

# Probabilistic methods and modular forms

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# PLAN OF TALK

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- Part-I: Introduction to theory of equidistribution.

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- Part-I: Introduction to theory of equidistribution.
- Part-II: Distribution of gaps between elements of equidistributed sequences.
- Part-III: Sato-Tate conjecture and beyond.

## Part-I: Introduction to theory of equidistribution.

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(P.G.L. Dirichlet, 1805 – 1859)  
(Source: wikipedia.org)

1842 - Dirichlet showed that there are infinitely many elements of this sequence in any neighborhood of 0.





(Leopold Kronecker, 1823 – 1891)  
(Source: wikipedia.org)

1884 - Kronecker showed that this sequence is in fact dense throughout the interval  $[0, 1]$ .



(P. Bohl)  
(1865-1921)



(H. Weyl)  
(1885-1955)



(W. Sierpinski)  
(1882-1969)

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1909 - Piers Bohl.

1910 - Herman Weyl and Waclaw Sierpinski, investigated the following question:



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1910 - Herman Weyl and Waclaw Sierpinski, investigated the following question:

**Question** How the sequence  $\{n\theta\}$  is distributed in the unit circle, when  $\theta$  is irrational?

# General principles of equidistribution

Let  $\{x_n\}$  be a sequence of real numbers in the unit interval  $[0, 1]$ . For a subset  $I$  of  $[0, 1]$ , and for a fixed natural number  $N$ , let

$$A_I(N) := \#\{1 \leq n \leq N; x_n \in I\}.$$

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$$A_I(N) := \#\{1 \leq n \leq N; x_n \in I\}.$$

## Definition 1

$\{x_n\}$  is said to be **equidistributed** in the unit interval if for any  $I = [a, b] \subset [0, 1]$ , we have

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{A_I(N)}{N} = b - a.$$

## Definition 2

A sequence of real numbers  $\{x_n\}$  is said to be **equidistributed mod 1** if the sequence  $\{x_n\}$  is equidistributed in  $[0, 1]$ .

A sequence  $\{x_n\}$  of real numbers is said to be **equidistributed mod 1**  $\Leftrightarrow$  for every  $I \subset [0, 1]$ ,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \chi_I(x_n) = \int_0^1 \chi_I(x) dx.$$

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$\Leftrightarrow$  for all (complex valued) Riemann integrable functions  $f(x)$  of period 1,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N f(x_n) = \int_0^1 f(x) dx.$$



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$\Rightarrow$  For all non-zero  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N e^{2\pi i m x_n} = 0.$$

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### Theorem 3 (Weyl, 1916)

$\{n^2\theta\}$  is equidistributed in the unit interval.

In that paper he gave a criterion for equidistribution in terms exponential sum.

# Weyl's Criterion

## Theorem 4

**Weyl's criterion:** A sequence  $\{x_n\}$  is e.d (mod 1) if and only if

$$c_m := \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N e(mx_n) = 0$$

for every  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $m \neq 0$ ,  $e(t) = e^{2\pi it}$ .

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**Application:** If  $\theta \notin \mathbb{Q}$ , then  $\{n\theta\}$  e.d (mod 1) in  $[0, 1]$ .

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**Application:** If  $\theta \notin \mathbb{Q}$ , then  $\{n\theta\}$  e.d (mod 1) in  $[0, 1]$ . If  $m \neq 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{N} \left| \sum_{n=1}^N e(mn\theta) \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \left| \frac{\sin(\pi mN\theta)}{\sin(\pi m\theta)} \right| \\ &\rightarrow 0 \text{ as } N \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned}$$

## Definition 5

Consider finite multi sets  $A_n$  with  $\#A_n \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

$\{A_n\}$  is **set-equidistributed** with respect to a probability measure  $\mu$  if for every  $[a, b] \subset [0, 1]$ ,

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In particular, if

$$A_n = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$$

then the definition is the definition of an equidistributed sequence with respect to  $\mu$ .

