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A classification of polyharmonic Maaß forms
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ABSTRACT

We give a classification of the Harish-Chandra modules generated by the pullback to $SL_2(\mathbb{R})$ of *polyharmonic* Maaß forms for congruence subgroups of $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ with exponential growth allowed at the cusps. This extends results of Bringmann–Kudla in the harmonic case. While in the harmonic setting there are nine cases, our classification comprises ten; A new case arises in weights $k > 1$. To obtain the classification we introduce quiver representations into the topic and show that those associated with polyharmonic Maaß forms are cyclic, indecomposable representations of the two-cyclic or the Gelfand quiver. A classification of these transfers to a classification of polyharmonic weak Maaß forms. To realize all possible cases of Harish-Chandra modules we develop a theory of weight shifts for Taylor coefficients of vector-valued spectral families.

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We provide a comprehensive computer implementation of this theory, which allows us to provide explicit examples.

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0. Introduction

Harmonic weak Maaß forms have proved to be immensely useful in number theory and related areas such as arithmetic geometry, combinatorics, and mathematical physics. Numerous applications were showcased by Bringmann–Folsom–Ono–Rolen [6], often rooted in generating series that are “completed” to produce harmonic weak Maaß forms. Special highlights are the confirmation of the Andrews–Dragonette Conjecture [8], incoherent Eisenstein series in the Kudla Program [28], and Mathieu Moonshine [21,24] associated with $K3$ -surfaces. As work by Duke, İmamoğlu, and Tóth [20] shows *poly*harmonic weak Maaß forms play an evenly important role in number theory. Moreover, these forms appear in string theory, especially via the theory of modular graph functions [27], and in the correspond mathematical theory of iterated period integrals on the moduli space of marked genus-1 curves [9,10].

The study of harmonic weak Maaß forms from a representation theoretic perspective was initiated by Bringmann and Kudla [7]. They provided a classification of the Harish-Chandra modules generated by the pullback to $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ of harmonic weak Maaß forms of integral weight.

In the present work we study polyharmonic (weak) Maaß forms, i.e. forms that vanish under a power of the Laplace operator, transform like modular forms, and have at most exponential growth at the cusps. Here, the weight k Laplace operator is defined as

$$\Delta_k = -R_{k-2}L_k, \quad \text{where } R_k = 2i\partial_\tau + ky^{-1}, \quad L_k = -2iy^2\partial_{\bar{\tau}}.$$

We call a polyharmonic Maaß form f of weight k satisfying $\Delta_k^{d+1}f = 0$ and $\Delta_k^d f \neq 0$ polyharmonic of *exact depth* d (compare Definition 3.1). A classical example of such a form, which appears already in the Kronecker limit formula, is the function

$$-\frac{1}{6} \log(y^{12} |\eta(\tau)|^{48}),$$

where $\eta(\tau) = \exp(\pi i \tau / 12) \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - \exp(2\pi i n \tau))$.

0.1. The classification

Our first main result is the classification of Harish-Chandra modules corresponding to polyharmonic Maaß forms of integral weight. As a special case we recover the classification for harmonic Maaß forms obtained by Bringmann and Kudla. Harish-Chandra

modules associated with polyharmonic Maaß forms are formally described in Section 3.2. Informally, they capture all $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ -covariant differential equations satisfied by a given form.

Classification A. In Sections 3.4 and 3.5 we give a classification comprising 10 cases of Harish-Chandra modules associated with weight- k polyharmonic weak Maaß forms of exact depth d : Cases Ia–d for $k < 1$, Cases IIa–b for $k = 1$, and Cases IIIa–d for $k > 1$. The classification is given in terms of the vanishing and non-vanishing of the following functions:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} k < 1 & k = 1 & k > 1 \\ \hline L_k \Delta_k^d f \stackrel{?}{=} 0, R_k^{1-k} \Delta_k^d f \stackrel{?}{=} 0 & L_k \Delta_k^d f \stackrel{?}{=} 0 & L^k \Delta_k^{d-1} f \stackrel{?}{=} 0, L_k \Delta_k^d f \stackrel{?}{=} 0, L_k^k \Delta_k^d f \stackrel{?}{=} 0. \end{array}$$

Remark. (1) The three vanishing conditions that appear for $k > 1$ imply one another from left to right, so that they yield 4 as opposed to 8 cases.

(2) The classification of harmonic weak Maaß forms, i.e. the case $d = 0$, encompasses only 9 cases. Each of them generalizes in a suitable way, but there is an additional Case IIId if $k > 1$, which occurs only in positive depth d .

Example B. In our classification, the previously mentioned form $-\frac{1}{6} \log(y^{12} |\eta(\tau)|^{48})$ falls into Case Ia. Bringmann–Kudla highlighted s -derivatives of Eisenstein series as a further class of interesting functions that are not covered by their classification. These are polyharmonic Maaß forms of type Id if $k < 0$, of type Ia if $k = 0$, of type IIb if $k = 2$, and of type IIIa if $k > 2$. The case $k = 1$ gives rise to incoherent Eisenstein series that fall under type IIa. See Section 5 for details.

Elementary Lie algebra considerations that serve well in the harmonic setup cease to work in ours. In particular, the method of classification employed by Bringmann–Kudla relies heavily on the harmonicity condition $\Delta_k f = 0$, which implies that K -types of the Harish-Chandra module associated with f occur with multiplicity at most 1. The transition between K -types can therefore be adequately described by the vanishing or non-vanishing of scalars. This no longer holds true for general polyharmonic Maaß forms, which is the major obstacle to the classification that we achieved. It turns out that the theory of quiver representations beautifully enables us to circumvent this obstacle. In Proposition 1.6 and Theorem 1.9, we provide equivalences between categories of specific Harish-Chandra modules and quiver representations following [4,5,15,17,25,26]. This naturally leads us to representations of the Gelfand quiver, which are well-known to be intricate. A key step in our classification is Theorem 3.7, in which we show that quiver representations that arise from polyharmonic Maaß forms are cyclic and indecomposable. There are only few cyclic representations of the Gelfand quiver, which we give in Theorem 2.5 and which mirror the Cases Ia–d and IIIa–d in our classification. Cases IIa and IIb arise from the two-cyclic quiver as discussed in Remark 2.8.

0.2. The explicit realization

Our second main result is the explicit realization of all cases of the classification. Classification A constrains the possible Harish-Chandra modules associated with polyharmonic weak Maaß forms, however a priori it is not clear whether each case appears.

Theorem C. *For any $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and any case of Classification A associated with this k , there is a (vector-valued) polyharmonic weak Maaß form of weight k that realizes this case.*

Remark. In Theorem 4.15 we provide a comprehensive theory that allows us to alter the weight of a modular realization of Cases Ia–d or IIIa–d if it is obtained from a spectral family. This theory involves a detailed analysis of the action of several differential operators on spectral families and is interesting in its own right.

To prove Theorem C we construct preimages under Δ_k^d of the realizations provided by Bringmann and Kudla. For scalar-valued realizations we can employ a classical approach and extract polyharmonic Maaß forms from the Taylor coefficients of a spectral family. This idea was already used by Lagarias and Rhoades [29] for Eisenstein series and by Duke–İmamoğlu–Tóth [20] for Poincaré series. For vector-valued forms we vastly generalize this method. We show that the weight of a modular realization can be adjusted when taking products with specific vector-valued Maaß forms. In special cases this was also used by Bringmann and Kudla. Our Theorem 4.15 extends this approach to the broadest context compatible with our classification.

The proof of Theorem 4.15 depends on a delicate analysis of the action of the Laplace operator on specific products of Maaß forms. It can be viewed as an explicit instance of a theory by Bernstein–Gelfand [3], who studied tensor products of Harish-Chandra modules with finite dimensional representation. Our treatment is sufficiently explicit to accommodate a computer implementation, which is available on the third author’s homepage and allows for the precise calculation of coefficients in every single case.

0.3. Structure of the paper

The paper is structured as follows. In Section 1 we provide preliminaries on Harish-Chandra modules and investigate the structure of the relevant path algebra. In Section 2 we classify the corresponding cyclic modules. The bridge between these results and the classification of the Harish-Chandra modules arising from polyharmonic weak Maaß forms is provided in Section 3. In Section 4 we develop the results that enable us to alter the weight of spectral families. We use these results to show that there exist polyharmonic weak Maaß forms for each of the cases of the classification in Section 5.

1. Blocks of the category of Harish-Chandra-modules for $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$

1.1. Preliminaries on Harish-Chandra-modules

Let $G = \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ and $K = \mathrm{SO}_2(\mathbb{R})$ be a maximal compact subgroup. Let

$$\mathfrak{g} := \mathrm{Lie}(G) \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C} \cong \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{C}) = \left\langle H = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, X = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & i \\ i & -1 \end{pmatrix}, Y = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -i \\ -i & -1 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle$$

be the complexified Lie algebra of G and $U(\mathfrak{g})$ be the universal enveloping algebra of \mathfrak{g} . The following relations in \mathfrak{g} are satisfied:

$$[H, X] = 2X, [H, Y] = -2Y \text{ and } [X, Y] = H. \quad (1.1)$$

Let

$$C = H^2 - 2H + 4XY = H^2 + 2H + 4YX \in U(\mathfrak{g}) \quad (1.2)$$

be a Casimir element. It is well-known that the center \mathfrak{z} of $U(\mathfrak{g})$ is $\mathbb{C}[C]$ (the algebra of polynomials in C). For any $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$, we set

$$k_\theta = \exp(i\theta H) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\theta) & \sin(\theta) \\ -\sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) \end{pmatrix} \in K = \mathrm{SO}_2(\mathbb{R}). \quad (1.3)$$

Definition 1.1. A complex vector space M is a (\mathfrak{g}, K) -module if it has a structure (M, \circ) of a representation of \mathfrak{g} as well as a structure (M, \cdot) of a locally smooth representation of K such that, first,

$$(\mathrm{Ad}_k(Z)) \circ v = k \cdot (Z \circ (k^{-1} \cdot v))$$

for any $v \in M$, $k \in K$, and $Z \in \mathfrak{g}$, where Ad is the adjoint action of G on \mathfrak{g} , and second,

$$\frac{d}{dt} (\exp(tZ) \cdot v) \Big|_{t=0} = Z \circ v$$

for any $v \in M$ and $Z \in \mathfrak{k} \subset \mathfrak{g}$, the complexified Lie algebra of K . In what follows, we shall omit \circ and \cdot from the notation for the action on M . For $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ we put:

$$M_n = \{v \in M : H \circ v = nv\}.$$

A (\mathfrak{g}, K) -module M is a *Harish-Chandra module* if it is finitely generated over $U(\mathfrak{g})$ and

$$M \cong \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} M_n \text{ with } \dim_{\mathbb{C}}(M_n) < \infty \text{ for all } n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

In what follows, $\mathrm{HC}(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ denotes the category of Harish-Chandra (\mathfrak{g}, K) -modules.

Definition 1.2. Let $l \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ and $\gamma = l^2 - 1$. Let $\mathrm{HC}_l(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ be the full subcategory of $\mathrm{HC}(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ consisting of such Harish-Chandra modules M for which there exists $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ (depending on M) such that $(C - \gamma I)^m \cdot M = 0$.

We have the following standard result.

Lemma 1.3. *The category $\mathrm{HC}_l(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ is a full subcategory of $\mathrm{HC}(\mathfrak{g}, K)$. For any object M of $\mathrm{HC}_l(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ we have a direct sum decomposition*

$$M = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} M_{-l-1+2i}$$

and its \mathfrak{g} -module structure can be visualized by the following (infinite) diagram of finite dimensional vector spaces and linear maps:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \cdots & \xrightarrow{X} & M_{-l-1} & \xrightarrow{X} & M_{-l+1} & \xrightarrow{X} & \cdots & \xrightarrow{X} & M_{l-1} & \xrightarrow{X} & M_{l+1} & \xrightarrow{X} & \cdots \\ & \xleftarrow{Y} & & \xleftarrow{Y} & & \xleftarrow{Y} & & \xleftarrow{Y} & & \xleftarrow{Y} & & \xleftarrow{Y} & \end{array} \quad (1.4)$$

We call (1.4) a *diagram description* of a Harish-Chandra module $M \in \mathrm{HC}_l(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ (see also [31] for a detailed treatment of various classes of representations of \mathfrak{g}).

For any $p \in \mathbb{Z}$, consider the following fragment of (1.4):

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \xrightarrow{X} & \\ M_{p-1} & & M_{p+1} \\ & \xleftarrow{Y} & \end{array}$$

A calculation shows that

$$\begin{aligned} XY &= \frac{1}{4}(C - H^2 + 2H) = \frac{1}{4}(C - (p^2 - 1)), \\ YX &= \frac{1}{4}(C - H^2 - 2H) = \frac{1}{4}(C - (p^2 - 1)). \end{aligned} \quad (1.5)$$

As a consequence of (1.5), we obtain the following statements about the diagram description (1.4) of $M \in \mathrm{HC}_l(\mathfrak{g}, K)$:

- $X|_{M_{p-1}}$ is an isomorphism for $p \neq \pm l$.
- $Y|_{M_{p+1}}$ is an isomorphism for $p \neq \pm l$.
- For $p = \pm l$, the corresponding endomorphisms XY and YX are nilpotent.

