

ITERATED INTEGRALS OF MODULAR FORMS AND NONCOMMUTATIVE MODULAR SYMBOLS

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PLAN

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0. INTRODUCTION

• MULTIPLE ZETA VALUES

a) Definition via multiple Dirichlet series:

$$\zeta(m_1, \dots, m_k) = \sum_{0 < n_1 < \dots < n_k} \frac{1}{n_1^{m_1} \dots n_k^{m_k}}$$

Convergence: $m_i \geq 1$ and $m_k > 1$.

b) Definition via iterated integrals:

$$\zeta(m_1, \dots, m_k) = \int_0^1 \frac{dt_1}{t_1} \int_0^{t_1} \frac{dt_2}{t_2} \int_0^{t_2} \dots \int_0^{t_{m_k-1}} \frac{dt_{m_k}}{1-t_{m_k}} \dots$$

The sequence of differential forms in the iterated integral consists of consecutive subsequences $\frac{dt}{t}, \dots, \frac{dt}{t}, \frac{dt}{1-t}$ of lengths m_k, m_{k-1}, \dots, m_1 .

• SHUFFLE RELATIONS

Relations between iterated integrals.

Relations between multiple series.

• DRINFELD'S ASSOCIATOR, QUANTIZATION, GROTHENDIECK–TEICHMUELLER GROUP.

- **GEOMETRY ON $\mathbf{P}^1(\mathbf{C}) - \{0, 1, \infty\}$:**

$\frac{dt}{t}, \frac{dt}{1-t}$ span the space of meromorphic differential forms with no more than logarithmic singularities at $\{0, 1, \infty\}$.

- **LIFT TO THE UPPER HALF PLANE $H := \{z \in \mathbf{C} \mid \text{Im } z > 0\}$ AND $\overline{H} := H \cup \mathbf{P}^1(\mathbf{Q})$:**

$$(\mathbf{P}^1(\mathbf{C}), \{0, 1, \infty\}) \cong \Gamma_0(4) \backslash (\overline{H}, \text{cusps})$$

$\frac{dt}{t}, \frac{dt}{1-t}$ lift to Eisenstein series of weight two for $\Gamma_0(4) \subset SL(2, \mathbf{Z})$.

The integration path $[0, 1]$ lifts to the geodesic connecting two cusps.

- **GOAL OF THIS WORK: A GENERALIZATION OF THIS PICTURE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:**

- $\Gamma_0(4)$ is replaced by an arbitrary (congruence) subgroup Γ of $SL(2, \mathbf{Z})$.

- Eisenstein series of weight two are replaced by arbitrary modular forms (cusp form + Eisenstein series) with respect to Γ .

NB In this talk I focus on cusp forms (absent in the classical polyzetas setting).

- Iterated integrals are taken along geodesics connecting two cusps.

- **MODULAR SYMBOLS.**

Integration of cusp forms along geodesics connecting two cusps = theory of classical modular symbols (of arbitrary weight).

Hence the subject of this talk can be called “iterated modular symbols”.

1. FORMALISM OF ITERATED INTEGRALS OF 1-FORMS ON A RIEMANNIAN SURFACE

Here it will be shown that if one replaces a simple integral not by an individual iterated integral but by a generating series of all such integrals, then the usual properties like additivity and variable change formula reappear in a multiplicative/noncommutative version.

• NOTATION.

X = a connected Riemann surface.

\mathcal{O}_X = the structure sheaf of holomorphic functions,

Ω_X^1 = the sheaf of holomorphic 1-forms.

V = a finite set indexing various families, in particular:

$\omega_V := (\omega_v \mid v \in V)$ a family of holomorphic 1-forms.

$A_V := (A_v \mid v \in V)$ = noncommuting free formal variables.

$$\Omega := \sum_{v \in V} A_v \omega_v$$

$\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow U$ = a piecewise smooth path.

