

Iwasawa Theory and Projective Modules

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Some references

R. Greenberg, *Iwasawa theory, projective modules, and modular representations*

J. Coates, P. Schneider, R. Sujatha, *Modules over Iwasawa algebras*

J. Coates, T. Fukaya, K. Kato, R. Sujatha, *Root numbers, Selmer groups, and non-commutative Iwasawa theory*

J. Coates, T. Fukaya, K. Kato, R. Sujatha, O. Venjakob, *The GL_2 main conjecture for elliptic curves without complex multiplication*

The set-up

Suppose that F is a number field, that F_∞ is the cyclotomic \mathbf{Z}_p -extension of F , and that K is a finite Galois extension of F . We will assume that $K \cap F_\infty = F$. Let $K_\infty = KF_\infty$. Let

$$G = \text{Gal}(K_\infty/F), \quad \Gamma = \text{Gal}(F_\infty/F),$$

$$\Delta = \text{Gal}(K/F),$$

the last of which is a finite group. We can identify Δ with $\text{Gal}(K_\infty/F_\infty)$ and G with $\Delta \times \Gamma$.

Suppose that E is an elliptic curve defined over F . We will always assume that E has good ordinary reduction at the primes of F lying over p .

Selmer groups for E

The p -primary subgroup $\text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)_p$ of the Selmer group for E over K_∞ is defined as the kernel of a map of the following form:

$$H^1(K_\infty, E[p^\infty]) \longrightarrow \bigoplus_v \mathcal{H}_v(K_\infty, E) ,$$

where v runs over all the primes of F and $\mathcal{H}_v(K_\infty, E)$ is defined in a certain way in terms of local Galois cohomology groups. If Σ_0 is any finite set of primes of F , not containing primes above p or above ∞ , then we define a “non-primitive” Selmer group by:

$$\text{Sel}_E^{\Sigma_0}(K_\infty)_p = \ker \left(H^1(K_\infty, E[p^\infty]) \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{v \notin \Sigma_0} \mathcal{H}_v(K_\infty, E) \right) .$$

Of course, one has an inclusion $\text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)_p \subseteq \text{Sel}_E^{\Sigma_0}(K_\infty)_p$. One has equality if $\mathcal{H}_v(K_\infty, E) = 0$ for all $v \in \Sigma_0$.

Some modules over groups rings

The discrete \mathbf{Z}_p -module $\text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)_p$ has a natural action of G , Δ , and Γ . Let $X_E(K_\infty)$ denote the Pontryagin dual of $\text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)_p$. Then we can regard $X_E(K_\infty)$ as a module over the group ring $\mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta]$, and also over the completed group rings $\mathbf{Z}_p[[G]]$ and $\Lambda = \mathbf{Z}_p[[\Gamma]]$. The latter ring is the usual Iwasawa algebra.

For any set Σ_0 as above, the Pontryagin dual of $\text{Sel}_E^{\Sigma_0}(K_\infty)_p$ will be denoted by $X_E^{\Sigma_0}(K_\infty)$ and is also a module over the above group rings. Over the ring $\Lambda = \mathbf{Z}_p[[\Gamma]]$, these modules are known to be finitely-generated.

The difference between the primitive and non-primitive Selmer groups

There is a conjecture of Mazur which asserts that $\text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)_p$ is a cotorsion Λ -module. This means that $X_E(K_\infty)$ is a finitely-generated, torsion Λ -module. This conjecture turns out to imply that the map whose kernel is $\text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)_p$ is surjective. As a consequence, it follows that

$$\text{Sel}_E^{\Sigma_0}(K_\infty)_p / \text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)_p \cong \bigoplus_{v \in \Sigma_0} \mathcal{H}_v(K_\infty, E) .$$

As we mention below, $\mathcal{H}_v(K_\infty, E)$ is a cofinitely-generated \mathbf{Z}_p -module. Its Pontryagin dual is a finitely-generated \mathbf{Z}_p -module. It is also a module over the various group rings mentioned above.