Let $M \xrightarrow{\psi} N$ be a morphism in the category $\mathrm{HC}_l(\mathfrak{g}, K)$. Then for any $i \in \mathbb{Z}$ we have: $\psi(M_i) \subseteq N_i$ and for any $p \in \mathbb{Z}$ the following diagram is commutative:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \xrightarrow{X_M} & \\
 M_{p-1} & & M_{p+1} \\
 & \xleftarrow{Y_M} & \\
 \downarrow \psi_{p-1} & & \downarrow \psi_{p+1} \\
 N_{p-1} & \xrightarrow{X_N} & N_{p+1} \\
 & \xleftarrow{Y_N} &
 \end{array} \quad (1.6)$$

where $\psi_{p\pm 1} := \psi|_{M_{p\pm 1}}$. Conversely, let $M, N \in \mathbf{HC}_l(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ and $(M_i \xrightarrow{\psi_i} N_i)_{i \in \mathbb{Z}}$ be any family of linear maps such that the diagram (1.6) is commutative for any $p \in \mathbb{Z}$. We put $\psi = \oplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \psi_i$. Then $M \xrightarrow{\psi} N$ is a morphism in the category $\mathbf{HC}_l(\mathfrak{g}, K)$.

1.2. Path algebras

Let $\mathfrak{D} = \mathbb{C}[[t]]$, $\mathfrak{m} = (t)$ and

$$\mathfrak{A} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{D} & \mathfrak{m} & \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{D} & \mathfrak{D} & \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{D} & \mathfrak{m} & \mathfrak{D} \end{pmatrix} \subset \text{Mat}_{3 \times 3}(\mathfrak{D}) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathfrak{B} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{D} & \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{D} & \mathfrak{D} \end{pmatrix} \subset \text{Mat}_{2 \times 2}(\mathfrak{D}). \quad (1.7)$$

Note that the algebra \mathfrak{B} is isomorphic to the arrow ideal completion of the path algebra of the cyclic quiver

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \xrightarrow{a} & \\
 - & & + \\
 & \xleftarrow{b} &
 \end{array} \quad (1.8)$$

whereas \mathfrak{A} is isomorphic to the arrow ideal completion of the path algebra of the so-called Gelfand quiver

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \xrightarrow{a_-} & \\
 - & & * \\
 & \xleftarrow{b_-} & \\
 & \xrightarrow{a_+} & + \\
 & \xleftarrow{b_+} &
 \end{array} \quad , \quad a_- b_- = a_+ b_+. \quad (1.9)$$

Remark 1.4. The visualization of the Gelfand quiver in (1.9) is the usual one, but in this work another one naturally emerges. We will apply the following identification without further mentioning:

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc} & \xrightarrow{a_-} & \\ - & & * \\ & \xleftarrow{b_-} & \\ & \xrightarrow{a_+} & + \\ & \xleftarrow{b_+} & \end{array} \right] = \left[\begin{array}{ccc} & \xrightarrow{a_-} & \\ - & & * \\ & \xleftarrow{b_-} & \\ & \xrightarrow{b_+} & + \\ & \xleftarrow{a_+} & \end{array} \right].$$

Proof. Let M and N be a pair of objects of $\mathrm{HC}_0(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ and $M \xrightarrow{\psi} N$ be any morphism. Commutativity of the diagram (1.6) for $p = 0$ implies that the assignment (1.12) is functorial. Moreover, for any $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ we have:

$$\psi_{2n+1} = (X_N)^n \psi_1 (X_M)^{-n} \quad \text{and} \quad \psi_{-2n-1} = (X_N)^{-n} \psi_{-1} (X_M)^n. \quad (1.13)$$

Hence, $\psi_1 = 0 = \psi_{-1}$ implies that $\psi = 0$. As a consequence, the functor \mathbb{E} is faithful.

Now we prove that \mathbb{E} is full. Let $\phi_{\pm 1} : M_{\pm 1} \rightarrow N_{\pm 1}$ be linear maps such that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M_{-1} & \xrightarrow{X_M} & M_{+1} \\ \phi_{-1} \downarrow & \xleftarrow{Y_M} & \downarrow \phi_{+1} \\ N_{-1} & \xrightarrow{X_N} & N_{+1} \\ & \xleftarrow{Y_N} & \end{array} \quad (1.14)$$

is commutative. For any $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ consider the linear maps $M_{\pm 2n+1} \xrightarrow{\phi_{\pm 2n+1}} N_{\pm 2n+1}$ given by the formulae $\phi_{2n+1} = (X_N)^n \phi_1 (X_M)^{-n}$ and $\phi_{-2n-1} = (X_N)^{-n} \phi_{-1} (X_M)^n$. It follows by construction that $\phi_{2n+1} X_M = X_N \phi_{2n-1}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. It can be checked that $\phi_{2n-1} Y_M = Y_N \phi_{2n+1}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, too. We put: $\phi := \oplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \phi_{2n+1}$. Then $M \xrightarrow{\phi} N$ is a morphism in $\mathrm{HC}_0(\mathfrak{g}, K)$. Hence, the functor \mathbb{E} is full, as asserted.

It remains to be proven that \mathbb{E} is essentially surjective. Take an arbitrary nilpotent representation

$$W = \left[\begin{array}{ccc} & A & \\ V_- & \xrightarrow{\quad} & V_+ \\ & \xleftarrow{B} & \end{array} \right]$$

of the cyclic quiver (1.8). For any $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ we put: $M_{2n+1} = V_+$ and $M_{-2n-1} = V_-$. Let $M = \oplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} M_{2n+1}$. We define $X, Y, H \in \mathrm{End}_{\mathbb{C}}(M)$ using the following rules:

- $H|_{M_{2n+1}} := (2n+1)\mathrm{Id}$, $X(M_{2n-1}) \subseteq M_{2n+1}$ and $Y(M_{2n+1}) \subseteq M_{2n-1}$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.
- $X|_{M_{-1}} := A$ and $Y|_{M_1} := B$.
- $X|_{M_{2n-1}} := \mathrm{Id}$ for all $n \neq 0$.

A description of Y requires more efforts. We first introduce operators $C_{\pm} \in \mathrm{End}_{\mathbb{C}}(V_{\pm})$ by the formulae

$$AB = \frac{1}{4}(C_+ + I) \quad \text{and} \quad BA = \frac{1}{4}(C_- + I). \quad (1.15)$$

Then for any $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ we define the corresponding linear map

$$M_{p+1} = V_+ \xrightarrow{Y} V_+ = M_{p-1}$$

by the rule: $Y = \frac{1}{4}(C_+ - (p^2 - 1)I)$, where $p = 2n$. Analogously, for any $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{<0}$ and $p = 2n$ we set:

$$Y := \frac{1}{4}(C_- - (p^2 - 1)I) : M_{p+1} = V_- \longrightarrow V_- = M_{p-1}.$$

It can be checked that $X, Y, H \in \text{End}_{\mathbb{C}}(M)$ satisfy the identities (1.1) and hence define the structure of a \mathfrak{g} -module on the vector space M .

Let $(u_1^{\pm}, \dots, u_{m_{\pm}}^{\pm})$ be bases of V_{\pm} . Then $u_1^+, \dots, u_{m_+}^+, u_1^-, \dots, u_{m_-}^- \in M$ generate M as a \mathfrak{g} -module. Finally, it can be shown that the Casimir element C defined by (1.2) acts on $M_{2n+1} = V_+$ as C_+ and on $M_{-2n-1} = V_-$ as C_- for any $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$. It follows that $(C + I)^m M = 0$, where $m = \max\{m_+, m_-\}$. Summing up, $M \in \text{HC}_0(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ and $\mathbb{E}(M) \cong W$. Hence, the functor \mathbb{E} is fully faithful and essentially surjective, hence an equivalence of categories. \square

The Gelfand quiver Let $l \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ and $M \in \text{HC}_l(\mathfrak{g}, K)$, whose diagram description is (1.4). We use the following notation:

$$\begin{aligned} X_- &= X|_{M_{-l-1}}, & X_+ &= X|_{M_{l-1}} & \text{and} & & X_i &= X|_{M_{-l-1+2i}} & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq l-1; \\ Y_- &= Y|_{M_{-l+1}}, & Y_+ &= Y|_{M_{l+1}} & \text{and} & & Y_i &= Y|_{M_{-l+1+2i}} & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq l-1; \\ X_* &= X_{l-1} \cdots X_1 & \text{and} & & Y_* &= Y_1 \cdots Y_{l-1}. \end{aligned} \quad (1.16)$$

Lemma 1.7. *In the above notation (1.16), the following identities are true:*

$$X_* X_- Y_- = Y_+ X_+ X_* \quad \text{and} \quad X_- Y_- Y_* = Y_* Y_+ X_+.$$

Proof. We only show the first statement since a proof of the second one is completely analogous. The commutator relation

$$[X^l, Y] = lX^{l-1}(H + l - 1)$$

implies:

$$\begin{aligned} X_* X_- Y_- &= X^l Y|_{M_{-l+1}} = Y X^l|_{M_{-l+1}} + lX^{l-1}(H + l - 1)|_{M_{-l+1}} \\ &= Y X^l|_{M_{-l+1}} = Y_+ X_+ X_*. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

given on the level of objects by the assignment

$$M \mapsto \mathbb{E} \left[\begin{array}{ccccc} & & A_- & & A_+ \\ & & \xrightarrow{\quad} & & \xleftarrow{\quad} \\ V_- & & V_* & & V_+ \\ & & \xleftarrow{B_-} & & \xrightarrow{B_+} \end{array} \right] = \left[\begin{array}{ccccc} & & X_- & & X_+X_* \\ & & \xrightarrow{\quad} & & \xrightarrow{\quad} \\ M_{-l-1} & & M_{-l+1} & & M_{l+1} \\ & & \xleftarrow{Y_-} & & \xleftarrow{X_*^{-1}Y_+} \end{array} \right]. \quad (1.21)$$

Proof. Let $M \xrightarrow{\psi} N$ be a morphism in $\mathbf{HC}_l(\mathfrak{g}, K)$. We claim that the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & X_- & & X_+X_* \\ & & \xrightarrow{\quad} & & \xrightarrow{\quad} \\ M_{-l-1} & & M_{-l+1} & & M_{l+1} \\ & & \xleftarrow{Y_-} & & \xleftarrow{X_*^{-1}Y_+} \\ \psi_{-l-1} \downarrow & & \psi_{-l+1} \downarrow & & \downarrow \psi_{l+1} \\ & & X_- & & X_+X_* \\ & & \xrightarrow{\quad} & & \xrightarrow{\quad} \\ N_{-l-1} & & N_{l-1} & & N_{l+1} \\ & & \xleftarrow{Y_-} & & \xleftarrow{X_*^{-1}Y_+} \end{array} \quad (1.22)$$

is commutative (abusing the notation, we use same symbols for the structure maps of \mathfrak{g} -modules M and N in their diagram descriptions). It follows from (1.6) that the left square of (1.22) is commutative and $\psi_{l+1}X_+X_* = X_+X_*\psi_{-l+1}$. Next, $\psi_{l-1}X_* = X_*\psi_{-l+1}$ and $\psi_{l-1}Y_+ = Y_+\psi_{l+1}$, implying that

$$\psi_{-l+1}X_*^{-1}Y_+ = X_*^{-1}\psi_{l-1}Y_+ = X_*^{-1}Y_+\psi_{l+1}.$$

Hence, the diagram (1.22) is indeed commutative, which implies that the assignment (1.21) is indeed functorial.

Next, similarly to the case $l = 0$ (see (1.13)) one can show that all linear maps $\psi_{-l+1+2n}$ can be expressed via ψ_{-l-1} , ψ_{-l+1} , ψ_{l+1} and the structure maps X and Y of the modules M and N . This implies that the functor \mathbb{E} is faithful. The fact that \mathbb{E} is full and essentially surjective can be shown analogously to the proof of Proposition 1.6. See also [31, Section 3.9] for another description of an equivalence between $\mathbf{HC}_l(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ and $\mathbf{Rep}(\mathfrak{A})$. \square

Remark 1.10. In what follows we shall use the fact that in the spirit of Lemma 1.8

$$\mathbb{E}(M) \cong \begin{array}{ccccc} & & Y_*^{-1}X_- & & X_+ \\ & & \xrightarrow{\quad} & & \xrightarrow{\quad} \\ M_{-l-1} & & M_{l-1} & & M_{l+1} \\ & & \xleftarrow{Y_-Y_*} & & \xleftarrow{Y_+} \end{array}. \quad (1.23)$$

2. Cyclic modules over \mathfrak{A} and \mathfrak{B}

We refer to [18] for basic notions and results from the representation theory of associative algebras. Let

$$e_* = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, e_+ = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } e_- = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.1)$$

be three primitive idempotents of the algebra \mathfrak{A} corresponding to three vertices of the Gelfand quiver (1.9). Then

$$P_* = \mathfrak{A}e_* \cong \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{D} \\ \mathfrak{D} \\ \mathfrak{D} \end{pmatrix}, P_+ = \mathfrak{A}e_+ \cong \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{D} \\ \mathfrak{m} \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } P_- = \mathfrak{A}e_- \cong \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{D} \end{pmatrix}$$

are indecomposable projective \mathfrak{A} -modules. Conversely, any indecomposable projective \mathfrak{A} -module is isomorphic to P_* or P_{\pm} .