The definition of equidistribution can be generalised to arbitrary interval in the following ways

## Definition 6

Consider finite multi sets  $A_n$  in an interval  $[\alpha, \beta]$  with  $\#A_n \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .  $\{A_n\}$  is **set-equidistributed** in  $[\alpha, \beta]$  with respect to a probability measure  $\mu$  if for every continuous function  $f : [\alpha, \beta] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ , the following limit holds:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\#A_n} \sum_{t \in A_n} f(t) = \frac{1}{\beta - \alpha} \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} d\mu.$$

In this talk, we will be interested in equidistribution in intervals of unit length.

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For every  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ , define “Weyl limits”:

$$c_m := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\#A_n} \sum_{t \in A_n} e(mt).$$



(I.J. Schoenberg, 1903 - 1990) (N. Wiener, 1926 - 1964)  
(Source: wikipedia.org)

## Theorem 7 (Wiener-Schoenberg)

$A_n$  is equidistributed with respect to some positive continuous measure if and only if the Weyl limits exist for every integer  $m$  and

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{|m| \leq N} |c_m|^2 = 0.$$



(P. Erdos, 1913- 1996)



(Turán, 1910- 1976)

(Source: wikipedia.org)

## Theorem 8 (Erdős-Turán inequality, 1949)

*For any positive integer  $M$  and subinterval  $I$  of  $[0, 1]$ , there exist constant  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  such that*

$$|\#\{n \leq N : x_n \in I\} - N\mu(I)| \leq \frac{c_1 N}{M+1} + c_2 \left| \sum_{m=1}^M \frac{1}{m} e(mx_n) \right|.$$



(H.L. Montgomery)  
(Source: wikipedia.org)

In 1994, using Beurling-Selberg polynomial Montgomery obtained the following variant of Erdős-Turán inequality;



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### Theorem 9

For any positive integer  $M$  and  $[a, b] \subset [0, 1]$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \#\{n \leq N : x_n \in [a, b]\} - N(b-a) \right| \\ & \leq \frac{N}{M+1} + \sum_{1 \leq |m| \leq M} \left( \frac{1}{M+1} + \min \left( b-a, \frac{1}{\pi|m|} \right) \right) \left| \sum_{m \leq M} e(mx_n) \right|. \end{aligned}$$

Part-II: Distribution of gaps between elements of equidistributed sequences.





(Van der Corput, 1890 – 1975)  
(Source: wikipedia.org)

### Theorem 10 (Van der Corput, 1931)

*If for each positive integer  $s$ , the sequence  $\{x_{n+s} - x_n\}$  is equidistributed (mod 1), then the sequence  $\{x_n\}$  is equidistributed (mod 1).*

Let us consider the following classical question:

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**Is the converse of Van der Corput's result true?**

Answer: NO!

**Example:**  $\{n\theta\} \pmod{1}$ ,  $\theta$  is irrational.

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**Example:**  $\{n\theta\} \pmod{1}$ ,  $\theta$  is irrational.

For any natural number  $N$  and  $0 < b < 1$ , define,

$$\begin{aligned} A_b(N) &:= \{n\theta \pmod{1} : n\theta \pmod{1} \leq b, 1 \leq n \leq N\} \\ &\subset \{\{n\theta\} \pmod{1} : n \in \mathbb{N}\}, \end{aligned}$$

and write them as increasing order as follows:

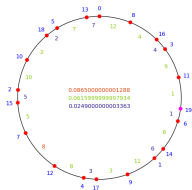
$$A_b(N) = \{0 < x_1 \leq x_2 \leq x_3 \leq \cdots \leq x_N \leq b < 1\}$$



(H. Steinhaus, 1887 – 1972)  
(Source: wikipedia.org)

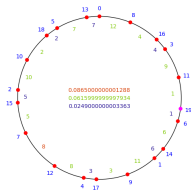
In 1957, Steinhaus conjectured the following:

$$\#\{x_{i+1} - x_i : 1 \leq i \leq N\} \leq 3.$$



$$\left(\theta = 1 - \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)$$

(Source: idiot's Blog)



$$\left(\theta = 1 - \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)$$

(Source: idiot's Blog)



(Vera Sós)  
(Source: wikipedia.org)

The first proof is due to Vera Sós.