An often needed assumption in this talk

We will often need to assume that $\text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)_p[p]$ is finite. This means that $\text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)_p$ is a cofinitely-generated \mathbf{Z}_p -module. That is, $X_E(K_\infty)$ is a finitely-generated \mathbf{Z}_p -module. Thus, as a Λ -module, $X_E(K_\infty)$ is indeed a torsion module. Furthermore, the μ -invariant is 0.

It is not hard to show that $\mathcal{H}_v(K_\infty, E) \cong (\mathbf{Q}_p/\mathbf{Z}_p)^{\delta_v(K_\infty, E)}$ for any $v \nmid p, \infty$, where $\delta_v(K_\infty, E)$ is a non-negative integer. Hence $\mathcal{H}_v(K_\infty, E)$ is a cofinitely-generated \mathbf{Z}_p -module for all v in Σ_0 . The above assumption then implies that $\text{Sel}_E^{\Sigma_0}(K_\infty)_p[p]$ is finite and that $\text{Sel}_E^{\Sigma_0}(K_\infty)_p$ is also a cofinitely-generated \mathbf{Z}_p -module.

Under the above assumption, $X_E(K_\infty)$ and $X_E^{\Sigma_0}(K_\infty)$ will be finitely-generated $\mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta]$ -modules.

A theorem about projectivity

For simplicity, we will assume that p is odd. Define the following set:

$$\Phi_{K/F} = \{v \mid v \nmid p, \infty, \text{ and } p \mid e_v(K/F)\} .$$

Here $e_v(K/F)$ denotes the ramification index for v in K/F .

If v is a prime of F lying above p , let \overline{E}_v denote E modulo v and let k_v denote the residue field for a prime of K above v .

Theorem A. *Let us make the following assumptions:*

- (a) $\text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)[p]$ is finite.
- (b) $\Phi_{K/F} \subseteq \Sigma_0$.
- (c) $E(K_\infty)[p] = 0$ and $\overline{E}_v(k_v)[p] = 0$ for all $v \mid p$.

Then $X_E^{\Sigma_0}(K_\infty)$ is a projective $\mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta]$ -module.

The multiplicity $\lambda_X(\sigma)$.

Suppose that X is a finitely-generated, projective $\mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta]$ -module. Let $V = X \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}_p} \mathbf{Q}_p$, a finite-dimensional representation space for Δ over \mathbf{Q}_p . For every absolutely irreducible representation σ of Δ (defined over a finite extension \mathcal{F} of \mathbf{Q}_p), let $\lambda_X(\sigma)$ denote the multiplicity of σ in $V \otimes_{\mathbf{Q}_p} \mathcal{F}$.

If ρ is any representation of Δ over \mathcal{F} , then one can realize ρ over \mathcal{O} , the ring of integers in \mathcal{F} . One can reduce the resulting \mathcal{O} -representation modulo \mathfrak{m} , the maximal ideal in \mathcal{O} , obtaining a representation $\tilde{\rho}$ over $\mathfrak{f} = \mathcal{O}/\mathfrak{m}$, the residue field for \mathcal{F} . Its semisimplification $\tilde{\rho}^{\text{ss}}$ is well-defined.

A basic property of projective $\mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta]$ -modules

Suppose that ρ_1 and ρ_2 are representations of Δ (over \mathcal{F}). For each $\sigma \in \text{Irr}_{\mathcal{F}}(\Delta)$, let $m_i(\sigma)$ denote the multiplicity of σ in ρ_i for $i = 1, 2$.

Proposition. *Assume that $\tilde{\rho}_1^{ss} \cong \tilde{\rho}_2^{ss}$. Then one has the linear relation*

$$\sum_{\sigma} m_1(\sigma) \lambda_X(\sigma) = \sum_{\sigma} m_2(\sigma) \lambda_X(\sigma) ,$$

where σ varies over $\text{Irr}_{\mathcal{F}}(\Delta)$.