Definition 2.1. A finite dimensional \mathfrak{A} -module V is called *cyclic* if there exists an epimorphism $P \twoheadrightarrow V$ for an indecomposable projective \mathfrak{A} -module P .

Lemma 2.2. Any cyclic \mathfrak{A} -module is indecomposable.

Proof. Assume that $V \cong V' \oplus V''$ is a direct sum decomposition with $V' \neq 0 \neq V''$. Take projective coverings $P' \xrightarrow{f'} V'$ and $P'' \xrightarrow{f''} V''$. Then $P' \oplus P'' \xrightarrow{(f' \ f'')} V$ is a projective covering of V . It follows that $P \cong P' \oplus P''$ is decomposable. Contradiction. \square

Remark 2.3. The above result is true for arbitrary semi-perfect rings (i.e. those rings for which any finitely generated left module has a projective cover).

Our next goal is to give a classification of cyclic \mathfrak{A} -modules.

Definition 2.4. A finitely generated \mathfrak{A} -module Q is called a *lattice* if it is free as a \mathfrak{D} -module.

The algebra \mathfrak{A} belongs to the class of the so-called nodal orders; see [16] and in particular [16, Example 3.18]. The study of lattices over orders is a classical subject of representation theory of associative algebras [18]. Consider the so-called hereditary envelope

$$\mathfrak{H} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{D} & \mathfrak{m} & \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{D} & \mathfrak{D} & \mathfrak{D} \\ \mathfrak{D} & \mathfrak{D} & \mathfrak{D} \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.2)$$

of the nodal order \mathfrak{A} (see [16] for the definition). Then any indecomposable \mathfrak{A} -lattice is a direct summand of $\mathfrak{A} \oplus \mathfrak{H}$ (this result is true for arbitrary nodal orders; see [16]).

As a consequence, there are only four isomorphism classes of indecomposable \mathfrak{A} -lattices: indecomposable projective modules P_* , P_+ and P_- and as well as

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{D} \\ \mathfrak{D} \end{pmatrix}.$$

This fact is essential for the classification of cyclic \mathfrak{A} -modules given below.

For a finite dimensional \mathfrak{A} -module

$$V = \left[\begin{array}{ccccc} & & A_- & & \\ & \curvearrowright & & \curvearrowleft & \\ V_- & & V_* & & V_+ \\ & \curvearrowleft & & \curvearrowright & \\ & & B_- & & B_+ \end{array} \right] \quad (2.3)$$

we put: $C_{\pm} := B_{\pm}A_{\pm}$ and $C_* = A_+B_+ = A_-B_-$. Let m_{\pm} and m_* be the nilpotency degrees of the endomorphisms C_{\pm} and C_* , respectively, i.e. $C_*^{m_*+1} = 0$ but $C_*^{m_*} \neq 0$ etc., whereas

$$\underline{\dim}(V) = (\dim(V_-), \dim(V_*), \dim(V_+)) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^3$$

is the dimension vector of V .

A cyclic \mathfrak{A} -module V has *type* $i \in \{+, -, *\}$ if there exists an epimorphism $P_i \twoheadrightarrow V$.

Theorem 2.5. *Let V be a cyclic \mathfrak{A} -module of type $i \in \{+, -, *\}$. Then its isomorphism class is uniquely determined by the corresponding dimension vector $\underline{\dim}(V)$. For $d \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$, the possibilities are as follows:*

(I) *Cyclic modules of type “*”. Possible dimension vectors are:*

- (a) $(d, d+1, d)$,
- (b) $(d+1, d+1, d+1)$,
- (c) $(d, d+1, d+1)$,
- (d) $(d+1, d+1, d)$.

For all these representations we have: $m_ = d+1$.*

(II) *Cyclic modules of type “+”. Possible dimension vectors are:*

- (a) $(d, d, d+1)$,
- (b) $(d, d+1, d+1)$,
- (c) $(d+1, d+1, d+1)$,
- (d) $(d-1, d, d+1)$ (it exists only for $d \geq 1$).

For these cyclic modules we have: $m_+ = d+1$.

(III) A description of the cyclic modules of type “–” is symmetric to those given in (II). Specifically, possible dimension vectors are:

- (a) $(d+1, d, d)$,
- (b) $(d+1, d+1, d)$,
- (c) $(d+1, d+1, d+1)$,
- (d) $(d+1, d, d-1)$ (it exists only for $d \geq 1$).

For these cyclic modules we have: $m_- = d+1$.

Proof. Let V be a cyclic \mathfrak{A} -module and $P \xrightarrow{\pi} V$ be its projective cover. Consider the short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow N \xrightarrow{i} P \xrightarrow{\pi} V \longrightarrow 0.$$

Note that P is free viewed as a \mathfrak{D} -module. Since \mathfrak{D} is a principal ideal domain and N is a \mathfrak{D} -submodule of P , N is free over \mathfrak{D} as well and thus is an \mathfrak{A} -lattice. As V is a \mathfrak{D} -module of finite length, we have:

$$\mathfrak{K} \otimes N \cong \mathfrak{K} \otimes P \cong U := \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{K} \\ \mathfrak{K} \\ \mathfrak{K} \end{pmatrix},$$

where $\mathfrak{K} = \mathbb{C}((t))$. Hence, N is an *indecomposable* \mathfrak{A} -lattice, i.e. $N \in \{P_*, P_\pm, Q\}$. Next, we can view P and N as *subsets* of U . Then we get:

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathfrak{A}}(N, P) = \{a \in \mathfrak{K} : aN \subseteq P\} = \{a \in \mathfrak{D} : aN \subseteq P\}.$$

It follows that any non-zero \mathfrak{A} -module map $N \rightarrow P$ is injective and its cokernel is a cyclic \mathfrak{A} -module. We hence have the following cases, corresponding to the enumeration in the Theorem 2.5.

(I) Cyclic modules of type “*”.

(a) The dimension vector of

$$\mathrm{cok}\left(Q \xrightarrow{t^d} P_*\right) = \mathrm{cok}\left(\begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{D} \\ \mathfrak{D} \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{t^d} \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{D} \\ \mathfrak{D} \\ \mathfrak{D} \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

is $(d, d+1, d)$.

(b) The dimension vector of

$$\mathrm{cok}\left(P_* \xrightarrow{t^{d+1}} P_*\right) = \mathrm{cok}\left(\begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{D} \\ \mathfrak{D} \\ \mathfrak{D} \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{t^{d+1}} \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{D} \\ \mathfrak{D} \\ \mathfrak{D} \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

is $(d+1, d+1, d+1)$.

(c) The dimension vector of

$$\operatorname{cok}\left(P_- \xrightarrow{t^d} P_*\right) = \operatorname{cok}\left(\begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{d} \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{t^d} \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{d} \\ \mathfrak{d} \\ \mathfrak{d} \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

is $(d, d+1, d+1)$.

(d) The dimension vector of

$$\operatorname{cok}\left(P_+ \xrightarrow{t^d} P_*\right) = \operatorname{cok}\left(\begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{d} \\ \mathfrak{m} \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{t^d} \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{d} \\ \mathfrak{d} \\ \mathfrak{d} \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

is $(d+1, d+1, d)$.

(II) (a) The dimension vector of

$$\operatorname{cok}\left(P_* \xrightarrow{t^{d+1}} P_+\right) = \operatorname{cok}\left(\begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{d} \\ \mathfrak{d} \\ \mathfrak{d} \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{t^{d+1}} \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{d} \\ \mathfrak{m} \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

is $(d, d, d+1)$.

(b) The dimension vector of

$$\operatorname{cok}\left(Q \xrightarrow{t^{d+1}} P_+\right) = \operatorname{cok}\left(\begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{d} \\ \mathfrak{d} \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{t^{d+1}} \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{d} \\ \mathfrak{m} \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

is $(d, d+1, d+1)$.

(c) The dimension vector of

$$\operatorname{cok}\left(P_+ \xrightarrow{t^{d+1}} P_+\right) = \operatorname{cok}\left(\begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{d} \\ \mathfrak{d} \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{t^{d+1}} \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{d} \\ \mathfrak{d} \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

is $(d+1, d+1, d+1)$.

(d) The dimension vector of

$$\operatorname{cok}\left(P_- \xrightarrow{t^d} P_+\right) = \operatorname{cok}\left(\begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{d} \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{t^d} \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{d} \\ \mathfrak{m} \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

is $(d-1, d, d+1)$ with $d \geq 1$.

The assertion about the nilpotency degrees m_{\pm} and m_* follows from the observation that C_* (respectively, C_{\pm}) is a nilpotent Jordan block of size $\dim(V_*)$ (respectively, $\dim(V_{\pm})$). \square

Remark 2.6. Theorem 2.5 asserts that cyclic \mathfrak{A} -modules are determined by purely “discrete data”: their types and dimension vectors. It is not true in general, even in the case of arbitrary nodal orders. For example, let $\mathfrak{N} = \mathbb{C}[[x, y]]/(xy)$. Then for $n, m \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ and

$\lambda \in \mathbb{C}^*$ the module $V_{(m,n,\lambda)} = \mathfrak{A}/(x^m - \lambda y^n)$ is cyclic. However, $V_{(m,n,\lambda)} \cong V_{(m',n',\lambda')}$ if and only if $(m, n, \lambda) = (m', n', \lambda')$.

Remark 2.7. The problem of the classification of *all* indecomposable finite dimensional \mathfrak{A} -modules was posed by I. Gelfand in [25]. In 1973 Nazarova and Roiter proved that $\text{Rep}(\mathfrak{A})$ is representation tame, reducing the problem of the description of its indecomposable objects to a certain problem of linear algebra (matrix problem). However, the correct combinatorics of indecomposables was obtained only in 1988 by Bondarenko [4,5]. Independently and about the same time, Crawley-Boevey gave another solution of Gelfand's problem using a completely different approach [17]. In 2004 Burban and Drozd proved that the derived category $D^b(\text{Rep}(\mathfrak{A}))$ is also representation tame and gave an explicit description of the corresponding indecomposable complexes of projective modules [15]. See also [26] for further elaborations of this approach.

Remark 2.8. Since \mathfrak{B} is a hereditary order, any indecomposable finite dimensional \mathfrak{B} -module is cyclic; see for instance [19]. Let

$$V = \left[\begin{array}{ccc} & & \\ & \xrightarrow{A_+} & \\ V_- & & V_+ \\ & \xleftarrow{A_-} & \\ & & \end{array} \right]$$

be a nilpotent representation of (1.8). We put: $C_{\pm} := A_{\mp}A_{\pm}$. Let m_{\pm} be the nilpotency degree of C_{\pm} and $\underline{\dim}(V) = (\dim(V_-), \dim(V_+))$ the dimension vector of V . Let

$$e_+ = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathfrak{B} \quad \text{and} \quad e_- = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathfrak{B}.$$

We put:

$$P_+ = \mathfrak{B}e_+ \cong \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{A} \\ \mathfrak{A} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad P_- = \mathfrak{B}e_- \cong \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{A} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Cyclic \mathfrak{B} -modules are up to isomorphism characterized by their types and dimension vectors. Let $d \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$.

(I) Cyclic modules of type “+” are the following.

(a) The dimension vector of

$$\text{cok}\left(P_- \xrightarrow{t^d} P_+\right) = \text{cok}\left(\begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{m} \\ \mathfrak{A} \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{t^d} \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{A} \\ \mathfrak{A} \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

is $(d, d+1)$.

(b) The dimension vector of

$$\operatorname{cok}\left(P_+ \xrightarrow{t^d} P_+\right) = \operatorname{cok}\left(\begin{pmatrix} m \\ d \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{t^{d+1}} \begin{pmatrix} d \\ d \end{pmatrix}\right)$$

is $(d+1, d+1)$.

For both types of cyclic modules we have: $m_+ = d+1$.

(II) The classification of cyclic \mathfrak{B} -modules of type “−” is analogous.

3. From polyharmonic Maaß forms to quiver representations

We describe and classify quiver representations associated to polyharmonic weak Maaß forms and provide in each case of the classification polyharmonic weak Maaß forms in all possible weights that yield the relevant quiver representation. The classification is done in Section 3.3 by linking it to the classification of cyclic quiver representations from Section 2. Our modular realizations are given in Section 5.

The representation theoretic labels that arise in Section 2 do not match the ones for harmonic Maaß forms that appeared in work of Bringmann–Kudla [7]. We provide a translation in Section 3.5.

