

Asymptotic growth of the cohomology of Bianchi groups

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Let $k \geq 2$, $\Gamma \subset \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ congruence, $\mathcal{M}_k(\Gamma)$ (resp. $\mathcal{S}_k(\Gamma)$) space of (cusp) modular forms of weight k and level Γ . We can compute dimensions of $\mathcal{M}_k(\Gamma)$ and $\mathcal{S}_k(\Gamma)$ using Riemann-Roch theorem.

Example.

$$\dim_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{M}_k(\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})) = \begin{cases} \lfloor \frac{k}{12} \rfloor & k \equiv 2 \pmod{12} \\ \lfloor \frac{k}{12} \rfloor + 1 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

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In particular, when k tends to ∞ ,

$$\dim_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{M}_k(\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})) \sim c \cdot k.$$

True for general Γ , i.e. as $k \rightarrow \infty$, $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{M}_k(\Gamma) \sim k$ (meaning: $c_1 k \leq f(k) \leq c_2 k$).

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Similar for Hilbert modular forms (with growth $\sim k^d$, where d is the degree of the totally real field).

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Notation:

- $F = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-d})$, $d > 0$ square-free, $\mathcal{O}_F =$ ring of integers,
- $SL_2(\mathcal{O}_F)$ acts on the hyperbolic 3-space $\mathbb{H}^3 := \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{R}^+$:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \cdot (z, r) := \frac{((az + b)\overline{(cz + d)} + a\bar{c}r^2, r)}{|cz + d|^2 + |c|^2r^2}.$$

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Definition

A *Bianchi group* Γ is a congruence subgroup of $SL_2(\mathcal{O}_F)$.

- e.g. $\mathfrak{p}|p$ prime ideal,

$$\Gamma(\mathfrak{p}^n) := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \mid a - 1, d - 1, b, c \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathfrak{p}^n} \right\}$$

$$\Gamma_1(\mathfrak{p}^n) := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \mid c \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathfrak{p}^n} \right\}.$$

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Theorem (Harder)

$$\mathcal{S}_{k+2}(\Gamma) \cong H_{cusp}^1(\Gamma, V_k(\mathbb{C}))$$

where

- $V_k(\mathbb{C}) = \text{Sym}^k \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \overline{\text{Sym}^k \mathbb{C}^2}$, where
- $\text{Sym}^k \mathbb{C}^2 =$ standard representation of SL_2
- $H^1(\Gamma, V_k)$: group cohomology; if $X_\Gamma =$ compactification of $\Gamma \backslash \mathbb{H}^3$,

$$H_{cusp}^1 := \text{Ker}[H^1(\Gamma, V_k) \cong H^1(X_\Gamma, \tilde{V}_k) \rightarrow H^1(\partial X_\Gamma, \tilde{V}_k)]$$

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Remark: (Borel-Wallach) $H_{\text{cusp}}^1(\Gamma, \text{Sym}^k \otimes \overline{\text{Sym}^l}) = 0$, if $k \neq l$.

Question: dimensions of $\mathcal{M}_k(\Gamma)$, $\mathcal{S}_k(\Gamma)$?

Unknown: no precise formula is known so far. $\Gamma \backslash \mathbb{H}^3$ has no complex structure (3-dim over \mathbb{R}).

Rohlf's (1984): $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{S}_2(\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathcal{O}_F)) \geq \frac{1}{24}\varphi(d) - \frac{1}{4} - \frac{h(d)}{2}$, $h(d)$ = class number.

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Goal: study the **asymptotic** behavior of the dimension of $H^1(\Gamma, V_k)$.

- 1 k fixed, $\Gamma = \Gamma(\mathfrak{p}^n)$ with $n \rightarrow \infty$;
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Trivial bound:

- 1 k fixed $\Rightarrow \dim_{\mathbb{C}} H^1 \ll [\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathcal{O}_F) : \Gamma(\mathfrak{p}^n)]$;
(use Shapiro's lemma to reduce to the case $\Gamma_1 = 1$ is trivial)
- 2 Γ fixed $\Rightarrow \dim_{\mathbb{C}} H^1 \ll (k+1)^2 \sim k^2$,
(because Γ is finitely generated.)