• Total iterated integral of Ω along γ :

$$J_\gamma(\Omega) := 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int_0^1 \gamma^*(\Omega)(t_1) \int_0^{t_1} \gamma^*(\Omega)(t_2) \cdots \int_0^{t_{n-1}} \gamma^*(\Omega)(t_n) \in \mathbf{C}\langle\langle A_V \rangle\rangle$$

integral is taken over the simplex $0 < t_n < \cdots < t_1 < 1$.

γ, γ' with the same ends are homotopic $\Rightarrow J_\gamma(\Omega) = J_{\gamma'}(\Omega)$.

Another notation: $z_i = \gamma(t_i) \in X$, $a = \gamma(0)$, $z = \gamma(1)$,

$$J_a^z(\Omega) := 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int_a^z \Omega(z_1) \int_a^{z_1} \Omega(z_2) \cdots \int_a^{z_{n-1}} \Omega(z_n).$$

If U is connected and simply connected, this is an unambiguously defined element of $\mathcal{O}_X(U)\langle\langle A_V \rangle\rangle$. Otherwise it is a multivalued function of z in this domain.

• **PROPOSITION.** (i) $J_a^z(\Omega)$ as a function of z satisfies the equation

$$dJ_a^z(\Omega) = \Omega(z) J_a^z(\Omega).$$

In other words, $J_a^z(\Omega)$ is a horizontal (multi)section of the flat connection $\nabla_\Omega := d - l_\Omega$ on $\mathcal{O}_X\langle\langle A_V \rangle\rangle$, where l_Ω is the operator of left multiplication by Ω .

(ii) If U is a simply connected neighborhood of a , $J_a^z(\Omega)$ is the only horizontal section with initial condition $J_a^a = 1$. Any other horizontal section K^z can be uniquely written in the form $CJ_a^z(\Omega)$, $C \in \mathbf{C}\langle\langle A_V \rangle\rangle$. In particular, for any $b \in U$,

$$J_b^z(\Omega) = J_a^z(\Omega)J_b^a(\Omega)$$

• **COROLLARY.** Let γ be a closed oriented contractible contour in U , a_1, \dots, a_n points along this contour (cyclically) ordered compatibly with orientation. Then

$$J_{a_2}^{a_1}(\Omega)J_{a_3}^{a_2}(\Omega) \cdots J_{a_n}^{a_{n-1}}(\Omega)J_{a_1}^{a_n}(\Omega) = 1. \quad (*)$$

Formula () is the multiplicative version of the additivity of simple integrals with respect to the union of integration paths.*

• **PROPOSITION.** Consider the comultiplication

$$\Delta : \mathbf{C}\langle\langle A_V \rangle\rangle \rightarrow \mathbf{C}\langle\langle A_V \rangle\rangle \widehat{\otimes}_{\mathbf{C}} \mathbf{C}\langle\langle A_V \rangle\rangle, \quad \Delta(A_v) = A_v \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes A_v$$

and extend it to the series with coefficients $\mathbf{C}(X)$ and $\Omega^1(X)$. Then

$$\Delta(J_a^z(\omega_V)) = J_a^z(\omega_V) \widehat{\otimes}_{\mathcal{O}_X} J_a^z(\omega_V). \quad (**)$$

• **CLAIM 1.** The identity (**) encodes all shuffle relations between the iterated integrals of the forms ω_v .

• **CLAIM 2.** The identity (**) is equivalent to the fact that $\log J_a^z(\omega_V)$ can be expressed as a series in commutators (of arbitrary length) of the variables A_v .