If $\rho_1 \not\cong \rho_2$, then the above linear relation is non-trivial. Such non-trivial linear relations always exist if Δ has order divisible by p .

The number of independent congruence relations

One can quantify this. Suppose that s is the number of conjugacy classes in Δ and t is the number of conjugacy classes of elements of Δ of order prime to p . Then the number of independent linear relations arising as above is $s - t$.

Suppose that Δ is a p -group. In this case, we have $t = 1$. In fact, if ρ_1 and ρ_2 are representations of Δ over \mathcal{F} , then $\tilde{\rho}_1^{ss} \cong \tilde{\rho}_2^{ss}$ if and only if ρ_1 and ρ_2 have the same degree. This is because the only irreducible representation of Δ over \mathfrak{f} is the trivial representation.

In general, t is the number of isomorphism classes of irreducible representations of Δ over a sufficiently large finite field \mathfrak{f} .

If $|\Delta|$ is not divisible by p , then $t = s$ and there are no nontrivial congruence relations. One has $\tilde{\rho}_1^{ss} \cong \tilde{\rho}_2^{ss}$ if and only if $\rho_1 \cong \rho_2$.

An illustration

As an illustration, suppose that $\Delta = \Delta_r = PGL_2(\mathbf{Z}/p^{r+1}\mathbf{Z})$, where $r \geq 0$. Then Δ has a quotient $\Delta_0 \cong PGL_2(\mathbf{F}_p)$. It turns out that if ρ_1 is any representation of Δ over \mathcal{F} , then there exists a representation ρ_2 of Δ factoring through the quotient group Δ_0 such that $\tilde{\rho}_1^{ss} \cong \tilde{\rho}_2^{ss}$. Hence, under the assumption that X is a finitely-generated, projective $\mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta]$ -module, one can determine $\lambda_X(\sigma)$ for all $\sigma \in \text{Irr}_{\mathcal{F}}(\Delta)$ if one knows $\lambda_X(\sigma)$ for all $\sigma \in \text{Irr}_{\mathcal{F}}(\Delta_0)$.

The PGL_2 illustration continued

One can write down explicit congruence relations. Assume that p is odd. If σ is an irreducible representation of $\Delta = \Delta_r$ of degree $p^{r-1}(p-1)(p+1)$, and $r \geq 2$, then one has

$$\lambda_X(\sigma) = p^{r-2} \sum_{\alpha \in \text{Irr}_{\mathcal{F}}(\Delta_0)} \deg(\alpha) \lambda_X(\alpha) \quad .$$

It turns out that $\deg(\alpha)$ is even for all but four irreducible representations of Δ_0 . There are two 1-dimensional and two p -dimensional irreducible representations of Δ_0 . If σ is as above, then one has a parity result:

$$\lambda_X(\sigma) \equiv \sum_{2 \nmid \deg(\alpha)} \lambda_X(\alpha) \pmod{2},$$

where the sum just has the four terms corresponding to the α 's of degree 1 or p .

Quasi-projectivity

It is useful to have a broader form of the above proposition. Suppose that X is a finitely-generated $\mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta]$ -module. The multiplicity $\lambda_X(\sigma)$ just depends on $V = X \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}_p} \mathbf{Q}_p$. Suppose that there are finitely-generated, projective $\mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta]$ -modules X_1 and X_2 such that one has an exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow V_1 \longrightarrow V_2 \longrightarrow V \longrightarrow 0 \quad ,$$

where $V_i = X_i \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}_p} \mathbf{Q}_p$ for $i = 1, 2$. We then say that X is quasi-projective.

Somewhat more generally, assume that X is a $\mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta]$ -module which is possibly not finitely-generated. The above definition makes sense under the assumption that X/X_{tors} is a finitely-generated $\mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta]$ -module. Then V is still a finite-dimensional representation space for Δ over \mathbf{Q}_p .

