOSITION. Let  $\alpha_i, \beta_i$  ( $i \in \mathbf{Z}/3\mathbf{Z}$ ) be six numbers satisfying  $\sum_i \alpha_i = \sum_i \beta_i = 0$ . Then

$$\sum_i \theta(\alpha_i) \theta(\beta_i) \theta(\alpha_{i-1} + \beta_{i+1}) \theta(\alpha_{i+1} - \beta_{i-1}) = 0.$$

PROOF: One of Riemann's theta formulae (cf. [5], formula (R<sub>5</sub>), p. 18) says

$$2\theta_{11}(x_1)\theta_{11}(y_1)\theta_{11}(u_1)\theta_{11}(v_1) = \sum_{i,j=0}^1 (-1)^{i+j} \theta_{i,j}(x)\theta_{i,j}(y)\theta_{i,j}(u)\theta_{i,j}(v), \quad (19)$$

where  $x, y, u$  and  $v$  are arbitrary and

$$x_1 = \frac{1}{2}(x+y+u+v), \quad y_1 = \frac{1}{2}(x+y-u-v), \quad u_1 = \frac{1}{2}(x-y+u-v), \quad v_1 = \frac{1}{2}(x-y-u+v).$$

The  $\theta_{i,j}$  are Jacobi theta functions whose definition is irrelevant here except that  $\theta_{11}(u) = \theta(u)$  and that the other three  $\theta_{i,j}$  are *even* functions of their arguments. Therefore replacing  $v$  by  $-v$  in (19), subtracting, and dividing by 2, we get

$$\theta(x_1)\theta(y_1)\theta(u_1)\theta(v_1) - \theta(x_2)\theta(y_2)\theta(u_2)\theta(v_2) = \theta(x)\theta(y)\theta(u)\theta(v),$$

where  $x_2, \dots, v_2$  are defined like  $x_1, \dots, v_1$  but with  $v$  replaced by  $-v$ . Up to renaming the variables, this identity is the same as the one in the proposition.

Finally, in support of the claim made in the introduction that the identity (5) contains all information about Hecke theory for  $PSL_2(\mathbf{Z})$ , we mention that it is possible to derive the Eichler-Selberg trace formula for the traces of Hecke operators on  $S_k$  from (5). The formula that comes out is rather different from the standard one and in some ways more elementary (for instance, no class numbers appear explicitly), and the calculation that relates it to the classical formula is rather amusing. Since the derivation is somewhat intricate, we postpone it to a later paper.

We end with a few numerical examples in weights  $k \leq 18$ . Since  $\dim M_k \leq 2$  in this range, we need only expand (5) up to terms in  $q^1$ , and the calculation of  $c_k(X, Y; \tau)$  up to this order is obtained immediately from the expansions given in §4. Subtracting the Eisenstein part  $c_k^E$  as given in §2, we find the values

$k$	$r_f^+(X)r_f^-(Y)/(2i)^{k-3}(k-2)!(f, f)$
12	$-2 \left[ \frac{36}{691} p_{12}^+(X) - q^+(X) \right] [q^-(Y)]$
16	$\frac{13}{15} \left[ \frac{360}{3617} p_{16}^+(X) - (2X^4 - X^2 + 2) q^+(X) \right] [(9Y^4 - 5Y^2 + 9) q^-(Y)]$
18	$\frac{4}{3} \left[ \frac{1800}{43867} p_{18}^+(X) - (8X^4 - 9X^2 + 8) q_0^+(X) \right] [(6Y^4 - 7Y^2 + 6) q_0^-(Y)]$

for the unique normalized cusp form  $f$  of weights 12, 16 and 18 (we have given only  $r_f^+(X)r_f^-(Y)$ , since  $(r_f(X)r_f(Y))^-$  is the sum of this polynomial and the one obtained by permuting  $X$  and  $Y$ ). Here  $p_k^+(X)$  denotes the polynomial  $X^{k-2} - 1$  as in §2 and the polynomials  $q^\pm, q_0^\pm$  are defined by

$$q^+(X) = X^2(X^2 - 1)^3, \quad q^-(X) = X(X^2 - 1)^2(X^2 - 4)(4X^2 - 1)$$

and  $q_0^\pm(X) = (X^2 + 1)q^\pm(X)$ . The fact that  $r_f^+(X)$  modulo  $p_k^+(X)$  and  $r_f^-(X)$  are divisible by  $q^+(X)$  and by  $q^-(X)$ , respectively, and also by  $X^2 + 1$  if  $k/2$  is odd, is an exercise in the use of the period relations  $r_f|(1 + S) = r_f|(1 + U + U^2) = 0$  and is left to the reader. These properties can be translated using (5) into identities for theta series which can of course also be proved directly; for instance, the fact that  $r_f(X)$  is divisible by  $X - 1$  for all cusp forms  $f$  says that the function

$$C(1, Y; \tau; T) = \frac{\theta(XT - T)\theta(XT + T)\theta'(0)^2 T^2}{\theta(T)^2 \theta(XT)^2}$$

has no cuspidal part, which is true because the elliptic function  $\theta(u-v)\theta(u+v)/\theta(u)^2\theta(v)^2$  equals  $\wp(v) - \wp(u)$  (compare poles and zeros!) and because the Weierstrass  $\wp$ -function has a Laurent expansion involving only Eisenstein series. Notice also that the only large denominators occurring in the table are the numerators 691, 3617 and 43867 of  $B_k$  which occur as denominators in the coefficient of  $p_k^+(X)$  in  $r_f^+(X)$ . These are cancelled by the Eisenstein part  $\frac{2k}{B_k}(p_k^+(X)p_k^-(Y) + p_k^-(X)p_k^+(Y))$ , in accordance with the integrality properties mentioned at the beginning of the section.

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