## Notations/Assumptions

For  $1 \leq i \leq r$ , Let  $\{A_{i_n}\} = \{\pm x_i\} \subset [-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]$  be sequences of finite multisets with  $\#A_{i_n} \rightarrow \infty$ .

For every  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ , let  $c_{i_m}, 1 \leq i \leq r$  denote the  $m^{\text{th}}$  “Weyl limit” of  $\{A_{i_n}\}$  respectively.

Let us assume that  $\{A_{i_n}\}$  are equidistributed in  $[-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]$  with respect to the measure  $F_i(x)dx$  respectively, where

$$F_i(x) = \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} c_{i_m} e(mx).$$

and for every  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,

$$c_{i_m} := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\#A_{i_n}} \sum_{t \in A_{i_n}} e(mt).$$



Here onwards, let us denote  $\{x\}$  as fractional part of  $x$ .

## Observation 11

Let  $C_m$  be the  $m^{\text{th}}$  Weyl limit of the family

$$\{\{\pm x_1 \pm x_2 \pm \cdots \pm x_r\}, \pm x_i \in A_{i_n}, 1 \leq i \leq r\}$$

that is for  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,

$$C_m := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\prod_{i=1}^r \#A_{i_n}} \sum_{\substack{x_i \in A_{i_n} \\ 1 \leq i \leq r}} e(m\{\pm x_1 \pm x_2 \pm \cdots \pm x_r\}).$$

Then the Weyl limit

$$C_m = \prod_{i=1}^r c_{i_m}. \quad (1)$$

## Theorem 12

If

$$\sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} |c_{i_m}|^2 < \infty \text{ for all } 1 \leq i \leq r, \quad (2)$$

then the family

$$\{\{\pm x_1 \pm x_2 \pm \cdots \pm x_r\}, \pm x_i \in A_{i_n}\}$$

is equidistributed in  $[0, 1]$  with respect to the measure

$$\mu = F(x)dx,$$

where

$$F(x) = F_1 * F_2 * \cdots * F_r(x).$$

# Notations/Assumptions

Let  $C_m$  be the Weyl limit of the family

$$\{ \{ \pm x_1 \pm x_2 \pm \cdots \pm x_r \}, \pm x_i \in A_{i_n}, 1 \leq i \leq r \}.$$

Let  $I = [a, b] \subset [0, 1]$ , and  $V_n = \prod_{i=1}^r \#A_{i_n}$ .

Let  $\underline{x} = \{ \pm x_1 \pm x_2 \pm \cdots \pm x_r \}$ .

Define,

$$N_I(V_n) := \# \{ (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_r) \in A_{1_n} \times A_{2_n} \times \cdots \times A_{r_n} : \underline{x} \in I \}.$$

and

$$D_{I, V_n}(\mu) := \frac{1}{V_n} |N_I(V_n) - V_n \mu(I)|.$$

# A Variant of the Erdős-Turán inequality

## Theorem 13

If  $\sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} |c_{im}|^2 < \infty$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq r$ . Then, for any positive integer  $M$  and any  $I = [a, b] \subset [0, 1]$ , we have

$$|D_{I, V_n}(\mu)| \leq \frac{V_n}{M+1} + \sum_{|m| \leq M} \left( \frac{1}{M+1} + \min \left( b-a, \frac{1}{\pi|m|} \right) \right) \left( \left| \prod_{i=1}^r \sum_{x_i \in A_{i_n}} e(mx_i) - \prod_{i=1}^r \#A_{i_n} c_{im} \right| \right),$$

where  $\mu = F_1 * F_2 * \dots * F_r(x) dx$ .

## PART-III: Sato-Tate conjecture and beyond.

- $S(N, k)$ : space of cusp forms of weight  $k$  and level  $N$ .
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- $s(N, k)$ : dimension of  $S(N, k)$ .
- $T_n : S(N, k) \rightarrow S(N, k)$ ,  $n$ -th Hecke operator.
- $T'_p = \frac{T_p}{p^{(k-1)/2}}$ .