Congruence relations for quasi-projective $\mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta]$ -modules

Proposition. *Assume that X is a projective or quasi-projective $\mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta]$ -module. Assume that $\tilde{\rho}_1^{ss} \cong \tilde{\rho}_2^{ss}$. Then one has the linear relation*

$$\sum_{\sigma} m_1(\sigma) \lambda_X(\sigma) = \sum_{\sigma} m_2(\sigma) \lambda_X(\sigma) ,$$

where σ varies over $\text{Irr}_{\mathcal{F}}(\Delta)$ and $m_i(\sigma)$ denotes the multiplicity of σ in ρ_i for $i = 1, 2$.

The invariants $\lambda_E(\sigma)$ and $\lambda_E^{\Sigma_0}(\sigma)$

The modules $X = X_E(K_\infty)$ and $X = X_E^{\Sigma_0}(K_\infty)$ defined previously are $\mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta]$ -modules. If $\text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)[p]$ is finite, then they are finitely-generated $\mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta]$ -modules. For any $\sigma \in \text{Irr}_{\mathcal{F}}(\Delta)$, the corresponding invariant $\lambda_X(\sigma)$ will be denoted by $\lambda_E(\sigma)$ and $\lambda_E^{\Sigma_0}(\sigma)$, respectively. They depend only on E , F , and σ , and Σ_0 for the non-primitive case.

Congruence relations for $\lambda_E^{\Sigma_0}(\sigma)$.

Theorem B. *Let us make the following assumptions:*

- (a) $\text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)[p]$ is finite.
- (b) $\Phi_{K/F} \subseteq \Sigma_0$.

Then $X_E^{\Sigma_0}(K_\infty)$ is a quasi-projective $\mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta]$ -module. Consequently, with the same notation as above, if $\tilde{\rho}_1^{ss} \cong \tilde{\rho}_2^{ss}$, then one has the linear relation

$$\sum_{\sigma} m_1(\sigma) \lambda_E^{\Sigma_0}(\sigma) = \sum_{\sigma} m_2(\sigma) \lambda_E^{\Sigma_0}(\sigma) ,$$

where σ varies over $\text{Irr}_{\mathcal{F}}(\Delta)$.

The case where Δ is a p -group

There is a theorem of Hachimori and Matsuno which relates the \mathbf{Z}_p -coranks of $\text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)_p$ and $\text{Sel}_E(F_\infty)_p$ in the case where K_∞/F_∞ is a p -extension. That theorem is equivalent to theorem B in the case where $|\Delta|$ is a power of p . Let σ_0 be the trivial representation of Δ . If ρ_1 is the regular representation of Δ and ρ_2 is $\sigma_0^{|\Delta|}$, then $\tilde{\rho}_1^{ss} \cong \tilde{\rho}_2^{ss}$.

Weakening the hypotheses

Proposition. *Suppose that Σ_0 is a finite set of non-archimedean primes of F which contains no prime over p . Let $\Sigma_1 = \Sigma_0 \cup \Phi_{K/F}$.*

(i) *Assume that all of the assumptions in theorem A are satisfied except for the inclusion $\Phi_{K/F} \subseteq \Sigma_0$. If the Pontryagin dual of $\text{Sel}_E^{\Sigma_0}(K_\infty)_p$ is projective as a $\mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta]$ -module, then $\mathcal{H}_v(K_\infty, E) = 0$ for all $v \in \Sigma_1 - \Sigma_0$. Therefore $\text{Sel}_E^{\Sigma_0}(K_\infty)_p = \text{Sel}_E^{\Sigma_1}(K_\infty)_p$.*

(ii) *Suppose that $p \geq 5$. If the Pontryagin dual of $\text{Sel}_E^{\Sigma_0}(K_\infty)_p$ is quasi-projective as a $\mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta]$ -module, then $\mathcal{H}_v(K_\infty, E) = 0$ for all $v \in \Sigma_1 - \Sigma_0$. Therefore $\text{Sel}_E^{\Sigma_0}(K_\infty)_p = \text{Sel}_E^{\Sigma_1}(K_\infty)_p$.*

Weakening the hypotheses

Concerning the hypothesis that $\text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)[p]$ is finite, it suffices to assume that $\text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)[p^2]/\text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)[p]$ is finite.