Theorem (Calegari-Emerton, 2009)

If k is fixed and $\mathfrak{p}|\mathfrak{p}$, then

$$\dim_{\mathbb{C}} H^1(\Gamma(\mathfrak{p}^n), V_k) \ll_k \begin{cases} p^{2n} & \text{if } f(\mathfrak{p}|\mathfrak{p}) = 1 \\ p^{5n} & \text{if } f(\mathfrak{p}|\mathfrak{p}) = 2. \end{cases}$$

Remark:

- Trivial bound: $|\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathcal{O}_F/\mathfrak{p})| \sim p^{3n}, p^{6n}$ (resp.)
- The bound is *sharp* if $f(\mathfrak{p}|\mathfrak{p}) = 1$ (Kionke-Schwermer, 2015)!
- Proof: Emerton's completed cohomology + (non-comm.) Iwasawa algebra.
- Can't replace $\Gamma(\mathfrak{p}^n)$ by $\Gamma_0(\mathfrak{p}^n)$ or $\Gamma_1(\mathfrak{p}^n)$, since need $\bigcap_{n \geq 1} \Gamma(\mathfrak{p}^n) = \{1\}$.

If Γ is fixed:

Theorem (Finis-Grunewald-Tirao, 2010)

$$k \ll_{\Gamma} \dim_{\mathbb{C}} H^1(\Gamma, V_k) \ll_{\Gamma} \frac{k^2}{\ln k}.$$

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Conjecture

The actual growth is $\sim k$.

More generally, if $[F : \mathbb{Q}] = d$ with $d = r_1 + 2r_2$, then conjecturally

$$\dim_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{S}_{(k, \dots, k)}(\Gamma) \sim k^{r_1 + r_2}.$$

Theorem (Marshall, 2012)

$$\dim_{\mathbb{C}} H^1(\Gamma, V_k) \ll_{\Gamma, \epsilon} k^{\frac{5}{3} + \epsilon}, \quad \forall \epsilon > 0.$$

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Mod p method: if $\mathcal{V}_k \subset V_k(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ is an \mathbb{Z}_p -lattice,

$$\dim_{\mathbb{C}} H^1(\Gamma, V_k(\mathbb{C})) = \dim_{\mathbb{Q}_p} H^1(\Gamma, V_k(\mathbb{Q}_p)) \leq \dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^1(\Gamma, \mathcal{V}_k \otimes \mathbb{F}_p).$$

For K compact p -adic Lie group (e.g. \mathbb{Z}_p , $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$), define Iwasawa algebra:

$$\mathbb{Z}_p[[K]] = \varprojlim_{K_n} \mathbb{Z}_p[K/K_n].$$

Example: $K = \mathrm{Ker}(\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) \rightarrow \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p))$, then

$$g_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1+p & 0 \\ 0 & (1+p)^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, \quad g_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & p \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad g_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ p & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

top. generate K , so $\mathbb{Z}_p[[K]]$ top. generated by $X_i := g_i - 1$; **non-commutative**.

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Fundamental properties (Lazard, 1965):

- $\mathbb{Z}_p[[K]]$ is noetherian.
- K uniform pro- $p \Rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p[[K]]$ integral domain.
- gradedly $\mathbb{Z}_p[[K]]$ is commutative, looks like a polynomial ring.
(e.g. $\mathrm{Gr}(\mathbb{Z}_p[[K]]) = \mathbb{F}_p[\bar{p}, \bar{X}_1, \bar{X}_2, \bar{X}_3]$.)

Notation:

$$\Lambda = \mathbb{F}_p[[K]], \quad \tilde{\Lambda}_{\mathbb{Q}_p} = \mathbb{Z}_p[[K]]\left[\frac{1}{p}\right],$$

Theorem (Harris, 1979)

Let M be a finitely generated module over Λ (or $\tilde{\Lambda}_{\mathbb{Q}_p}$) and $d = \dim K$.

- 1 There exists $c \leq d$, $\lambda \neq 0$ such that

$$\dim H_0(K_n, M) = \lambda p^{cn} + O(p^{(c-1)n}), \quad n \rightarrow \infty;$$

- 2 $c < d \iff M$ is torsion (i.e. $M \otimes_{\Lambda} \text{Frac}(\Lambda) = 0$);
- 3 $H_i(K_n, M) = O(p^{(d-1)n})$, $\forall i \geq 1$.

Remark: c is called the Gelfand-Kirillov dimension of M .

Fix prime p , let $\Gamma_n = \Gamma \cap \Gamma(p^n)$, $\hat{\Gamma} = \varprojlim_n \Gamma/\Gamma_n$. Choose $\mathcal{V}_k \subset V_k(\mathbb{Q}_p)$: \mathbb{Z}_p -lattice.