3.1. Polyharmonic Maaß forms

The group $G = \operatorname{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ acts on the upper half-plane $\mathbb{H} = \{\tau = x + iy \in \mathbb{C} : \operatorname{Im}(\tau) > 0\}$ by Möbius transformations:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \tau = \frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}.$$

For $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, we obtain the weight- k slash action on functions $f : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ defined by

$$(f|_k g)(\tau) = (c\tau + d)^{-k} f(g\tau), \quad g = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \operatorname{SL}_2(\mathbb{R}).$$

Given $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, we consider the weight- k Maaß lowering and raising operators

$$L_k = -2iy^2 \partial_{\bar{\tau}} \quad \text{and} \quad R_k = 2i\partial_{\tau} + ky^{-1},$$

and the Maaß–Laplace operator

$$\Delta_k = -y^2(\partial_x^2 + \partial_y^2) + iky(\partial_x + i\partial_y) = -R_{k-2}L_k = -(L_{k+2}R_k + k), \quad (3.1)$$

acting on the space of smooth functions on \mathbb{H} . We also define iterated versions of the lowering and raising operators by

$$L_k^j = L_{k-2(j-1)} \circ \cdots \circ L_{k-2} \circ L_k \quad \text{and} \quad R_k^j = R_{k+2(j-1)} \circ \cdots \circ R_{k+2} \circ R_k.$$

For $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\leq 0}$, we define the *flipping operator*

$$F_k f = \frac{y^{-k}}{(-k)!} \overline{R_k^{-k} f}. \quad (3.2)$$

Closely related to this, we record that for all functions f on \mathbb{H} and all $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, $\gamma \in \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$, we have

$$y^k \overline{(f|_k \gamma)} = (y^k \overline{f})|_{-k} \gamma. \quad (3.3)$$

Definition 3.1. Let $\Gamma \subset \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ be a finite index subgroup and $\rho : \Gamma \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(V(\rho))$ a representation on a finite dimensional, complex vector space $V(\rho)$. We call a smooth function $f : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow V(\rho)$ a polyharmonic weak Maaß form for ρ of weight $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and depth $d \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$, if

- (i) $f|_k \gamma = \rho(\gamma)f$ for all $\gamma \in \Gamma$,
- (ii) $\Delta_k^{d+1} f = 0$,
- (iii) $\|(f|_k \gamma)(\tau)\| \ll \exp(ay)$ as $y \rightarrow \infty$ for some $a \in \mathbb{R}$, some norm $\|\cdot\|$ on $V(\rho)$, and all $\gamma \in \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$.

The space of such functions will be denoted by $H_k^{(d)}(\rho)$. If ρ is the trivial representation, we may instead write $H_k^{(d)}(\Gamma)$. We say that a nonzero $f \in H_k^{(d)}(\rho)$ has exact depth d if $d = 0$ or if $f \notin H_k^{(d-1)}(\rho)$.

Remark 3.2. In analogy with the scalar-valued harmonic case, the first and third condition are compatible with products: Given polyharmonic weak Maaß forms f and g of weights k_1 and k_2 for representations ρ_1 and ρ_2 , the tensor product yields a function $f \otimes g$ that satisfies the first condition of Definition 3.1 for weight $k_1 + k_2$ and the representation $\rho_1 \otimes \rho_2$, and the third one holds as well.

The second condition in Definition 3.1, however, is generally not compatible with products, which leads us to our considerations in Section 4.5.

Remark 3.3. In their seminal work [13] Bruinier and Funke introduced the notion of harmonic weak Maaß forms for finite index subgroups of $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ and its metaplectic cover (in our notation these are the forms of exact depth $d = 0$).

Remark 3.4. Lagarias–Rhoades [29] investigated the space of polyharmonic Maaß forms and showed that the Taylor coefficients of certain Eisenstein series can be used to build bases for these spaces. Their results were refined by Matsusaka [30] to apply to spaces of polyharmonic weak Maaß forms (i.e. forms that satisfy a growth condition as in (iii) as opposed to a polynomial growth condition that Maaß forms satisfy).

Example 3.5. Following Verdier [33] Bringmann and Kudla introduce certain vector-valued harmonic weak Maaß forms in [7]. We let $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ and set $m = -k$. By Pol_m

we denote the space of polynomials of degree at most m in the variable X . The group $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ acts on Pol_m via

$$(\rho_m(\gamma)p)(X) = (-cX + a)^m p\left(\frac{dX - b}{-cX + a}\right), \quad \gamma = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let $r \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $0 \leq r \leq m$ and define

$$\mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r}(\tau)(X) = \frac{(-1)^{m-r}}{r!} y^{r-m} (X - \tau)^r (X - \bar{\tau})^{m-r}.$$

For $\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ we then have

$$\mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r}(\gamma\tau) = (c\tau + d)^{m-2r} \rho_m(\gamma) \mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r}(\tau),$$

that is $\mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r}$ has weight $m - 2r$. The holomorphic function $\mathfrak{e}_{m,0}$ is a harmonic weak Maaß form of weight $-m$ and type ρ_m .

The functions $\mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r}$ in Example 3.5 behave as follows under the lowering and raising operators:

$$L_{m-2r} \mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} = (r+1)(m-r) \mathfrak{e}_{r+1,m-r-1}, \quad R_{m-2r} \mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} = \mathfrak{e}_{r-1,m-r+1}. \quad (3.4)$$

In particular, $L_{-m} \mathfrak{e}_{m,0} = 0$ and $R_m \mathfrak{e}_{0,m} = 0$. For later reference we also note that

$$\Delta_{m-2r} \mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} = -(r+1)(m-r) \mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} \quad (3.5)$$

and

$$y^{m-2r} \overline{\mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r}} = \frac{(-1)^m (m-r)!}{r!} \mathfrak{e}_{m-r,r}. \quad (3.6)$$

Finally, we note that the behavior of the functions in Example 3.5 under the flipping operator is

$$F_{-m} \mathfrak{e}_{m,0} = (-1)^m \mathfrak{e}_{m,0}. \quad (3.7)$$

3.2. Automorphic forms

The map $G/K \rightarrow \mathbb{H}, [g] \mapsto gi$ is an isomorphism of real manifolds and K is the stabilizer of the point $i \in \mathbb{H}$. This allows us to lift polyharmonic weak Maaß forms to “weak” automorphic forms.

Recall the setting of Definition 3.1. We associate to $f \in H_k^{(d)}(\rho)$ a smooth function

$$\varphi_f : G \rightarrow V(\rho), \quad g \mapsto (f|_k g)(i). \quad (3.8)$$

We see that φ_f satisfies the following properties:

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_f(hg) &= \rho(h)(\varphi_f(g)) \quad \text{for all } h \in \Gamma \text{ and } g \in G; \\ \varphi_f(gk_\theta) &= \exp(ik\theta) \varphi_f(g) \quad \text{for all } g \in G \text{ and } \theta \in \mathbb{R},\end{aligned}\tag{3.9}$$

where $k_\theta = \exp(i\theta H) \in K$ is given in (1.3). The second relation in (3.9) implies that we have $H\varphi_f = k\varphi_f$. Further, the condition $\Delta_k^{d+1} f = 0$ in Definition 3.1 translates to

$$(C - (k^2 - 2k))^{d+1} \varphi_f = 0,\tag{3.10}$$

where C is the Casimir element in (1.2), which generates $\mathfrak{z} \subset U(\mathfrak{g})$.

Consider the vector space

$$\mathcal{A}(G, \Gamma, \rho) := \left\{ \mathbb{H} \xrightarrow{\varphi} W : \begin{array}{l} \varphi(hg) = \rho(h)(\varphi(g)) \text{ for all } h \in \Gamma, g \in G, \\ \varphi \text{ is } K\text{-finite and } \mathfrak{z}\text{-finite} \end{array} \right\}.\tag{3.11}$$

The space $\mathcal{A}(G, \Gamma, (W, \rho))$ is naturally a (\mathfrak{g}, K) -module and for any $f \in H_k^{(d)}(\rho)$ we have: $\varphi_f \in \mathcal{A}(G, \Gamma, \rho)$.

Remark 3.6. Compared to the definition of the space of automorphic forms the space in (3.11) lacks an (exponential) growth condition mirroring the one in Definition 3.1. Since we are merely interested in (\mathfrak{g}, K) -submodules that are generated by φ_f for $f \in H_k^{(d)}(\rho)$, this does not affect our further discussion.

3.3. Harish-Chandra modules and quiver representations

We continue to work in the setting of Definition 3.1. We attach to a function $f \in H_k(\rho)$ the Harish-Chandra module $M(\varphi_f) \subset \mathcal{A}(G, \Gamma, \rho)$ generated by the function φ_f .

Let

$$\gamma = k^2 - 2k = (k - 1)^2 - 1.$$

We define $l \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ according to the following cases:

$$\begin{aligned}l &= 1 - k, & \text{if } k < 1; \\ l &= 0 = 1 - k = k - 1, & \text{if } k = 1; \\ l &= k - 1, & \text{if } k > 1.\end{aligned}\tag{3.12}$$

With this notion, we have $\gamma = l^2 - 1$ and $M(\varphi_f) \in \text{HC}_l(\mathfrak{g}, K)$. We assume that $f \neq 0$ has exact depth d . Then $d + 1 \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ is the nilpotency degree of f with respect to Δ_k .

Our next goal is to characterize the quiver representation $\mathbb{E}(M(\varphi_f))$.

Theorem 3.7. *For any nonzero $f \in H_k^{(d)}(\rho)$ of exact depth d , the corresponding quiver representation $V_f := \mathbb{E}(M(\varphi_f))$ is cyclic. In particular, the Harish-Chandra module $M(\varphi_f)$ is indecomposable.*

Proof. First note that

$$M(\varphi_f) = \langle X^{a_1} Y^{b_1} \dots X^{a_s} Y^{b_s} \varphi_f \mid s \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}, a_1, \dots, a_s, b_1, \dots, b_s \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \rangle_{\mathbb{C}}. \quad (3.13)$$

Recall that for any $k \neq 1$ we have an equivalence of categories $\mathrm{HC}_l(\mathfrak{g}, K) \xrightarrow{\mathbb{E}} \mathrm{Rep}(\mathfrak{A})$, where \mathfrak{A} is the Gelfand quiver (1.9).

Consider the case $k < 1$. Then $l = 1 - k$. We claim that V_f is a cyclic \mathfrak{A} -module of type $*$. To show this, we use the description of the functor \mathbb{E} given in Theorem 1.9. Let

$$V_f = \left[\begin{array}{ccccc} & & & & \\ & & A_- & & \\ & & \curvearrowright & & \\ V_- & & & V_* & \xleftarrow{A_+} & V_+ \\ & & \curvearrowleft & & \\ & & B_- & & \\ & & & B_+ & \end{array} \right] = \left[\begin{array}{ccccc} & & & & \\ & & X_- & & \\ & & \curvearrowright & & \\ M_{-l-1} & & & M_{-l+1} & \xrightarrow{X_+ X_*} & M_{l+1} \\ & & \curvearrowleft & & \\ & & Y_- & & \\ & & & X_*^{-1} Y_+ & \end{array} \right].$$

We have the following identifications: $A_- = X_-$, $B_- = Y_-$ and $B_+ = X_+ X_*$. Recall that $A_- B_- = C_* = A_+ B_+$. It follows from (3.13), the identities (1.5) and the fact that C is central in $U(\mathfrak{g})$ that the following statements are true:

$$V_* = \mathrm{span}_{\mathbb{C}} \{ C_*^n \varphi_f \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \} \quad \text{and} \quad V_{\pm} = \mathrm{span}_{\mathbb{C}} \{ B_{\pm} C_*^n \varphi_f \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \}. \quad (3.14)$$

Now let us view $\mathrm{Rep}(\mathfrak{A})$ as the category of finite dimensional modules over the \mathbb{C} -algebra \mathfrak{A} given by (1.7). Let e_* be the primitive idempotent corresponding to the vertex $*$ of the Gelfand quiver; see (2.1). Note that for any $W \in \mathrm{Ob}(\mathrm{Rep}(\mathfrak{A}))$, we have an isomorphism of complex vector spaces

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathfrak{A}}(\mathfrak{A}e_*, W) \cong e_* W = W_*,$$

which assigns to a homomorphism $\mathfrak{A}e_* \xrightarrow{\vartheta} W$ the element $\vartheta(e_*) \in W_*$.

Consider now the homomorphism of \mathfrak{A} -modules $\mathfrak{A}e_* \xrightarrow{\xi} V_f$ which is determined by the condition $\xi(e_*) = \varphi_f \in M_{-l+1} = V_*$. It follows from \mathfrak{A} -linearity of ξ and the description (3.14) of the vector spaces V_* and V_{\pm} that ξ is an epimorphism. As a consequence, V_f is cyclic of type $*$, as asserted. Moreover, the nilpotency degree $d+1$ of f is equal to m_* (which is the nilpotency degree of C_*). Since \mathbb{E} is an equivalence of categories, the Harish-Chandra module $M(\varphi_f)$ is indecomposable.