*Formula (**) is called “the group-like property of $J_a^z(\Omega)$.” It is a multiplicative version of the additivity of a simple integral as a functional of the integration form.*

• **FUNCTORIALITY.** $g : X \rightarrow X =$ an automorphism such that g^* maps into itself the linear space spanned by ω_v :

$$g^*(\omega_v) = \sum_u g_{vu} \omega_u.$$

$$\text{Define } g_*(A_u) = \sum_v A_v g_{vu} .$$

• **LEMMA.**

$$J_{g_a}^{g^z}(\omega_V) = g_*(J_a^z(\omega_V)). \quad (***)$$

*Formula (***) is a multiplicative version of the variable change formula.*

2. 1-FORMS OF MODULAR TYPE ON THE UPPER HALF-PLANE

• **DEFINITION.** (i) A 1-form ω on H is called a form of modular type, if it can be represented as $f(z)z^{s-1}dz$ where s is a complex number, and $f(z)$ is a modular form of some weight with respect to a finite index subgroup Γ subgroup of the modular group of the modular group $SL(2, \mathbf{Z})$.

The modular form $f(z)$ is then well defined and called the associated modular form (to ω), and the number s is called the Mellin argument of ω .

(ii) ω is called a form of cusp modular type if the associated $f(z)$ is a cusp form.

• **REMINDER.**

(i) Action of weight k of $\gamma \in GL^+(2, \mathbf{Z})$ upon functions on H :

$$f|[\gamma]_k(z) := (\det \gamma)^{k/2} f([\gamma]z) (c_\gamma z + d_\gamma)^{-k}.$$

(ii) $f(z)$ is a modular form of weight k for the group Γ if $f|[\gamma]_k(z) = f(z)$ for all $\gamma \in \Gamma$ and $f(z)$ is finite at cusps.

(iii) Such a form is a cusp form if it vanishes at cusps.

3. CLASSICAL INTEGRALS OF 1-FORMS OF CUSP MODULAR TYPE

Ordinary (non-iterated) integrals from our vantage point furnish linear (in A_v) terms of the iterated theory. For 1-forms of cusp modular type, theory of ordinary integrals consists of the following parts.

• **CLASSICAL MELLIN TRANSFORM OF $f(z)$:**

$$\Lambda(f; s) := \int_{i\infty}^0 f(z) z^{s-1} dz.$$

Assume that Γ is normalized by the involution

$$g = g_N := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ N & 0 \end{pmatrix} :$$

Denote weight of f by $k = 2r$. If $g_N^*(f(z)(dz)^r) = \varepsilon_f f(z)(dz)^r$, $\varepsilon_f = \pm 1$, then

$$\Lambda(f; s) = -\varepsilon_f N^{r-s} \Lambda(f; k - s).$$

Critical strip: $0 < \operatorname{Re} s < k$.

I will define the “total iterated Mellin transform” and extend the functional equation to it.

• **THE SPACE OF MODULAR SYMBOLS $MS_k(\Gamma)$.**
 It is the space of \mathbf{R} -linear functionals on the space of cusp forms $S_k(\Gamma)$ spanned by the Shimura integrals:

$$f(z) \mapsto \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} f(z)z^{m-1}dz; \quad 1 \leq m \leq k-1; \quad \alpha, \beta \in \mathbf{P}^1(\mathbf{Q}).$$

Three descriptions of $MS_k(\Gamma)$ are known:

(i) **Formal (Shimura – Eichler – Manin):** generators and relations.

(ii) **Geometric (Shokurov):** (part of) middle homology of the Kuga–Sato variety $\mathcal{E}_{\Gamma}^{k-1}$.

(iii) **As the dual space to the group cohomology $H^1(\Gamma, V_{k-2})$,** with coefficients in the $(k-2)$ -th symmetric power of the basic representation of SL (Shimura).

I will show that the cohomological description admits a sensible iterated extension.

• $\Lambda(f; s)$ FOR GENERAL s IS A FORMAL DIRICHLET SERIES CONVERGENT IN A RIGHT HALF PLANE:

$$f(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n e^{2\pi i n z} \implies \Lambda(f; s) = -\frac{\Gamma(s)}{(-2\pi i)^s} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_n}{n^s}$$

I will show that the components of the total Mellin transform at integral points of the critical (multidimensional) strip can be expressed as multiple Dirichlet series of a special form.