Concerning the initial set-up of fields, it suffices to assume that $G = \text{Gal}(K_\infty/F)$ fits into an exact sequence

$$1 \longrightarrow \Delta \longrightarrow G \longrightarrow \Gamma \longrightarrow 1 .$$

Then $\Delta = \text{Gal}(K_\infty/F_\infty)$ is a normal subgroup of G and G will be isomorphic to a semidirect product $\Delta \rtimes \Gamma$. The hypotheses must be restated in a suitable way. For example, one replaces $\Phi_{K/F}$ by Φ_{K_∞/F_∞} (with the same definition in terms of ramification indices).

Weakening the hypotheses

One can also take Δ to be a p -adic Lie group for theorem **A**. In defining $\Phi_{K/F}$ (or Φ_{K_∞/F_∞}), one should replace the statement that $p|e_v(K/F)$ by the statement that the inertia subgroup of Δ for a prime above v contains a non-trivial pro- p subgroup.

Interestingly, if that inertia subgroup contains an infinite pro- p -subgroup (which must then be isomorphic to \mathbf{Z}_p), it follows that $\mathcal{H}_v(K_\infty, E) = 0$. If Δ is a p -adic Lie group and has no elements of order p , then $\mathcal{H}_v(K_\infty, E) = 0$ for all $v \in \Phi_{K/F}$. If one takes $\Sigma_0 = \Phi_{K/F}$, then $\text{Sel}_E^{\Sigma_0}(K_\infty)_p = \text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)_p$.

As for theorem **B**, we don't yet know how to extend this to the case where Δ is an infinite p -adic Lie group.

The difference $\lambda_E^{\Sigma_0}(\sigma) - \lambda_E(\sigma)$

We denote that difference by $\delta_E(\Sigma_0, \sigma)$. It is equal to the multiplicity of σ in the representation space

$$\bigoplus_{v \in \Sigma_0} \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_v(K_\infty, E) \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}_p} \mathcal{F}$$

of Δ , where $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}_v(K_\infty, E)$ denoted the Pontryagin dual of $\mathcal{H}_v(K_\infty, E)$. This multiplicity can be studied in a straightforward way. Thus, the difference between $\lambda_E^{\Sigma_0}(\sigma)$ and $\lambda_E(\sigma)$ can be determined by studying local Galois cohomology groups. We won't discuss this today.

In summary, if Σ_0 is chosen suitably and if $\text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)[p]$ is assumed to be finite, then one can study the non-primitive λ -invariants $\lambda_E^{\Sigma_0}(\sigma)$ by using the congruence relations, and thereby one can get information about the invariants $\lambda_E(\sigma)$.

Invariants over K

One can use information about the $\lambda_E(\sigma)$'s to study the action of Δ on $\text{Sel}_E(K)_p$. Let $s_E(\sigma)$ denote the multiplicity of σ in the representation space $X_E(K) \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}_p} \mathcal{F}$, where $X_E(K)$ denotes the Pontryagin dual of $\text{Sel}_E(K)_p$. If the Tate-Shafarevich group for E over K is finite, then $s_E(\sigma) = r_E(\sigma)$, where $r_E(\sigma)$ is the multiplicity of σ in $E(K) \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}} \mathcal{F}$. Of course, $r_E(\sigma)$ doesn't depend on p . By definition, one has

$$\text{rank}(E(K)) = \sum_{\sigma} \text{deg}(\sigma) r_E(\sigma) ,$$

$$\text{corank}_{\mathbf{Z}_p}(\text{Sel}_E(K)_p) = \sum_{\sigma} \text{deg}(\sigma) s_E(\sigma) ,$$

where σ varies over $\text{Irr}_{\mathcal{F}}(\Delta)$.