The case $k > 1$ is analogous. We have: $k = l + 1$ and V_f is a cyclic \mathfrak{A} -module of type $+$. We have: $\varphi_f \in V_+$ and $d+1 = m_+$ is the nilpotency degree of the endomorphism $C_+ = B_+ A_+$.

The case $k = 1$ is exceptional since in this case we have an equivalence of categories $\mathrm{HC}_0(\mathfrak{g}, K) \xrightarrow{\mathbb{E}} \mathrm{Rep}(\mathfrak{B})$, where \mathfrak{B} is given by (1.8). In this case

$$V_f = \left[\begin{array}{ccc} & \xrightarrow{Z_+} & \\ V_- & & V_+ \\ & \xleftarrow{Z_-} & \end{array} \right] = \left[\begin{array}{ccc} & \xrightarrow{X} & \\ M_{-1} & & M_1 \\ & \xleftarrow{Y} & \end{array} \right]$$

is a cyclic representation of \mathfrak{B} of type $+$ and $d + 1 = m_+$ is the nilpotency degree of $C_+ := Z_+Z_-$. \square

Remark 3.8. It is not true in general that a \mathfrak{g} -module generated by a cyclic vector is automatically indecomposable.⁴ Indeed, let U and U' be two non-isomorphic finite dimensional simple representations of \mathfrak{g} . Then there are precisely two non-trivial \mathfrak{g} -submodules of $U \oplus U'$: $\{(u, 0) \mid u \in U\}$ and $\{(0, u') \mid u' \in U'\}$ (this statement follows easily from the fact any finite dimensional \mathfrak{g} -module is a direct sum of simple ones and there are no non-zero morphisms between non-isomorphic simple representations). As a consequence, for any $0 \neq u \in U$ and $0 \neq u' \in U'$ the vector $(u, u') \in U \oplus U'$ is cyclic.

3.4. Classification by representation theoretic labels

Let $f \in H^{(d)}(\rho)$ be a polyharmonic form of weight $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and exact depth d . Recall the operators $C_* = A_-B_-$ and $C_+ = Z_+Z_-$ from the proof of Theorem 3.7. The correspondence between the Harish-Chandra module $M(\varphi_f)$ and the cyclic quiver representation $V_f = \mathbb{E}(M(\varphi_f))$ classified in Theorem 2.5 and Remark 2.8 is as follows. Labels prefixed with G stand for representations of the Gelfand quiver, and those prefixed with C stand for representations of the cyclic quiver.

(GI) Let $k < 1$. Then V_f be a cyclic representation of \mathfrak{A} of type “ $*$ ” and $m_* = d + 1$.

Writing $\psi_f := C_*^d(\varphi_f)$ we have the following cases:

- (a) V_f has type **GIa** if $Y_- \psi_f = 0$ and $X_+ X_* \psi_f = 0$.
- (b) V_f has type **GIb** if $Y_- \psi_f \neq 0$ and $X_+ X_* \psi_f \neq 0$.
- (c) V_f has type **GIc** if $Y_- \psi_f = 0$ but $X_+ X_* \psi_f \neq 0$.
- (d) V_f has type **GIId** if $Y_- \psi_f \neq 0$ and $X_+ X_* \psi_f = 0$.

(GII) Let $k > 1$. Then V_f be a cyclic representation of \mathfrak{A} of type “ $+$ ” and $m_+ = d + 1$.

- (1) Assume that $d = 0$. We have the following cases:

⁴ The second-named author is grateful to Volodymyr Mazorchuk for drawing his attention to this fact.

- (a) V_f has type **GIla** if $Y_+\varphi_f = 0$.
 - (b) V_f has type **GIlb** if $Y_+\varphi_f \neq 0$ but $Y_-Y_*Y_+\varphi_f = 0$.
 - (c) V_f has type **GIlc** if $Y_-Y_*Y_+\varphi_f \neq 0$.
 - (d) Type **GIId** does not occur for $d = 0$.
- (2) Assume that $d \geq 1$. Writing $\psi_f := C_*^{d-1}Y_+\varphi_f$, where we note that $X_+\psi_f = C_+^d\varphi_f \neq 0$, we have the following cases:
- (a) V_f has type **GIla** if $Y_-Y_*\psi_f \neq 0$ and $C_*\psi_f = 0$.
 - (b) V_f has type **GIlb** if $Y_-Y_*\psi_f \neq 0$, $C_*\psi_f \neq 0$, and $Y_-Y_*C_*\psi_f = 0$.
 - (c) V_f has type **GIlc** if $Y_-Y_*\psi_f \neq 0$ and $Y_-Y_*C_*\psi_f \neq 0$.
 - (d) V_f has type **GIId** if $Y_-Y_*\psi_f = 0$.
- (CI) Let $k = 1$. Then V_f is a cyclic representation of \mathfrak{B} of type “+” and $d = m_+ + 1$. Writing $\psi_f := C_+^d\varphi_f$ we have the following cases:
- (a) V_f has type **CIa** if $Y\psi_f = 0$.
 - (b) V_f has type **CIb** if $Y\psi_f \neq 0$.

3.5. Classification by BK-style labels

The classification in Section 3.4 matches with the one obtained by Bringmann and Kudla in Theorem 5.2 of [7] in the case $d = 0$. However, the labels, which are natural from the point of view of representation theory, do not agree with the ones of Bringmann–Kudla, which are natural from the perspective of modular forms. Table 1 provides a translation between them. In higher depth we encounter an additional Case IIId, which corresponds to the representation theoretic Case GIId.

Let $f \in H^{(d)}(\rho)$ be a polyharmonic form of weight $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and exact depth d . The Harish-Chandra module $M(\varphi_f)$ as in Section 3.4 is classified using the labels of Bringmann–Kudla as follows:

- (I) $k < 1$.
 - (Ia) $L\Delta^d f = 0$ and $R^{1-k}\Delta^d f = 0$.
 - (Ib) $L\Delta^d f = 0$ and $R^{1-k}\Delta^d f \neq 0$.
 - (Ic) $L\Delta^d f \neq 0$ and $R^{1-k}\Delta^d f = 0$.
 - (Id) $L\Delta^d f \neq 0$ and $R^{1-k}\Delta^d f \neq 0$.
- (II) $k = 1$.
 - (IIa) $L\Delta^d f = 0$.
 - (IIb) $L\Delta^d f \neq 0$.

(III) $k > 1$.

(IIIa) $L^k \Delta^{d-1} f \neq 0$, if $d \geq 1$, and $L \Delta^d f = 0$.

(IIIb) $L \Delta^d f \neq 0$ and $L^k \Delta^d f = 0$.

(IIIc) $L^k \Delta^d f \neq 0$.

(IIId) $d \geq 1$ and $L^k \Delta^{d-1} f = 0$.

To translate the classification in Section 3.4, it suffices to recall the notation in (1.10) and (1.16). The operators X and Y restricted to M_k yield nonzero multiples of L_k and R_k . In Cases IIIb and IIIc, we have removed extraneous conditions. For example, in Case IIIc $L^k \Delta^d f \neq 0$ implies $L^k \Delta^{d-1} f \neq 0$, which is therefore omitted.

Table 1

Translation between labels assigned by Bringmann–Kudla and representation theoretic labels emerging in Section 2, including page references to their modular and representation theoretic realizations.

BK label	Ia	Ib	Ic	Id	IIa	IIb	IIIa	IIIb	IIIc	IIId
mod. form on p.	751	751	752	752	753	753	754	754	754	755
repr. label	GIa	GIc	GIc	GIb	CIa	CIIb	GIIa	GIIb	GIIc	GIIc
repr. on p.	727	728	728	727	729	730	728	728	728	728

4. Construction of spectral derivatives and modular realizations

In this section we give an existence theorem for spectral derivatives. In particular, we employ our theorem in Section 5 to provide examples that realize all possible modules that occur in our classification.

4.1. Commutation relations for differential operators

To perform the calculations in Section 4.5, we need several algebraic relations for the Maaß operators. We preserve the subscripts of all operators, but when viewing Δ , L , and R as graded operators they can be suppressed for clarity. In particular, the next relations can be verified by merely using the commutator $[L, R] = -k$, which follows from (3.1) and in which k on the right hand side is viewed as a graded scalar as well. We have the commutator relations for the Laplace operator:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta_{k-2r} L_k^r &= L_k^r (\Delta_k - r(k-r-1)), \\ \Delta_{k+2r} R_k^r &= R_k^r (\Delta_k + r(k+r-1));\end{aligned}\tag{4.1}$$

And for the Maaß lowering and raising operators:

$$\begin{aligned}R_{k-2r} L_k^r &= -L_k^{r-1} (\Delta_k - (r-1)(k-r)), \\ L_{k+2r} R_k^r &= -R_k^{r-1} (\Delta_k + r(k+r-1)).\end{aligned}\tag{4.2}$$

The Bol Identity asserts that for an integer $k \leq 0$ and a weight- k harmonic function f we have

$$R_k^{1-k} f = (2\pi\partial_\tau)^{1-k} f. \quad (4.3)$$

A straightforward calculation shows that for smooth functions f and g and integers k_1, k_2 we have

$$\Delta_{k_1+k_2}(f \cdot g) = (\Delta_{k_1} f) \cdot g + f \cdot (\Delta_{k_2} g) - (R_{k_1} f) \cdot (L_{k_2} g) - (L_{k_1} f) \cdot (R_{k_2} g). \quad (4.4)$$

Proposition 4.1. *The intertwining relations for the flipping operator and the Maaß operators, $k \leq 0$, are*

$$\begin{aligned} L_k F_k \Delta_k &= -(k-2)(k-1) F_{k-2} L_k, \\ -k(k+1) R_k F_k &= F_{k+2} R_k (\Delta_k + k). \end{aligned} \quad (4.5)$$

Proof. We begin with the first identity and evaluate by a short calculation

$$L_k \frac{y^{-k}}{(-k)!} \overline{R_k^{-k} \Delta_k f} = \frac{y^{2-k}}{(-k)!} \overline{R_k^{-k+1} \Delta_k f}.$$

Now we write $\Delta_k = -R_{k-2} L_k$ and see

$$\frac{y^{-k+2}}{(-k)!} \overline{R_k^{-k+1} \Delta_k f} = \frac{-y^{-k+2}}{(-k)!} \overline{R_k^{-k+1} R_{k-2} L_k f} = -(-k+2)(-k+1) F_{k-2} L_k f.$$

For the second identity we calculate

$$R_k F_k f = \frac{y^{-k-2}}{(-k)!} \overline{L_{-k} R_k^{-k} f}.$$

Then we use (4.1) and obtain

$$\frac{y^{-k-2}}{(-k)!} \overline{R_k^{-k-1} (\Delta_k - k(k-k-1)) f} = \frac{-1}{(-k)(-k-1)} F_{k+2} R_k (\Delta_k + k) f. \quad \square$$

Proposition 4.2. *We have*

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_k F_k &= F_k \Delta_k, \\ F_k F_k &= \frac{(-1)^{-k}}{(-k)!^2} (\Delta_k + 1k) (\Delta_k + 2(k+1)) \cdots (\Delta_k + (-k)(-1)). \end{aligned} \quad (4.6)$$

Proof. For the first identity we write $f = \Delta_k g$ locally and use both identities in (4.5) as well as (4.1) to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta_k F_k f &= -R_{k-2} L_k F_k \Delta_k g = R_{k-2} (k-2)(k-1) F_{k-2} L_k g \\
&= \frac{-(k-2)(k-1)}{(k-2)(k-1)} F_k R_{k-2} (\Delta_{k-2} + k-2) L_k g \\
&= -F_k (\Delta_k - k + 2 + k-2) R_{k-2} L_k g = F_k \Delta_k^2 g = F_k \Delta_k f.
\end{aligned}$$

For the second identity we use that for any real-analytic function g we have the identity

$$R_k(y^{-k} \overline{R_{-k-2}g}) = y^{-k-2} \overline{(\Delta_{-k-2} + k+2)g}.$$

A repeated application of this identity yields the result. \square

Remark 4.3. To maintain the algebraic perspective of Section 3 on polyharmonic Maaß forms, we can lift the flipping operator to the automorphic forms as remarked on page 1738 of [7]:

$$\phi_{F_k} f = \frac{1}{(-k)!} \overline{X^{-k} \phi_f}.$$

Then Propositions 4.1 and 4.2 can be verified by a Lie algebra computation. This drastically reduces the calculation required for (4.5) and the first relation in (4.6).

A direct calculation shows that for smooth functions f we have

$$L_k F_k f = \frac{y^{2-k}}{(-k)!} \overline{R_k^{1-k} f}. \quad (4.7)$$

As a consequence of Proposition 4.2 if $\Delta_k f = 0$, we have $F_k F_k f = f$ and, compare for example with Proposition 5.14 of [6],

$$R_k^{1-k} F_k f = (-k)! y^{k-2} \overline{L_k f}. \quad (4.8)$$

4.2. Eisenstein and Poincaré series

In this section we revisit some Eisenstein and Poincaré series that we will later use as an input for spectral families when constructing examples of polyharmonic Maaß forms. Let $\Gamma_\infty \subset \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ be the subgroup of upper triangular matrices.