• IF Γ IS A CONGRUENCE SUBGROUP:

$\Lambda(f; s)$ admits an Euler product $\Leftrightarrow f$ is an eigenfunction for Hecke operators.

Major unsolved problem: extend this to the iterated context.

4. ITERATED MELLIN TRANSFORM

• **DEFINITION.** (i) Let f_1, \dots, f_k be a finite sequence of cusp forms with respect to Γ , $\omega_j(z) := f_j(z) z^{s_j-1} dz$. The iterated Mellin transform of (f_j) is

$$\begin{aligned} M(f_1, \dots, f_k; s_1, \dots, s_k) &:= I_{i\infty}^0(\omega_1, \dots, \omega_k) = \\ &= \int_{i\infty}^0 \omega_1(z_1) \int_{i\infty}^{z_1} \omega_2(z_2) \cdots \int_{i\infty}^{z_{n-1}} \omega_n(z_n) \end{aligned}$$

(ii) Let $f_V = (f_v \mid v \in V)$ be a finite family of cusp forms with respect to Γ , $s_V = (s_v \mid v \in V)$ a finite family of complex numbers, $\omega_V = (\omega_v)$, where $\omega_v(z) := f_v(z) z^{s_v-1} dz$. The total Mellin transform of f_V is

$$\begin{aligned} TM(f_V; s_V) &:= J_{i\infty}^0(\omega_V) = \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{(v_1, \dots, v_n) \in V^n} A_{v_1} \cdots A_{v_n} M(f_{v_1}, \dots, f_{v_n}; s_{v_1}, \dots, s_{v_n}) \end{aligned}$$

• **THEOREM.** Assume that the space spanned by $f_v(z)$ is stable wrt g_N . Let k_v be the weight of $f_v(z)$, and $k_V = (k_v)$. Then

$$TM(f_V; s_V) = g_*(TM(f_V; k_V - s_V))^{-1}$$

for an appropriate linear transformation g_{N*} of formal variables A_v .

5. ITERATED SHIMURA INTEGRALS

• **REMINDER ON THE NONCOMMUTATIVE GROUP COHOMOLOGY.**

G a group, N a group with left action of G : $(g, n) \mapsto gn$.

Cocycles: $Z^1(G, N) := \{ u : G \rightarrow N \mid u(g_1 g_2) = u(g_1) g_1 u(g_2) \}$

Cohomological cocycles: $u' \sim u \Leftrightarrow \exists n \in N \forall g \in G, u'(g) = n u(g) (gn)^{-1}$.

$H^1(G, N) := Z^1(G, N) / (\sim)$.

Marked point: class of trivial cocycles $u(g) = n(gn)^{-1}$

• **THE CASE OF ITERATED SHIMURA INTEGRALS.**

$G := \Gamma =$ a subgroup of modular group

$(\omega_v) =$ a family of Shimura differentials $f_v(z) z^{m_v-1} dz$, where f_v form a basis of $\oplus_i S(k_i, \Gamma)$, and for a fixed weight, m_v ranges over all critical integers for this weight.

They span a Γ -invariant space. Put $\Omega := \sum_{v \in V} A_v \omega_v$.

$N = \Pi :=$ the group of group-like and $(-id)_*$ -invariant elements of $(1 + \sum_{v \in V} A_v \mathbf{C} \langle \langle A_v \rangle \rangle)^*$

Left action of Γ upon Π : functoriality action g_* .

• **THEOREM.** (i) For any $a \in \overline{H}$, the map $\Gamma \rightarrow \Pi; \gamma \mapsto J_{\gamma a}^a(\Omega)$ is a noncommutative 1-cocycle ζ_a in $Z^1(\Gamma, \Pi)$.

(ii) The cohomology class of ζ_a in $H^1(\Gamma, \Pi)$ does not depend on the choice of a and is called the noncommutative modular symbol.