Parity

Assuming that E has good ordinary reduction at the primes of F above p and that Mazur's conjecture for $\text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)_p$ is true, one can prove the following parity result:

If σ is an irreducible orthogonal representation of Δ , then

$$s_E(\sigma) \equiv \lambda_E(\sigma) \pmod{2} .$$

An irreducible representation σ is said to be orthogonal if σ can be realized by orthogonal matrices over a suitable large field. Such representations are self-dual.

As examples, all of the irreducible representations of dihedral groups are orthogonal. The same is true for all the irreducible representations of $\Delta_r = \text{PGL}_2(\mathbf{Z}/p^{r+1}\mathbf{Z})$ for $r \geq 0$ and p odd.

The parity conjecture

This refers to the conjecture that the sign in the (conjectural) functional equation for the Hasse-Weil L -function $L(E/K, s)$ is $(-1)^{\text{rank}(E(K))}$. A refinement of this conjecture is that if σ is a self-dual irreducible representation of Δ , then the sign in the (conjectural) functional equation for the twisted Hasse-Weil L -function $L(E/F, \sigma, s)$ is $(-1)^{r_E(\sigma)}$. There is a conjectural value for this sign given by Deligne, and spelled out by Rohrlich.

For any prime p , there is a conjecture involving the invariants $s_E(\sigma)$, namely that the conjectural sign in the functional equation for $L(E/F, \sigma, s)$ is $(-1)^{s_E(\sigma)}$. This is a conjecture about the parity of $s_E(\sigma)$, and hence (under suitable assumptions) the parity of $\lambda_E(\sigma)$. We refer to this as the p -Selmer version of the parity conjecture.

Compatibility with congruence relations

With the assumptions in theorems A or B, and an additional assumption that E has semistable reduction at primes of F lying above 2 and 3, one can show that the parity conjecture is compatible with the congruence relations (viewed as equations over \mathbf{F}_2). The proof involves a careful study of the $\delta_v(E, \sigma)$'s.

Suppose that $\Delta \cong PGL_2(\mathbf{Z}/p^{r+1}\mathbf{Z})$ for $r \geq 0$. Let K_0 be the subfield of K such that $\Delta_0 = \text{Gal}(K_0/F) \cong PGL_2(\mathbf{F}_p)$. One can show that if $\text{Sel}_E(K_{0,\infty})[p]$ is finite, then $\text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)[p]$ is finite too. Thus, it will be enough to assume the finiteness of $\text{Sel}_E(K_{0,\infty})[p]$. Suppose that Σ_0 contains $\Phi_{K/F}$. Under all of these assumptions, one proves the following result.

If the p -Selmer version of the parity conjecture is true for all irreducible representations of Δ_0 , then it is also true for all irreducible representations of Δ .

Other results on the parity conjecture

The p -Selmer version of the parity conjecture has been studied by Birch-Stephens, Kramer-Tunnell, Monsky, Nekovar, B.D. Kim, V. and T. Dokchitser, Coates-Fukaya-Kato-Sujatha, and Mazur-Rubin. The results in [CFKS] are somewhat parallel to the results just mentioned, although the hypotheses and approach are different.

The results of Mazur and Rubin concern dihedral extensions of degree $2p^r$. If Δ is isomorphic to D_{2p^r} , then the irreducible representations of Δ have degree 1 or 2. The two 1-dimensional representations factor through the quotient Δ_0 of Δ of order 2. If σ has degree 2, and ρ is the direct sum of the two 1-dimensional representations then $\tilde{\sigma}^{ss} \cong \tilde{\rho}^{ss}$. In essence, under certain mild assumptions, they show that if the parity conjecture holds for the two 1-dimensional representations of Δ_0 , then it also holds for σ .

Projective dimension

Recall the assumptions in theorem A.

(a) $\text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)[p]$ is finite.

(b) $\Phi_{K/F} \subseteq \Sigma_0$.

(c) $E(K_\infty)[p] = 0$ and $\overline{E}_v(k_v)[p] = 0$ for all $v|p$.