We first define the Eisenstein series of weight $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. Let $s \in \mathbb{C}$ with $\mathrm{Re}(s) > 1 - \frac{k}{2}$. Then we set

$$E_k(\tau, s) = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_\infty \backslash \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})} y^s|_k \gamma. \quad (4.9)$$

Via analytic continuation $E_k(\tau, s)$ extends to all $s \in \mathbb{C}$ except for possible simple poles. We set $E_k(\tau) = E_k(\tau, 0)$. The Maaß lowering and raising operators act as

$$\begin{aligned} L_k E_k(\tau, s) &= s E_{k-2}(\tau, s+1), \\ R_k E_k(\tau, s) &= (s+k) E_{k+2}(\tau, s-1). \end{aligned} \quad (4.10)$$

In particular, we have $\Delta_k E_k(\tau, s) = s(1-k-s)E_k(\tau, s)$. Moreover, we have

$$y^k \overline{E_k(\cdot, s)} = E_{-k}(\cdot, \bar{s} + k). \quad (4.11)$$

Now we recall some facts on Poincaré series with exponential growth at the cusps following [12]. We let $M_{\nu, \mu}(z)$ and $W_{\nu, \mu}(z)$ denote the usual Whittaker functions (see p. 190 of [1]). For integers k and $m \neq 0$, $\tau = x + iy \in \mathbb{H}$, and $s \in \mathbb{C}$ with $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 1$, we define

$$\begin{aligned} F_{k,m}(z, s) &= \\ \frac{1}{2\Gamma(2s)} \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_\infty \backslash \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})} &\left((-\operatorname{sgn}(m))^{1-k} (4\pi|m|y)^{-\frac{k}{2}} M_{\operatorname{sgn}(m)\frac{k}{2}, s-\frac{1}{2}}(4\pi|m|y) e(mx) \right) \Big|_k \gamma. \end{aligned} \quad (4.12)$$

This Poincaré series converges for $\operatorname{Re}(s) > 1$ and is an eigenfunction of Δ_k with eigenvalue $s(1-s) + (k^2 - 2k)/4$.

We recall its behavior under the Maaß raising and lowering operators.

Proposition 4.4. *We have*

$$\begin{aligned} R_k F_{k,m}(\tau, s) &= 4\pi|m| \left(s + \frac{k}{2}\right) F_{k+2,m}(\tau, s), \\ L_k F_{k,m}(\tau, s) &= \frac{1}{4\pi|m|} \left(s - \frac{k}{2}\right) F_{k-2,m}(\tau, s). \end{aligned} \quad (4.13)$$

Proof. Since L_k and R_k commute with the slash operator, it suffices to show the identity on the corresponding Whittaker functions. We use equations (13.4.10), (13.4.11) and (13.1.32) in [1] which imply the desired identity. Note that parts of these identities were already proven in [14] and [2]. \square

Proposition 4.5. *Complex conjugation yields*

$$y^k \overline{F_{k,m}(\tau, s)} = (-1)^{1-k} (4\pi|m|)^{-k} F_{-k,-m}(\tau, \bar{s}). \quad (4.14)$$

Proof. We have

$$\begin{aligned} &y^k \overline{\left(\frac{1}{2\Gamma(2s)} (-\operatorname{sgn}(m))^{1-k} (4\pi|m|y)^{-\frac{k}{2}} M_{\operatorname{sgn}(m)\frac{k}{2}, s-\frac{1}{2}}(4\pi|m|y) e(mx) \right)} \Big|_k \gamma \\ &= y^k \frac{1}{2\Gamma(2\bar{s})} (-\operatorname{sgn}(m))^{1-k} (4\pi|m|\operatorname{Im}(\gamma\tau))^{-\frac{k}{2}} \\ &\quad \times M_{\operatorname{sgn}(m)\frac{k}{2}, \bar{s}-\frac{1}{2}}(4\pi|m|\operatorname{Im}(\gamma\tau)) e(-m\operatorname{Re}(\gamma\tau))(c\bar{\tau} + d)^{-k}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that $\operatorname{Im}(\gamma\tau) = y(c\tau + d)^{-1}(c\bar{\tau} + d)^{-1}$. A short calculation then yields the desired result. \square

We also recall the existence of spectral families of Poincaré series (compare [11] and [32]).

Proposition 4.6. *Let f be a harmonic weak Maaß form of weight $k \leq 0$. There exists an open neighborhood U in \mathbb{C} of $1 - k/2$ and a holomorphic family of functions $(f_s)_{s \in U}$ on \mathbb{H} , where f_s is a weak Maaß form of weight k of eigenvalue $s(1 - s) + (k^2 - 2k)/4$, and $f_{1-k/2} = f$.*

4.3. Derivatives of spectral families: constant weight

Differentials of spectral families are one tool to provide higher depth Maaß forms. We briefly revisit the case of fixed weight for comparison with the later approach that allows us to change the weight. Prototypical f_s that fit into the following setup are provided by Eisenstein series and Poincaré series.

Lemma 4.7. *Let k be an integer, and $U \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ be an open neighborhood of 0. Given functions $f_s : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow V$ for a complex vector space V that are smooth in s and τ , we assume that for all $\tau \in \mathbb{H}$ and $s \in U$ we have*

$$\Delta_k f_s = s(1 - k - s)f_s.$$

Then with

$$f^{(d)} := (\partial_s^d f_s)_{s=0}$$

we have

$$\Delta_k f^{(d)} = d(1 - k) f^{(d-1)} - d(d - 1) f^{(d-2)}. \quad (4.15)$$

Proof. Since $f_s(\tau)$ is smooth in s and τ , then ∂_s and Δ_k , which is a differential operator with respect to τ , intertwine. For simplicity, we set $\partial_s^d f_s = 0$ if $d < 0$. By the product rule, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_k \partial_s^d f_s &= \partial_s^d \Delta_k f_s = \partial_s^d s(1 - k - s)f_s \\ &= s(1 - k - s) \partial_s^d f_s + d(1 - k - 2s) \partial_s^{d-1} f_s - d(d - 1) \partial_s^{d-2} f_s. \end{aligned}$$

Inserting $s = 0$ yields the statement. \square

We can employ this lemma to produce polyharmonic Maaß forms from spectral families. More specifically, we obtain a preimage of $f^{(0)}$ under Δ_k^d . Note that the case $k = 1$ requires special treatment.

Corollary 4.8. *Let k and $f^{(d)}$ be as in Lemma 4.7. Then*

$$\Delta_k^d \frac{1}{d!(1-k)^d} f^{(d)} = f^{(0)}, \quad \text{if } k \neq 1; \quad \Delta_k^d \frac{(-1)^d}{(2d)!} f^{(2d)} = f^{(0)}, \quad \text{if } k = 1.$$

4.4. Altering weights of harmonic Maaß forms

The construction of polyharmonic Maaß forms in Section 4.3 preserves the weight k of f_s . We next derive a formalism that allows us to produce polyharmonic Maaß forms of weight $k \pm m$ for $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ by extending the approach of Section 4.3.

Lemma 4.9. *Let k and $m \geq 0$ be integers, and consider a smooth function $f : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow V$ for a complex vector space V . We assume that $\Delta_k f = \alpha f$ for some $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$.*

Writing for integers $0 \leq r \leq m$

$$f_{L,r} := \mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} L_k^{m-r} f \quad \text{and} \quad f_{R,r} := \mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} R_k^r f$$

and $f_{L,r} = f_{R,r} = 0$ for $r < 0$ and $r > m$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{k-m} f_{L,r} &= (\alpha + (m-r)(m-2r-k)) f_{L,r} \\ &\quad - f_{L,r-1} + (r+1)(m-r)(\alpha + (m-r-1)(m-r-k)) f_{L,r+1}, \\ \Delta_{k+m} f_{R,r} &= (\alpha - r(m-2r-k) - m) f_{R,r} \\ &\quad + (\alpha + r(r-1+k)) f_{R,r-1} - (r+1)(m-r) f_{R,r+1}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. We will apply (4.4) and simplify the contributions arising from the first two terms. To this end, recall from (3.5) the Laplace eigenvalues $-(r+1)(m-r)$ of $\mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r}$. From (4.1), we find that

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{k+2m-2r} L_k^{m-r} f &= (\alpha + (m-r)(m-r-k+1)) L_k^{m-r} f, \\ \Delta_{k+2r} R_k^r f &= (\alpha + r(r-1+k)) R_k^r f. \end{aligned}$$

The images of $\mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r}$ under the Maaß operators are given in (3.4). Finally, we obtain from (4.2) that

$$\begin{aligned} -R_{k-2m+2r} L_k^{m-r} f &= (\alpha - (m-r-1)(m-r-k)) L_k^{m-r-1} f, \\ -L_{k-2r} R_k^r f &= (\alpha - r(r-1+k)) R_k^{r-1} f. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Proposition 4.10. *Given a harmonic weak Maaß form f of weight k and a non-negative integer $m \geq k$, set*

$$f_L = \sum_{r=0}^{\min\{m,m-k\}} \frac{1}{(m-r)!(m-r-k)!} \mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} L_k^{m-r} f.$$

If $m < k$, then set

$$f_L = \sum_{r=0}^m \frac{1}{(m-r)!(1-k)_{m-r}} \mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} L^{m-r} f,$$

where $(a)_r = a(a+1) \cdots (a+r-1)$ is the Pochhammer symbol.

We have $\Delta_{k-m} f_L = 0$. Further, if $f_L \neq 0$ then any linear combination of the functions $\mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} L^{m-r} f$ that vanishes under Δ_{k-m} is a scalar multiple of f_L .

Proof. The case $m = 0$ is vacuous, and we thus can and will assume that m is positive. To shorten notation, we adopt the notation $f_{L,r}$ from Lemma 4.9, write c_r for the coefficient of $f_{L,r}$ in the definition of f_L , and write c'_r for the coefficient of $f_{L,r}$ in $\Delta_{k-m} f_L$. We will use repeatedly that for $r < \min\{m, m-k\}$ if $m \geq k$ and for $0 \leq r < m$ if $m < k$ we have

$$c_{r+1} = (m-r)(m-r-k)c_r.$$

We apply Lemma 4.9 with $\alpha = 0$ and the recursion equation for c_r to find that for $0 \leq r < \min\{m, m-k\}$ if $m \geq k$ and for $0 \leq r < m$ if $m < k$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} c'_r &= (m-r)(m-2r-k)c_r - c_{r+1} \\ &\quad + (r-1+1)(m-r+1)(m-r+1-1)(m-r+1-k)c_{r-1} \\ &= \left(\frac{m-2r-k}{m-r-k} - 1 + \frac{r}{m-r-k} \right) c_{r+1} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

We need a case distinction to check the remaining coefficients c'_r . If $m = k$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} c'_0 &= (m-0)(m-0-k)c_0 = 0 \quad \text{and} \\ c'_1 &= (0+1)(m-0)(m-0-1)(m-0-k)c_0 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

If $m \neq k$, we have

$$c'_0 = (m-0)(m-0-k)c_0 - c_1 = (1-1)c_1 = 0$$

by the recursion for c_r . Still assuming that $m \neq k$, we have for $r = \min\{m, m-k\}$ if $m \geq k$ and $r = m$ if $m < k$ that

$$\begin{aligned} c'_r &= (m-r)(m-2r-k)c_r \\ &\quad + (r-1+1)(m-r+1)(m-r+1-1)(m-r+1-k)c_{r-1} \\ &= ((m-r)(m-2r-k) + r(m-r))c_r = (m-r-k)c_r = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Finally, we consider $m > k > 0$, in which case we have for $r = m - k + 1$

$$c'_r = (r-1+1)(m-r+1)(m-r+1-1)(m-r+1-k)c_{r-1} = 0.$$

This shows that $\Delta_{k-m} f_L$ vanishes.

To prove the second part of the proposition, we consider the vector space

$$\mathcal{F} = \text{span } \mathbb{C} \{ \mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} L^{m-r} f : 0 \leq r \leq m \},$$

which by Lemma 4.9 with $\alpha = 0$ carries an action of Δ_{k-m} . Also from Lemma 4.9 and the contribution of $\Delta_{k-m} f_{L,r}$ to $f_{L,r-1}$ stated there, we see that Δ_{k-m} yields a surjective map from \mathcal{F} to $\mathcal{F}/\mathbb{C}\mathfrak{e}_{m,0}f$. In particular, its kernel has dimension at most 1 and is thus spanned by f_L if $f_L \neq 0$. \square

Example 4.11. The vector-valued modular form $\mathfrak{e}_{m,0}$ of weight $-m$ from Example 3.5 that appears in case I(a) of Bringmann–Kudla’s classification matches the case $k = 0$ for the constant modular form $f = 1$ of Proposition 4.12. Note that $L^{m-r}1 = 0$ for $0 \leq r < m$.