From the **Ramanujan-Petersson conjecture**: (proved by Deligne, 1974.) we know that, for any prime  $p$  not dividing  $N$ , the eigenvalues of normalized Hecke operator  $T'_p$  say  $\{a_{p,i,N}, 1 \leq i \leq s(N, k)\}$  lie in  $[-2, 2]$ .



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**How are they distributed?**

**Horizontal:** Fix  $S(N, k)$  and vary primes  $p$ .

**Vertical:** Fix a prime  $p$  and vary  $S(N, k)$ .

# Sato-Tate conjecture



(Mikio Sato)



(John Tate)

(Source: wikipedia.org)

Fix  $S(N, k)$ . Let  $f$  be a fixed normalized Hecke eigenform of  $S(N, k)$  and let  $a_p(f)$  denote the eigenvalue of  $T'_p$  relative to  $f$ . For every interval  $[\alpha, \beta] \subset [-2, 2]$ ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{p \leq n : a_p(f) \in [\alpha, \beta]\}}{\pi(n)} = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \mu_{\infty},$$

where

$$\mu_{\infty} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\pi} \sqrt{1 - \frac{x^2}{4}} dx & \text{if } x \in [-2, 2], \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

In a series of papers by Richard Taylor, Michael Harris, Nick Shepherd-Barron, David Geraghty, Laurent Clozel and Tom Barnet-Lamb, this conjecture has now been proved for the cases when  $k \geq 2$  and level  $N \geq 1$ .

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(J.P Serre)

(Source: wikipedia.org)

In the year 1997 Serre studied the “vertical” Sato-conjecture by fixing a prime  $p$  and varying  $N$  and  $k$ .

## Theorem 14 (Serre, 1997)

Let  $N_\lambda, k_\lambda$  be positive integers such that  $k_\lambda$  is even,  $N_\lambda + k_\lambda \rightarrow \infty$  and  $p$  is a prime not dividing  $N_\lambda$  for any  $\lambda$ . Then the family of eigenvalues of the normalized  $p$ th Hecke operator

$$T'_p(N_\lambda, k_\lambda) = \frac{T_p(N_\lambda, k_\lambda)}{p^{\frac{k_\lambda-1}{2}}}$$

is equidistributed in the interval  $\Omega = [-2, 2]$  with respect to the measure

$$\mu_p := \frac{p+1}{\pi} \frac{\sqrt{1 - \frac{x^2}{4}}}{(p^{\frac{1}{2}} + p^{-\frac{1}{2}})^2 - x^2} dx.$$



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**Remark** In the same year 1997, Conrey, Duke and Farmer studied a “vertical” Sato-Tate conjecture by fixing a prime  $p$ ,  $N = 1$  and varying  $k$ .

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### Theorem 15 (Serre, 1997)

Let  $S'(N, k)$  be the space of normalised Hecke eigen forms of weight  $k$  and level  $N$ . For any positive integer  $d$  and fixed  $k$ ,

$$\#\{f \in S'(N, k) : [K_f : \mathbb{Q}] \leq d\} = o(s(N, k)) \text{ as } N \rightarrow \infty,$$

where  $K_f(n) = \mathbb{Q}(\{a_n(f)\}_{n \geq 1})$ .



(Ram Murty)  
(Source: gregblack.ca)



(Kaneenika Sinha)  
(Source: IISER Pune)

In the year 2009 Murty and Sinha give explicit estimate on the rate of convergence. They prove the following theorem



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(Source: gregblack.ca)



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### Theorem 16 (Murty-Sinha, 2009)

Let  $p$  be a fixed prime. Let  $\{(N, k)\}$  be a pairs of positive integers such that  $k$  is even,  $p$  is coprime to  $N$ . For an interval  $[\alpha, \beta] \subset [-2, 2]$

$$\frac{1}{s(N, k)} \#\{1 \leq i \leq s(N, k) : a_i(p) \in [\alpha, \beta]\} = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \mu_p + O\left(\frac{\log p}{\log kN}\right).$$