These assumptions imply that $X_E^{\Sigma_0}(K_\infty)$ has a free resolution of length 1 as a $\mathbf{Z}_p[[G]]$ -module, where $G = \text{Gal}(K_\infty/F) \cong \Delta \times \Gamma$. In fact, this is true if one replaces (a) by the assumption that $\text{Sel}_E(K_\infty)_p$ has finite \mathbf{Z}_p -corank (as conjectured by Mazur). The other assumptions are needed in full strength.

We will write R for $\mathbf{Z}_p[[G]]$ and X for $X_E^{\Sigma_0}(K_\infty)$. Thus, under the above assumptions, one has an exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow R^d \longrightarrow R^d \longrightarrow X \longrightarrow 0 ,$$

where $d \geq 1$.

A final remark

This is a remark related to the paper *The GL_2 main conjecture for elliptic curves without complex multiplication*

The map $R^d \rightarrow R^d$ is given by right-multiplication by a $d \times d$ matrix with entries in R . The determinant of such a matrix, if it makes sense, should be a “characteristic element” for the R -module X .

This does make sense if G is commutative. And so the above exact sequence gives a characteristic element ξ in $R = \mathbf{Z}_p[[G]]$. One can think of such an element as a \mathbf{Z}_p -valued measure on the Galois group $G = \Delta \times \Gamma$. One can identify R with $\Lambda[\Delta]$. If $\sigma : \Delta \rightarrow \mathcal{O}^\times$ is a character of Δ , then σ induces a ring homomorphism $\sigma : R \rightarrow \mathcal{O}[[\Gamma]]$ and $\sigma(\xi)$ is an element of $\mathcal{O}[[\Gamma]] = \Lambda_{\mathcal{O}}$.

If G is non-commutative, then one can define a “determinant” ξ in some K_1 . For a ring \mathfrak{R} , one defines $K_1(\mathfrak{R})$ as a certain abelian quotient of the direct limit of the groups $GL_n(\mathfrak{R})$ under the map sending an $n \times n$ matrix A to the $(n+1) \times (n+1)$ matrix $\begin{bmatrix} A & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

Assuming that $G = \Delta \times \Gamma$, one can identify $R = \mathbf{Z}_p[[G]]$ with $\mathbf{Z}_p[[\Gamma \times \Delta]] = \Lambda[\Delta]$. Recall that $\Lambda = \mathbf{Z}_p[[\Gamma]]$. If S is a multiplicatively closed subset of the nonzero elements of Λ containing an annihilator of X , Then one can left-tensor the above exact sequence with $\mathfrak{R} = R_S = \Lambda_S[\Delta]$, obtaining an isomorphism

$$\mathfrak{R}^d \longrightarrow \mathfrak{R}^d \quad .$$

This defines a $d \times d$ matrix and hence an element ξ in $K_1(\mathfrak{R})$. Note that the matrix can be taken with entries in R .

An integrality property of ξ

One can think of ξ as a characteristic element for the R -module X . It has a nice integrality property, namely if $\sigma : \Delta \rightarrow GL_n(\mathcal{O})$ is any irreducible representation of Δ , then σ induces ring homomorphisms:

$$\sigma : \mathbf{Z}_p[\Delta] \rightarrow M_n(\mathcal{O}), \quad \sigma : \Lambda[\Delta] \rightarrow M_n(\Lambda_{\mathcal{O}}) ,$$

where $\Lambda_{\mathcal{O}} = \mathcal{O}[[\Gamma]]$. This extends to a ring homomorphism

$$\sigma : \mathfrak{K} \rightarrow M_n(\Lambda_{\mathcal{O},S}) .$$

One then gets a homomorphism Φ_{σ} from $K_1(\mathfrak{K})$ to

$$K_1(M_n(\Lambda_{\mathcal{O},S})) = K_1(\Lambda_{\mathcal{O},S}) = \Lambda_{\mathcal{O},S}^{\times} .$$

The remark is that $\Phi_{\sigma}(\xi)$ is in $\Lambda_{\mathcal{O}}$.