Proposition 4.12. *Given a harmonic weak Maaß form f of weight k and an integer $m > -k$, set*

$$f_R = \sum_{r=\max\{0,1-k\}}^m \frac{1}{(m-r)!(r+k-1)!} \mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} R_k^r f.$$

If $m \leq -k$, set

$$f_R = \sum_{r=0}^m \frac{1}{(m-r)!(k)_r} \mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} R_k^r f,$$

where $(a)_r$ is the Pochhammer symbol as in Proposition 4.10.

We have $\Delta_{k+m} f_R = 0$. Further, if $f_R \neq 0$ then any linear combination of the $\mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} R_k^r f$ that vanishes under Δ_{k+m} is a scalar multiple of f_R .

Proof. The proof is analogous to the one of Proposition 4.10. We write c_r for the coefficient of $f_{R,r}$ in the definition of f_R , and write c'_r for the coefficient of $f_{R,r}$ in $\Delta_{k+m} f_R$, and obtain the relation

$$(r+k)c_{r+1} = (m-r)c_r$$

for the nonzero coefficient of $\mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} R_k^r f$ in f_R .

Lemma 4.7 with $\alpha = 0$ yields that for $0 < r < \min\{m, 1-k\}$ if $m > -k$ and for $0 < r < m$ if $m \leq -k$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} c'_r &= (-r(m-2r-k)-m)c_r + (r+1)(r+k)c_{r+1} - r(m-r+1)c_{r-1} \\ &= (-r(m-2r-k)-m)c_r + (r+1)(m-r)c_r - r(r-1+k)c_r = 0. \end{aligned}$$

The special cases for $r = 0$, $r = 1 - k$, $r = -k$, and $r = m$ follow the same pattern.

To see that Δ_{k+m} is a linear transformation of rank at least m on

$$\mathcal{F} = \text{span } \mathbb{C} \{ \mathbf{e}_{r,m-r} R^r f : 0 \leq r \leq m \},$$

we note that it is surjective onto $\mathcal{F}/\mathbb{C}\mathbf{e}_{0,m}f$ by inspection of the contribution of $f_{R,r}$ to $f_{R,r+1}$ in Lemma 4.9. \square

Example 4.13. The vector-valued Eisenstein series of weight $2 + m$ in case III(b) of Bringmann–Kudla’s classification matches the case $k = 2$ of Proposition 4.12. In (6.10) of [7] they consider

$$\sum_{r=0}^m \frac{m!}{(r+1)!(m-r)!} \mathbf{e}_{r,m-r} R^r E_2, \quad (4.16)$$

where E_2 is the modular Eisenstein series of weight 2 and level 1.

4.5. Derivatives of spectral families: altering weight

In preparation to the construction of polyharmonic Maaß forms, we consider the action of the Laplace operator on spectral families.

Lemma 4.14. *Let k and $m \geq 0$ be integers, and $U \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ be an open neighborhood of 0. Given functions $f_s : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow V$ for a complex vector space V that are smooth in s and τ , we assume that for all $\tau \in \mathbb{H}$ and $s \in U$ we have*

$$\Delta_k f_s = s(1 - k - s)f_s.$$

We set

$$f_{L,r}^{(d)} := \left(\partial_s^d \mathbf{e}_{r,m-r} L_k^{m-r} f_s \right)_{s=0} \quad \text{and} \quad f_{R,r}^{(d)} := \left(\partial_s^d \mathbf{e}_{r,m-r} R_k^r f_s \right)_{s=0},$$

and if $d < 0$, $r < 0$, or $r > m$ set $f_{L,r}^{(d)} = f_{R,r}^{(d)} = 0$. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{k-m} f_{L,r}^{(d)} &= (m-r)(m-2r-k) f_{L,r}^{(d)} \\ &\quad - f_{L,r-1}^{(d)} + (r+1)(m-r)(m-r-1)(m-r-k) f_{L,r+1}^{(d)} \\ &\quad + d(1-k) f_{L,r}^{(d-1)} + d(r+1)(m-r)(1-k) f_{L,r+1}^{(d-1)} \\ &\quad - d(d-1) f_{L,r}^{(d-2)} - d(d-1)(r+1)(m-r) f_{L,r+1}^{(d-2)}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta_{k+m} f_{R,r}^{(d)} = & - (r(m-2r-k) + m) f_{R,r}^{(d)} \\
& + r(r-1+k) f_{R,r-1}^{(d)} - (r+1)(m-r) f_{R,r+1}^{(d)} \\
& + d(1-k) f_{R,r}^{(d-1)} + d(1-k) f_{R,r-1}^{(d-1)} \\
& - d(d-1) f_{R,r}^{(d-2)} - d(d-1) f_{R,r-1}^{(d-2)}.
\end{aligned}$$

Proof. Since $f_s(\tau)$ is smooth in s and τ , we can intertwine differentials with respect to s and τ . In particular, we can apply Lemma 4.9 to f_s with $\alpha = s(1-k-s)$ to compute

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta_{k-m}(\partial_s^d \mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} L_k^{m-r} f_s) &= \partial_s^d (\Delta_{k-m} \mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} L_k^{m-r} f_s) \quad \text{and} \\
\Delta_{k+m}(\partial_s^d \mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} R_k^r f_s) &= \partial_s^d (\Delta_{k+m} \mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} R_k^r f_s).
\end{aligned}$$

The result follows after simplifying the resulting right hand side in Lemma 4.9 and setting $s = 0$. \square

We are now ready to produce polyharmonic Maaß forms from spectral families.

Theorem 4.15. *Let $U \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ be an open neighborhood of 0, and k and $m \geq 0$ be integers. Given functions $f_s : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow V$ for a complex vector space V that are smooth in s and τ , we assume that for all $\tau \in \mathbb{H}$ and $s \in U$, we have*

$$\Delta_k f_s = s(1-k-s)f_s.$$

For integers $0 \leq r \leq m$ and $d \geq 0$, we write

$$f_{L,r}^{(d)} := \left(\partial_s^d \mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} L_k^{m-r} f_s \right)_{s=0} \quad \text{and} \quad f_{R,r}^{(d)} := \left(\partial_s^d \mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} R_k^r f_s \right)_{s=0},$$

and let f_L and f_R be as in Propositions 4.10 and 4.12.

Assume that $k \leq 0$ or $k-m > 1$. Given an integer $d \geq 0$ there are functions

$$f_L^{(d)} \in \text{span } \mathbb{C} \{ f_{L,r}^{(d-t)} : 0 \leq r \leq m, 0 \leq t \leq d \}$$

with

$$\Delta_{k-m}^d f_L^{(d)} = f_L.$$

Assume that $k > 1$ or $k+m < 1$. Given an integer $d \geq 0$ there are functions

$$f_R^{(d)} \in \text{span } \mathbb{C} \{ f_{R,r}^{(d-t)} : 0 \leq r \leq m, 0 \leq t \leq d \}$$

with

$$\Delta_{k+m}^d f_R^{(d)} = f_R.$$

Proof. The case $m = 0$ follows from Corollary 4.8. We therefore assume that m is positive, and proceed with the following strategy. The cases of $f_L^{(d)}$ and $f_R^{(d)}$ differ only in the last step. We start by identifying the $\mathbb{C}[\Delta_k]$ -modules generated by $f_{L,r}^{(d)}$, $0 \leq r \leq m$, with quotients of $\mathbb{C}[T] \otimes V$ for a fixed complex vector space V of dimension $m+1$, which is independent of d . While this is merely a matter of renormalization, it allows us to relate the functions $f_L^{(d)}$ for varying d to each other. Specifically, it enables us to reformulate the statement of the theorem in terms of generalized eigenvectors. Using the grading with respect to powers of T , we can then reduce our considerations to a problem concerning the interplay of three endomorphisms of V . We solve it by inspection of ranks and images via a coordinate projection. The ideas for $f_R^{(d)}$ remain the same, but in the last step we use an alternating trace instead of a coordinate projection.

We consider the case of f_L . We let $V = \mathbb{C}^{m+1}$ with basis v_0, \dots, v_m and set

$$W_d := (\mathbb{C}[T]/T^{d+1}) \otimes V.$$

These are modules for $R = \mathbb{C}[T] \otimes \text{End}(V)$ with R -module homomorphisms

$$W_d \hookrightarrow W_{d+1}, w \mapsto Tw \quad \text{and} \quad W_{d+1} \twoheadrightarrow W_d, w \mapsto w \pmod{T^{d+1}}.$$

We identify V with W_0 .

The vector space isomorphisms

$$\phi_d : W_d \longrightarrow \text{span } \mathbb{C} \{ f_{L,r}^{(d-t)} : 0 \leq r \leq m, 0 \leq t \leq d \}, T^t v_r \longmapsto \frac{1}{(d-t)!} f_{L,r}^{(d-t)}$$

allow us to reformulate the formula for Δ_{k-m} in Lemma 4.14 as an endomorphism of W_d . Specifically, we have the pullback

$$\phi_d^* \Delta_{k-m} = A + TB + T^2C$$

with linear transformations $A, B, C \in \text{End}(V)$ defined by

$$\begin{aligned} Av_r &= (m-r)(m-2r-k)v_r - v_{r-1} + (r+1)(m-r)(m-r-1)(m-r-k)v_{r+1}, \\ Bv_r &= (1-k)v_r + (r+1)(m-r)(1-k)v_{r+1}, \\ Cv_r &= -v_r - (r+1)(m-r)v_{r+1}, \end{aligned}$$

where we set $v_{-1} = v_{m+1} = 0$ to simplify notation. Since d does not appear in these equations, we conclude that these pullbacks lift to an element Δ of R . We consider Δ as an element of $\text{End}(W_d)$ for any d , depending on the context, and observe it commutes with $W_d \hookrightarrow W_{d+1}$ and $W_{d+1} \twoheadrightarrow W_d$.

Since we assume that $k \leq 0$ or $k > m$, the function f_L defined in Proposition 4.10 receives a contribution from $\mathfrak{e}_{m,0} L^0 f$ and is hence nonzero. Translated to the current notation via ϕ_0 , the same proposition implies that the kernel of Δ on W_0 , that is the

kernel of A , is spanned by the preimage of f_L under ϕ_0 . Up to rescaling it equals a vector $w_0 = \sum_r c_r v_r$, $c_r \in \mathbb{C}$, with $c_m = (1-k)$ and $c_{m-1} = 1$. Note that when referring to c_{m-1} , we use our assumption that $m > 0$. We have $k \neq 1$, since $k \leq 0$ or $k > m$.

From the formula for Av_r with $r = m-1$ and $r = m$, we infer that the image of A is spanned by v_0, \dots, v_{m-1} . Since $w_0 \in \ker A$ receives a nontrivial contribution from v_m , we conclude that $\ker A = \ker A^2$. In other words, the generalized eigenspace of A associated with the eigenvalue zero has dimension one.

The action of Δ on W_d preserves the filtration $W_d \supset TW_{d-1} \supset \dots \supset T^d W_0$. From the expression $\Delta = A + TB + T^2 C$, we see that its action on the associated graded space

$$W_d/TW_{d-1} \oplus TW_{d-1}/T^2 W_{d-2} \oplus \dots \oplus T^d W_0$$

coincides with the action of A . We conclude that zero is an eigenvalue of $\Delta \in \text{End}(W_d)$ with multiplicity $d+1$. For clarity, we recall that the multiplicity of an eigenvalue is the exponent of the corresponding term in the factorization of the characteristic polynomial, while the exact depth is the exponent in the minimal polynomial minus one.

We next show the existence of generalized eigenvectors $w_d \in W_d$ for $\Delta \in \text{End}(W_d)$ of eigenvalue 0 and exact depth d in W_d . We record that this together with the previous multiplicity statement implies that the kernel of $\Delta \in \text{End}(W_d)$ is spanned by $T^d w_0$. Note that the case $d = 0$ follows with $w_0 \in W_0$.

We consider the case $d = 1$. Since $w_0 \in W_0 \hookrightarrow TW_0 \subset W_1$ lies in the kernel of Δ , it suffices to construct a preimage w_1 of $Tw_0 \in W_1$ under Δ . To this end, we first verify by a calculation that $((m+1-k)-B)w_0$ lies in the image of A , which we recall is spanned by v_0, \dots, v_{m-1} . We have

$$Bw_0 = B(\dots + v_{m-1} + (1-k)v_m) = \dots + (m+1-k)(1-k)v_m.$$

In particular, $((m+1-k)-B)w_0$ lies in the span of v_0, \dots, v_{m-1} as desired. We let \tilde{w}_0 be a preimage under A , and set $w_1 = (w_0 + T\tilde{w}_0)/(m+1-k) \in W_1$. The assumption $k \leq 0$ or $k - m > 1$ guarantees that $m+1-k \neq 0$, i.e. w_1 is well-defined.

We have

$$\Delta \frac{w_0 + T\tilde{w}_0}{m+1-k} \equiv \frac{(A+TB)(w_0 + T\tilde{w}_0)}{m+1-k} \equiv \frac{T(Bw_0 + A\tilde{w}_0)}{m+1-k} \equiv Tw_0 \pmod{T^2}.$$

That is, w_1 is indeed a preimage of Tw_0 and thus a generalized eigenvector of exact depth 1.