(iii) This cohomology class belongs to the cuspidal subset $H^1(\Gamma, \Pi)_{cusp}$ consisting of those cohomology classes whose restriction on all stabilizers of Γ -cusps is trivial.

REDUCTION TO THE COHOMOLOGY OF $SL(2, \mathbf{Z})$

• **NONCOMMUTATIVE SHAPIRO LEMMA.** Let $G \subset H$ be a subgroup, N a left G -group, $N_H := \text{Map}_G(N, H)$ with pointwise multiplication and left action of G , $(g_*\phi)(h) := \phi(hg)$. There is a canonical isomorphism of pointed sets:

$$H^1(G, N) = H^1(H, N_H).$$

• APPLICATION TO THE ITERATED SHIMURA INTEGRALS.

$$G := \Gamma, \quad H := SL(2, \mathbf{Z}), \quad N := \Pi, \quad \Pi^0 := N_H.$$

Generators of $H = SL(2, \mathbf{Z})$:

$$\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \tau = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad J = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

• **THEOREM.** (i) An iterated Shimura cocycle restricted to (σ, τ) belongs to the set

$$\{(X, Y) \in \Pi^0 \times \Pi^0 \mid X \cdot \sigma_* X = 1, Y \cdot \tau_* Y \cdot \tau_*^2 Y = 1\}.$$

(ii) The cohomology relation between cocycles translates as

$$(X, Y) \sim (m^{-1}X\sigma_*(m), m^{-1}Y\tau_*Y).$$

(iii) Cuspidal part of the cohomology is generated by the pairs

$$\{(X, Y) \mid \exists Z, X \cdot (\sigma\tau)_* Y = Z^{-1}(\sigma\tau)_* Z\}$$

6. ITERATED SHIMURA INTEGRALS AS MULTIPLE DIRICHLET SERIES

• **NOTATION.** Start with the family of 1-forms on H :

$$\omega_v(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_{v,n} e^{2\pi i n z} z^{m_v-1} dz, \quad c_{v,n} \in \mathbf{C}, \quad m_v \in \mathbf{Z}, m_v \geq 1; \quad c_{v,n} = O(n^C).$$

Put

$$\begin{aligned} & L(z; \omega_{v_k}, \dots, \omega_{v_1}; j_k, \dots, j_1) := \\ & = (2\pi i z)^{j_k} \sum_{n_1, \dots, n_k \geq 1} \frac{c_{v_1, n_1} \dots c_{v_k, n_k} e^{2\pi i (n_1 + \dots + n_k) z}}{n_1^{m_{v_1} + j_0 - j_1} (n_1 + n_2)^{m_{v_2} + j_1 - j_2} \dots (n_1 + \dots + n_k)^{m_{v_k} + j_{k-1} - j_k}}. \end{aligned}$$

Exponentials ensure absolute convergence for any z with $\text{Im } z > 0$.

Formal substitution $z = 0$ may lead to divergence.

• **THEOREM.** For any $k \geq 1$, $(v_1, \dots, v_k) \in V^k$, and $\text{Im } z > 0$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} & (2\pi i)^{m_{v_1} + \dots + m_{v_k}} I_{i\infty}^z(\omega_{v_k}, \dots, \omega_{v_1}) = \\ & = (-1)^{\sum_{i=1}^k (m_{v_i} - 1)} \sum_{j_1=0}^{m_{v_1}-1} \sum_{j_2=0}^{m_{v_2}-1+j_1} \dots \sum_{j_k=0}^{m_{v_k}-1+j_{k-1}} (-1)^{j_k} \times \\ & \times \frac{(m_{v_1} - 1)! (m_{v_2} - 1 + j_1)! \dots (m_{v_k} - 1 + j_{k-1})!}{j_1! j_2! \dots j_k!} L(z; \omega_{v_k}, \dots, \omega_{v_1}; j_k, \dots, j_1). \end{aligned}$$

• **PROPOSITION.** Assume that ω_V as above is a basis of a space of 1-forms invariant with respect to g_N . Then

$$J_{i\infty}^0(\omega_V) = (g_{N*}(J_{i\infty}^{\frac{i}{\sqrt{N}}}(\omega_V)))^{-1} J_{i\infty}^{\frac{i}{\sqrt{N}}}(\omega_V). \quad (***)$$

REMARK 1. We can mix different weights.