Definition (Emerton, Completed cohomology)

$$\hat{H}^j(\mathcal{V}_k) = \varprojlim_m \varinjlim_n H^j(\Gamma_n, \mathcal{V}_k/p^m)$$

$$\hat{H}^j(V_k) = \hat{H}^j(\mathcal{V}_k)[\frac{1}{p}].$$

- 1 $\hat{H}^j(\mathcal{V}_k)$ admissible (i.e. the dual of $\hat{H}^j(\mathcal{V}_k)$ is f.g. $\mathbb{Z}_p[[\hat{\Gamma}]]$ -module).
- 2 Spectral sequence

$$E_2^{ij} := H^i(\hat{\Gamma}, \hat{H}^j(\mathcal{V}_k)) \Rightarrow H^{i+j}(\Gamma, \mathcal{V}_k),$$

(\Rightarrow reduces to bound $H^i(\hat{\Gamma}, \hat{H}^j(\mathcal{V}_k))$ for $i+j=1$.)

- 3 $H^j(\mathcal{V}_k) \cong \hat{H}^j(\mathbb{Z}_p) \otimes \mathcal{V}_k$.
- 4 $\mathrm{SL}_2(F_p)$ acts on $\hat{H}^j(\mathcal{V}_k)$; $F_p :=$ completion of F at p .

The key fact is:

Proposition

The dual of $\hat{H}^j(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ is a torsion $\mathbb{Z}_p[[\hat{\Gamma}]][\frac{1}{p}]$ -module.

Proof Key point: $SL_2(\mathbb{C})$ does not admit discrete series.) ($GL_2(\mathbb{C})$ does not contain compact Cartan subgroups) \square

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Prop. \implies Thm. of Calegari-Emerton.

Indeed, $\hat{\Gamma}$ has dimension $d = 3$ if $f(p|p) = 1$ and $d = 6$ if $f(p|p) = 2$, then Harris' theorem implies

$$\dim H^i(\hat{\Gamma}(p^n), \hat{H}^j(V_k)) \ll p^{(d-1)n}.$$

Proof of Marshall's theorem:

- By mod p method, it suffices to bound by **mod p method**:

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^i(\hat{\Gamma}, \overline{T} \otimes \overline{\mathcal{V}_k})$$

where $T \subset \hat{H}^i(\mathbb{Q}_p)$, and $\mathcal{V}_k \subset V_k$ are \mathbb{Z}_p -lattices. This holds for any p ; we choose p which splits in F , i.e. $p\mathcal{O}_F = \mathfrak{p}_1\mathfrak{p}_2$, so $F_{\mathfrak{p}_1} \cong F_{\mathfrak{p}_2} \cong \mathbb{Q}_p$ and

$$\hat{\Gamma} \subset \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) \times \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p).$$

Since Γ is fixed, may assume $\hat{\Gamma} = \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) \times \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ for simplicity.

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- Observation (Serre) For **char. p** modular forms, there is a bijection

$$\mathcal{S}_k(\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})) \longleftrightarrow \mathcal{S}_2(\Gamma_0(p)).$$

Marshall generalized to get: if $k \sim p^n$,

$$\mathrm{wt} \, k \text{ of level } \hat{\Gamma} \sim \mathrm{wt} \, 2 \text{ of level } \widehat{\Gamma_0(\mathfrak{p}^n)}.$$

Proposition (Marshall)

If (the dual of) \overline{T} is a f.g. *torsion* module over $\mathbb{F}_p[[\widehat{\Gamma}]]$, then

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} H^i(\widehat{\Gamma_0(p^n)}, \overline{T}) \ll p^{(\frac{5}{3} + \epsilon)n}, \quad \forall \epsilon > 0.$$

Remark. $\bigcap_{n \geq 1} \widehat{\Gamma_0(p^n)} \neq \{1\}$, so no analog of Harris' theorem.

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Proposition (H., 2018)

If, moreover, \overline{T} carries an action of $SL_2(\mathbb{Q}_p) \times SL_2(\mathbb{Q}_p)$, then

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Proof. Use mod p Langlands correspondence for $GL_2(\mathbb{Q}_p)$, precisely, mod p representation theory of $GL_2(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ (with central character):

- Barthel-Livné (1993), Breuil (2001): classify irreducible objects π .
- Paškūnas (2012): deformation theory of π .