## Theorem 17 (Murty-Sinha, 2009)

$$\#\{f \in S'(N, k) : [K_f : \mathbb{Q}] \leq d\}$$

$$\leq d^2 \prod_{i=1}^d \left( 2 \binom{d}{i} \left( (2p)^{\frac{k-1}{2}} \right)^i + 1 \right) \left( \frac{3s(N, k) \log p}{\log kN} + 63(kN \frac{\log p}{\log kN}) \right).$$

Let  $a_{p,i,N} = 2 \cos \theta_{p,i,N}$  for some  $\theta_{p,i,N} \in [0, \pi]$  and

$$\theta_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_r} = \frac{\pm \theta_{p, i_1, N} \pm \theta_{p, i_2, N} \pm \dots \pm \theta_{p, i_r, N}}{2\pi}.$$

## Theorem 18

Let  $N$  be a positive integer and  $p$  a prime number coprime to  $N$ . For an interval  $[\alpha, \beta] \subset [0, 1]$ ,  $1 \leq r \leq s(N, k)$ ,

$$\frac{1}{(s(N, k))^r} \# \{1 \leq i_1, i_2, \dots, i_r \leq s(N, k) : \{\theta_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_r}\} \in [\alpha, \beta]\}$$
$$= \int_{[\alpha, \beta]} \nu_p + O\left(\frac{\log p}{\log kN}\right),$$

where,  $\nu_p = F(x) * F(x) * \dots * F(x) dx$

$$\text{and } F(x) = 4(p+1) \frac{\sin^2 2\pi x}{(p^{\frac{1}{2}} + p^{-\frac{1}{2}})^2 - \cos^2 2\pi x}.$$

Here the implied constant is effectively computable.



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## Theorem 19

For any  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ ,

$$\# \left\{ 1 \leq i_1, i_2, \dots, i_r \leq s(N, k) : \left\{ \frac{\pm \theta_{p, i_1, N} \pm \theta_{p, i_2, N} \pm \dots \pm \theta_{p, i_r, N}}{2\pi} \right\} = \alpha \right\} \\ = O \left( (s(N, k))^r \left( \frac{\log p}{\log kN} \right) \right),$$

where the implied constant is effectively computable.

In the above theorem for  $r = 2$ , we have an interesting consequence.

In the above theorem for  $r = 2$ , we have an interesting consequence.

## Theorem 20

For any  $\alpha \in [0, 1]$

$$\# \left\{ (i, j) : \left\{ \frac{\pm \theta_{p,i,N} \pm \theta_{p,j,N}}{2\pi} \right\} = \alpha \right\} = O \left( (s(N, k))^2 \left( \frac{\log p}{\log kN} \right) \right).$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Since, } \# \left\{ (i, j) : \left( \frac{\pm\theta_{p,i,N} \pm \theta_{p,j,N}}{2\pi} \right) = 0 \right\} \\ \leq \# \left\{ (i, j) : \left\{ \frac{\pm\theta_{p,i,N} \pm \theta_{p,j,N}}{2\pi} \right\} = 0 \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Since, } \# \left\{ (i, j) : \left( \frac{\pm\theta_{p,i,N} \pm \theta_{p,j,N}}{2\pi} \right) = 0 \right\} \\ \leq \# \left\{ (i, j) : \left\{ \frac{\pm\theta_{p,i,N} \pm \theta_{p,j,N}}{2\pi} \right\} = 0 \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

## Theorem 21

$$\# \{(i, j) : (\pm\theta_{p,i,N} \pm \theta_{p,j,N}) = 0\} = O \left( (s(N, k))^2 \left( \frac{\log p}{\log kN} \right) \right).$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Since, } \# \left\{ (i, j) : \left( \frac{\pm \theta_{p,i,N} \pm \theta_{p,j,N}}{2\pi} \right) = 0 \right\} \\ \leq \# \left\{ (i, j) : \left\{ \frac{\pm \theta_{p,i,N} \pm \theta_{p,j,N}}{2\pi} \right\} = 0 \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

## Theorem 21

$$\# \{(i, j) : (\pm \theta_{p,i,N} \pm \theta_{p,j,N}) = 0\} = O \left( (s(N, k))^2 \left( \frac{\log p}{\log kN} \right) \right).$$