REMARK 2. Replacing the coefficients of the formal series at the r.h.s of (***) by their (convergent) representations via multiple Dirichlet series with exponents we get such representations for $I_{i\infty}^0(\omega_{v_k}, \dots, \omega_{v_1})$ and avoid divergences at $z = 0$.

7. SHUFFLE RELATIONS BETWEEN MULTIPLE DIRICHLET SERIES

• **DEFINITION.** (i) Coefficients data C of depth k is a family of numbers $c_{n,m}^{(j,i)}$ indexed by two pairs of integers satisfying $j > i \geq 0$, $j \leq k$, and $n > m \geq 0$.

(ii) The multiple Dirichlet series associated with C and arguments s_1, \dots, s_k is

$$L_C(s_1, \dots, s_k) := \sum_{0=u_0 < u_1 < \dots < u_k \in \mathbf{Z}} \frac{\prod_{k \geq j > i \geq 0} c_{u_j, u_i}^{(j,i)}}{u_1^{s_1} u_2^{s_2} \dots u_k^{s_k}}$$

• **EXAMPLES.** (a) Assume that $c_{n,m}^{(j,i)} = 1$ if $m > 0$ or $i > 0$ and put $c_{n,0}^{(j,0)} = a_n^{(j)}$. Then

$$L_C(s_1, \dots, s_k) = \sum_{0 < u_1 < \dots < u_k \in \mathbf{Z}} \frac{a_{u_1}^{(1)} a_{u_1}^{(2)} \dots a_{u_k}^{(k)}}{u_1^{s_1} u_2^{s_2} \dots u_k^{s_k}}$$

is an ordinary multiple Dirichlet series.

(b) Define $c_{v,n}$ as in 3.1, and choose $v_1, \dots, v_k \in V$.
Construct the coefficients data C

$$c_{n,m}^{(j,j-1)} := c_{v_j, n-m},$$

and $c_{n,m}^{(j,i)} = 1$ otherwise. Then $L_C(m_{v_1} + j_0 - j_1, \dots, m_{v_k} + j_{k-1} - j_k)$ becomes the formal series

$$(2\pi iz)^{-j_k} L(z; \omega_{v_k}, \dots, \omega_{v_1}; j_k, \dots, j_1) \Big|_{z=0} = \sum_{n_1, \dots, n_k \geq 1} \frac{c_{v_1, n_1} \cdots c_{v_k, n_k}}{n_1^{m_{v_1} + j_0 - j_1} (n_1 + n_2)^{m_{v_2} + j_1 - j_2} \cdots (n_1 + \cdots + n_k)^{m_{v_k} + j_{k-1} - j_k}}.$$

if we redenote $u_j = n_1 + \cdots + n_j$.

• SHUFFLES AND A COMPOSITION OF THE COEFFICIENTS DATA.

A (k, l, p) -shuffle with repetitions is a pair of strictly increasing maps $\sigma = (\sigma_1, \sigma_2)$,

$$\sigma_1 : [0, k] \rightarrow [0, p], \quad \sigma_2 : [0, l] \rightarrow [0, p]$$

satisfying the following conditions:

$$\sigma_1(0) = \sigma_2(0) = 0, \quad \sigma_1([0, k]) \cup \sigma_2([0, l]) = [0, p], \quad \max(k, l) \leq p \leq k+l.$$

• **CLAIM.** Let $C = (c_{n,m}^{(j,i)})$ and $D = (d_{n,m}^{(j,i)})$ be two coefficients data of depths k and l respectively; $s := (s_1, \dots, s_k)$ and $t := (t_1, \dots, t_l)$ the Dirichlet arguments for the data C and D , and σ a (k, l, p) -shuffle with repetitions.