## Remark 22

*The above result recover main result of Murty-Srinivas.*

## Remark 23

*The above result give some evidence towards Maeda and Tsaknias conjecture.*



## Remark 23

*The above result give some evidence towards Maeda and Tsaknias conjecture.*

In 1997, Maeda predicts that for  $N = 1$ ,

$$\prod_{i=1}^{s(N,k)} (x - a_{p,i,1}) \text{ is irreducible over } \mathbb{Q}.$$

For higher level Tsaknias predicts that the above polynomial is product of bounded number of irreducible polynomials over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

## Sketch of proof

For the family  $\left\{ \pm \frac{\theta_{p,i,N}}{2\pi} \right\}$ ,

- $$\sum_{i=1}^{s(N,k)} e(\pm m\theta_{p,i,N}) = \sum_{i=1}^{s(N,k)} 2 \cos m\theta_{p,i,N}.$$

# Sketch of proof

For the family  $\left\{ \pm \frac{\theta_{p,i,N}}{2\pi} \right\}$ ,

- $$\sum_{i=1}^{s(N,k)} e(\pm m \theta_{p,i,N}) = \sum_{i=1}^{s(N,k)} 2 \cos m \theta_{p,i,N}.$$

For  $m = 1$ ,

- $$\sum_{i=1}^{s(N,k)} 2 \cos \theta_{p,i,N} = \text{Tr} T_p'.$$

# Sketch of proof

For the family  $\left\{ \pm \frac{\theta_{p,i,N}}{2\pi} \right\}$ ,

- $$\sum_{i=1}^{s(N,k)} e(\pm m\theta_{p,i,N}) = \sum_{i=1}^{s(N,k)} 2 \cos m\theta_{p,i,N}.$$

For  $m = 1$ ,

- $$\sum_{i=1}^{s(N,k)} 2 \cos \theta_{p,i,N} = \text{Tr} T'_p.$$

For  $m \geq 2$ ,

- $$\sum_{i=1}^{s(N,k)} 2 \cos m\theta_{p,i,N} = \text{Tr} T'_p{}^m - \text{Tr} T'_p{}^{m-2}.$$

- Hilbert modular forms (Arthur trace formula).  
Y.-K. Lau, Charles Li and Yingnan Wang, *Quantitative analysis of the Satake parameters of  $GL_2$  representations with prescribed local representations*, Acta Arithmetica, 164.4 (2014), 355–379.
- Primitive Maass forms (Kuznetsov trace formula).  
Y.-K. Lau and Y. Wang, *Quantitative version of the joint distribution of eigenvalues of the Hecke operators*, J. Number Theory 131 (2011), 2262–2281.
- Certain families of Elliptic curve.  
S. J. Miller and M. R. Murty, *Effective equidistribution and the Sato-Tate law for families of elliptic curves*, J. Number Theory, 131 (2011), 25–44.

# Joint Sato-Tate conjecture

Let  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  be two Hecke eigenforms such that  $f_1(p)$  is not a character multiple of  $f_2(p)$ . For any rectangle  $I \subset [-2, 2]^2$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\pi(x)} \#\{p \leq x : (a_p(f_1), a_p(f_2)) \in I\} \\ = \int_I d\mu \times d\mu, \end{aligned}$$

where  $d\mu$  is the Sato-Tate measure.

## Theorem 24 ( Murty, —, 2016)

Let  $f_1, f_2$  be normalized Hecke eigenforms of weight  $k_1, k_2$  respectively such that  $f_i(z) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{a_n(f_i)}{n^s}$ . Suppose that at least one of  $f_1, f_2$  is not of CM type. Write,

$$a_p(f_i) = b_p(f_i) p^{\frac{k-1}{2}}.$$

If

$$\limsup_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{p \leq x : b_p(f_1) = b_p(f_2)\}}{x / \log x} > 0,$$

then  $f_1 = f_2 \otimes \chi$  for some Dirichlet character  $\chi$ .

## Remarks

- Since Dirichlet characters are well understood, the above theorem classifies eigenforms under the above restriction.
- This theorem also proves  $k_1 = k_2$ .
- Rajan (1998) proved the above result when  $k_1 = k_2$ .
- As a corollary, he obtained the following result  
Let  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  be two elliptic curves over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . If

$$\limsup_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{p : \#E_1(\mathbb{F}_p) = \#E_2(\mathbb{F}_p)\}}{x / \log x} > 0,$$

then  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are isogenous after base change.

- Recently, Kulkarni, Patankar and Rajan extend the above result for number fields (using Galois theory, Chebotarev density theorem etc).
- Using modularity theorem, we get the above result over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .



# Sketch of proof

To prove the above theorem, we need the following proposition.

## Proposition 25

Let  $0 < \delta < \pi$ . Let  $f_\delta(x)$  be the “tent” function defined on  $[-\pi, \pi]$  be given by

$$f_\delta(x) = \begin{cases} 1 - |x|/\delta & \text{if } |x| \leq \delta, \\ 0 & \text{if } |x| > \delta. \end{cases}$$

Then, for any  $M \geq 1$ , we have

$$f_\delta(x) = \frac{\delta}{2\pi} + 2 \sum_{n=1}^M \frac{1 - \cos n\delta}{\pi n^2 \delta} \cos nx + O\left(\frac{1}{M\delta}\right),$$

where the implied constant is absolute.

Note that

$$\#\{p \leq x : \theta_p^{(1)} = \theta_p^{(2)}\} \leq \sum_{p \leq x} f_\delta(\theta_p^{(1)} - \theta_p^{(2)}) + f_\delta(\theta_p^{(1)} + \theta_p^{(2)}).$$

$$\leq \frac{\delta\pi(x)}{\pi} + 4 \sum_{n=1}^M \frac{1 - \cos n\delta}{\pi n^2 \delta} \sum_{p \leq x} \cos n\theta_p^{(1)} \cos n\theta_p^{(2)} + O\left(\frac{\pi(x)}{M\delta}\right)$$

upon using the trigonometric identity

$$\cos(A + B) + \cos(A - B) = 2 \cos A \cos B$$

and

$$2 \cos n\theta = \frac{\sin(n+1)\theta}{\sin \theta} - \frac{\sin(n-1)\theta}{\sin \theta}.$$

## proof continued

we can rewrite our sum as

$$\sum_{n=2}^M \frac{1 - \cos n\delta}{\pi n^2 \delta} \times \sum_{p \leq x} \left( \left( \frac{\sin(n+1)\theta_p^{(1)}}{\sin \theta_p^{(1)}} - \frac{\sin(n-1)\theta_p^{(1)}}{\sin \theta_p^{(1)}} \right) \right. \\ \left. \times \left( \frac{\sin(n+1)\theta_p^{(2)}}{\sin \theta_p^{(2)}} - \frac{\sin(n-1)\theta_p^{(2)}}{\sin \theta_p^{(2)}} \right) \right).$$

## proof continued

Now to complete the proof it is sufficient to prove the following Proposition.

### Proposition 26

*If  $f_1, f_2$  are normalized Hecke eigenforms, with at least one not of CM type, such that  $f_1 \neq f_2 \otimes \chi$  for some Dirichlet character  $\chi$ , then for any positive integers  $m, n$ ,*

$$\sum_{p \leq x} \frac{\sin(m+1)\theta_p^{(1)}}{\sin \theta_p^{(1)}} \frac{\sin(n+1)\theta_p^{(2)}}{\sin \theta_p^{(2)}} = o(x/\log x),$$

*as  $x$  tends to infinity. Here, the summation is over primes.*







# Joint Sato-Tate distribution for two Hecke eigenforms






## Theorem 27



Let  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  be two Hecke eigenforms such that  $f_1(p)$  is not a character multiple of  $f_2(p)$ . For any rectangle  $I \subset [-2, 2]^2$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\pi(x)} \#\{p \leq x : (a_p(f_1), a_p(f_2)) \in I\} \\ = \int_I d\mu \times d\mu, \end{aligned}$$

where  $d\mu$  is the Sato-Tate measure.

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