One can define a new coefficients data $E = C *_{\sigma} D$ of depth p and the Dirichlet arguments for it $s +_{\sigma} t$ in such a way that

$$L_C(s) \cdot L_D(t) = \sum_{\sigma} L_{C *_{\sigma} D}(s +_{\sigma} t)$$

where the summation is taken over all (k, l, p) -shuffles with repetitions (p variable).

**DIFFERENTIALS OF THE THIRD KIND,
EISENSTEIN SERIES,
AND THE GENERALIZED ASSOCIATORS**

We will now assume, as in the initial Drinfeld setting, that the integration limits of the iterated integral are logarithmic singularities of the form Ω . Generally, they diverge and must be regularized. The dependence on the regularization is a version of Deligne's "base point at infinity".

• **NOTATION.**

a = a fixed point of the Riemann surface, z a variable point.

$$r_{v,a} := \text{res}_a \omega_v, \quad R_a := \text{res}_a \Omega = \sum_v r_{v,a} A_v.$$

t_a := a local parameter at a , $\log t_a$ a local branch of logarithm real on $t_a \in \mathbf{R}_+$.

$$t_a^{R_a} := e^{R_a \log t_a}.$$

• **DEFINITION.** A local solution to $dJ^z = \Omega(z)J^z$ is called normalized at a (with respect to a choice of t_a) if it is of the form $J = K \cdot t_a^{R_a}$, where K is holomorphic section in a neighborhood of a and $K(a) = 1$.

• **CLAIM.** (i) The normalized solution exists and is unique.

(ii) It depends only on the tangent vector $\partial/\partial t_a|_a$.

(iii) If $J'_a = K'(t'_a)^{R_a}$ is normalized with respect t'_a , and $\tau_a := dt'_a/dt_a|_a$, then $J'_a = J_a \cdot \tau_a^{R_a}$.

• **SCATTERING OPERATORS. Given:**

- $(a, t_a), (b, t_b),$
- $\Omega = \sum A_v \omega_v$ with at most logarithmic singularities at $a, b,$
- a (homotopy class of) path(s) from a to b avoiding other singularities of $\Omega.$

We construct

- (i) the normalized solutions J_a, J_b analytically continued along γ and **THE SCATTERING OPERATOR**

$$\tilde{J}_b^a = J_a^{-1} J_b \in \mathbf{C}\langle\langle A_V \rangle\rangle.$$

Its coefficients := **REGULARIZED ITERATED INTEGRALS.**

- **EXAMPLE: DRINFELD'S ASSOCIATOR.** Let $X = \mathbf{P}^1(\mathbf{C}), V = \{0, 1\},$

$$\omega_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \frac{dz}{z}, \quad \omega_1 = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \frac{dz}{z-1}.$$

Then

$$\Omega = A_0 \omega_0 + A_1 \omega_1$$

has poles at $0, 1, \infty$ with residues $A_0/2\pi i, A_1/2\pi i, -(A_0 + A_1)/2\pi i$ respectively. Put $t_0 = z, t_1 = 1 - z.$ Then \tilde{J}_0^1 in our notation is the Drinfeld associator $\phi_{KZ}(A_0, A_1).$

• GENERALIZED ASSOCIATORS AND ITERATED INTEGRALS OF EISENSTEIN SERIES OF WEIGHT TWO.

Γ := a congruence subgroup of the modular group

f_v := a basis of Eisenstein series of weight 2 wrt Γ

$\{\omega_v = \text{push forward of } f_v(z)dz\}$: 1-forms with logarithmic singularities at cusps on X_Γ .

Regularized iterated integrals of Eisenstein series of weight two between cusps provide a modular generalization of multiple zeta values.