Now by induction on $d \geq 2$, we assume that the desired vector w_{d-1} exists. We recall that $\Delta \in \text{End}(W_{d-1})$ has eigenvalue 0 with multiplicity d . We record that this in conjunction with the depth of w_{d-1} implies that the kernel of $\Delta^{d-1} \in \text{End}(W_{d-1})$ is contained in TW_{d-2} .

We will now show that every $v \in W_d$ with $\Delta^d v = 0$ lies in $TW_{d-1} \subset W_d$. By contraposition, we suppose that there were $v \in W_d \setminus TW_{d-1}$ with $\Delta^d v = 0$. Then $v \pmod{T}$

in W_d/TW_{d-1} , i.e., the 0-th coefficient of v with respect to T , is nonzero, but lies in the kernel of Δ^d . Since Δ acts on $W_d/TW_{d-1} \cong W_0$ as A and since $\ker A = \ker A^d$ is spanned by w_0 , the 0-th coefficient of v is a nonzero multiple of w_0 . That is, after rescaling v we can assume that

$$v = (m+1-k)w_0 + \sum_{i=1}^d T^i v_i.$$

We next consider $v \pmod{T^2}$ in $W_d/T^2W_{d-2} \cong W_1$. Recall that the generalized eigenspace of $\Delta \in \text{End}(W_1)$ associated with the eigenvalue 0 is 2-dimensional and spanned by the vectors Tw_0 and w_1 . By matching coefficients of v_0 , we thus find that $v \equiv w_1 + Tcw_0 \pmod{T^2}$ for some $c \in \mathbb{C}$, and $\Delta v \equiv Tw_0 \pmod{T^2}$.

Since $\Delta^d v = 0$ by assumption, we see that $\Delta v \in TW_{d-1}$ lies in the kernel of Δ^{d-1} . We recorded before that the kernel of Δ^{d-1} acting on W_{d-1} is contained in TW_{d-2} . Since further $TW_{d-1} \cong W_{d-1}$ as $\mathbb{C}[\Delta]$ -modules, we conclude that $\Delta v \in T^2W_{d-2}$. This implies that $\Delta v \equiv 0 \pmod{T^2}$, a contradiction.

We have shown by contradiction that the kernel Δ^d acting on W_d is contained in TW_{d-1} and thus has dimension d by the multiplicity statement for the eigenvalue 0 of Δ acting on the associated graded module. By the same multiplicity statement and the fact that A has one-dimensional kernel on W_d/TW_{d-1} , we conclude that there is a generalized eigenvector $w_d \in W_d$ for Δ of exact depth $d+1$. Its image under ϕ_d yields $f_L^{(d)}$. This finishes the proof in the case of f_L .

In the case of f_R , we follow the same pattern with

$$\phi_d : W_d \longrightarrow \text{span } \mathbb{C} \{ f_{R,r}^{(d-t)} : 0 \leq r \leq m, 0 \leq t \leq d \}, T^t v_r \longmapsto \frac{1}{(d-t)!} f_{R,r}^{(d-t)}$$

and $\Delta = A + TB + T^2C \equiv \phi_d^* \Delta_{k+m}$, where

$$Av_r = -(r(m-2r-k) + m)v_r + r(r-1+k)v_{r-1} - (r+1)(m-r)v_{r+1},$$

$$Bv_r = (1-k)v_r + (1-k)v_{r-1},$$

$$Cv_r = -v_r - v_{r-1}.$$

The image of A consists of all vectors $v = \sum c_r v_r$ with vanishing alternating trace

$$\widetilde{\text{tr}}(v) := \sum (-1)^r c_r.$$

Proposition 4.12 provides an element w_0 in the kernel of A . We want to verify that w_0 does not lie in the image of A , that is, $\widetilde{\text{tr}}(w_0) \neq 0$. In the case $k \leq -m$, we have $k < 0$ and $\widetilde{\text{tr}}(w_0) \neq 0$ follows from the inspection of the expression for f_R in Proposition 4.12, since the coefficients of w_0 with respect to v_0, \dots, v_{m+1} have alternating sign. We consider the case $k > 1$, which implies $m > -k$. Then we need to check that the following expression does not vanish:

$$\widetilde{\mathrm{tr}}(w_0) = \sum_{r=0}^m \frac{(-1)^r}{(m-r)!(r+k-1)!}.$$

We multiply by $(-1)^{k-1}(m+k-1)!$ and shift r by $k-1$ to obtain a tail of the binomial expansion of $0 = (1-1)^{m+k-1}$:

$$\sum_{r=k-1}^{m+k-1} \binom{m+k-1}{r} (-1)^r = - \sum_{r=0}^{k-1} \binom{m+k-1}{r} (-1)^r.$$

If $2m \leq m+k-1$, the summands on the left hand side have monotone absolute value, otherwise the ones on the right hand side do. We conclude that the sum is nonzero as desired by grouping successive terms.

To finish the proof, we show the existence of generalized eigenvectors $w_d \in W_d$ as before. We can choose

$$w_1 = \frac{\widetilde{\mathrm{tr}}(w_0)(w_0 - T\widetilde{w}_0)}{(1-k)c_0},$$

where \widetilde{w}_0 is a preimage under A of $((1-k)c_0/\widetilde{\mathrm{tr}}(w_0) - B)w_0$ and $w_0 = \sum c_r v_r$. The inductive proof of the existence of w_d for $d \geq 2$ follows the same line as before. \square

Remark 4.16. The maps $W_{d-1} \hookrightarrow W_d$ and $W_d \twoheadrightarrow W_{d-1}$ can be used to iteratively determine the vectors w_d . More specifically, w_0 is given by Propositions 4.10 and 4.12. Further, for $d \geq 1$ we have $w_d \equiv w_{d-1} \pmod{T^d}$ and Δw_d lies in the span of $T^t w_{d-t}$ for $1 \leq t \leq d$. That is, we can set $w_d = w_{d-1} + T^d v$ for some $v \in V$ that is unique up to scalar multiples of w_0 , and determine Av uniquely from

$$\Delta w_{d-1} + T^d Av \in \mathrm{img} \Delta \cap \mathrm{span} \mathbb{C}\{T^t w_{d-t} : 1 \leq t \leq d\}.$$

Note that in this step we use $\mathrm{img} A \cap \ker A = \{0\}$.

5. Modular realizations

We next provide modular realizations for each representation that we found in Section 3.4 by providing the correct input to Corollary 4.8 and Theorem 4.15. Both require a spectral family f_s . We primarily use spectral families that specialize at $s = 0$ to the modular realizations provided by Bringmann–Kudla in the case of $d = 0$. Case IIId, which does not occur for $d = 0$, can be constructed from Case Ib.

Many of the examples in this section are products of functions that are modular co-variant. Note that by the remark following Definition 3.1 both the modular co-variance and the growth condition on polyharmonic weak Maaß forms are compatible with products. Our application of Theorem 4.15 then ensures that the products that we encounter in this section are also polyharmonic.

We calculated the examples in this section via an implementation of Remark 4.16 in the computer algebra system Nemo [23]. The code is available on the third named author's homepage. We use the notation

$$\begin{aligned} E_{k,s_0}^{(d)}(\tau) &= (\partial_s^d E_k(\tau, s))_{s=s_0}, & E_k^{(d)}(\tau) &= E_{k,0}^{(d)}(\tau), \\ P_{k,n,s_0}^{(d)}(\tau) &= (\partial_s^d F_{k,n}(\tau, 1 - \frac{k}{2} - s))_{s=s_0}, & P_{k,n}^{(d)}(\tau) &= P_{k,n,0}^{(d)}(\tau). \end{aligned} \quad (5.1)$$

The primary purpose of our implementation is to determine linear combinations of these functions that fall under Cases Ia–IIIId.

The cases in this section are labeled in a compatible way with Bringmann–Kudla; See Table 1 for a translation between these labels and the representation theoretic labels that we employed in Section 3.4.

5.1. Case Ia

We provide a polyharmonic weak Maaß form f of exact depth d and weight $k < 1$ with $L_k \Delta_k^d f = 0$ and $R_k^{1-k} \Delta_k^d f = 0$.

The case of $k = 0$ and $d = 0$ is classical: We have the modular form $f(\tau) = 1$, which vanishes under L_0 and R_0 . Bringmann and Kudla extended this to all $k \leq 0$ via a vector-valued construction, which also falls under the scope of Proposition 4.10. Specifically, we have a modular form $\mathfrak{e}_{-k,0}$ of weight $k \leq 0$ that vanishes under L_k and R_k^{1-k} by (3.4).

Theorem 4.15 gives the existence of preimages of $\mathfrak{e}_{-k,0}$ under Δ_k^d when setting $f_s = E_0(\cdot, s)$, $m = -k$, and $k = 0$.

Example 5.1. We obtain a modular realization $f^{(2)}$ of this case in weight -3 and depth 2 using pure Nemo code with $f^{(0)} = \Delta_{-3}^2 f^{(2)}$ given by

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{72} \mathfrak{e}_{0,3} L^3 E_0^{(2)} + \frac{1}{8} \mathfrak{e}_{1,2} L^2 E_0^{(2)} + \frac{1}{2} \mathfrak{e}_{2,1} L^1 E_0^{(2)} + \frac{1}{2} \mathfrak{e}_{3,0} E_0^{(2)} \\ & + \frac{11}{216} \mathfrak{e}_{0,3} L^3 E_0^{(1)} + \frac{3}{8} \mathfrak{e}_{1,2} L^2 E_0^{(1)} + \mathfrak{e}_{2,1} L^1 E_0^{(1)} \\ & = \frac{1}{2} \mathfrak{e}_{3,0} E_{0,0}^{(2)} + \frac{1}{18} \mathfrak{e}_{0,3} E_{-6,3}^{(1)} + \frac{1}{4} \mathfrak{e}_{1,2} E_{-4,2}^{(1)} + \mathfrak{e}_{2,1} E_{-2,1}^{(1)} \\ & + \frac{5}{27} \mathfrak{e}_{0,3} E_{-6,3}^{(0)} + \frac{5}{8} \mathfrak{e}_{1,2} E_{-4,2}^{(0)} + \mathfrak{e}_{2,1} E_{-2,1}^{(0)}. \end{aligned}$$

5.2. Case Ib

We provide a polyharmonic weak Maaß form f of exact depth d and weight $k < 1$ with $L_k \Delta_k^d f = 0$, and $R_k^{1-k} \Delta_k^d f \neq 0$.

Bringmann–Kudla realized Case Ib for $d = 0$ in terms of weakly holomorphic modular forms (excluding constants in weight $k = 0$). Indeed, a weakly holomorphic modular form f with nonzero principal part behaves as required under L_k and R_k^{1-k} . We can

obtain further modular realizations $\mathfrak{e}_{m,0}f$ in depth 0 and weight $k - m$ by Proposition 4.10 for such f and a non-negative integer m . Indeed, we have $L\mathfrak{e}_{m,0}f = \mathfrak{e}_{m,0}Lf = 0$ and $R^{1-k+m}\mathfrak{e}_{m,0}f$ can be written as a linear combination $\sum_r c_r \mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} R^{1-k-r}f$, $c_r \in \mathbb{C}$, with nonzero c_0 . Since we have $\mathfrak{e}_{0,m} R^{1-k}f \neq 0$ by the Bol Identity, we conclude that $R^{1-k+m}\mathfrak{e}_{m,0}f \neq 0$.

Given such a weakly holomorphic modular form f there is a holomorphic family f_s , $s \in \mathbb{C}$, with $f = f_0$ and $\Delta f_s = s(1 - s - k)f_s$ after substituting $1 - \frac{k}{2} - s$ for s in Proposition 4.6. This family can be explicitly constructed via Poincaré series. The desired modular realization of Case Ib therefore exists for all $k \leq 0$ by Corollary 4.8 applied to this family f_s and given k . The vector-valued generalizations $\mathfrak{e}_{m,0}f_s$ give rise to preimages under Δ^d of $\mathfrak{e}_{m,0}f$ by Theorem 4.15 applied to f_s , k , and m .

5.3. Case Ic

We provide a polyharmonic weak Maaß form f of exact depth d and weight $k < 1$ with $L_k \Delta_k^d f \neq 0$, and $R_k^{1-k} \Delta_k^d f = 0$.

Recall the flipping operator from (3.2). Given a polyharmonic Maaß form of exact depth d and weight k that realizes Case Ib, $F_k f$ realizes Case Ic in the same depth and weight. The depth of f and $F_k f$ coincides by the commutator relation in (4.6). We apply Equations (4.8) and (4.7) to find that

$$L_k \Delta_k^d F_k f = L_k F_k \Delta_k^d f = \frac{y^{2-k}}{(-k)!} \overline{R^{1-k} \Delta_k^d f} \neq 0$$

and likewise $R_k^{1-k} \Delta_k^d F_k f = 0$.

5.4. Case Id

We provide a polyharmonic weak Maaß form f of exact depth d and weight $k < 1$ with $L_k \Delta_k^d f \neq 0$, and $R_k^{1-k} \Delta_k^d f \neq 0$.

As in the work of Bringmann–Kudla, we can obtain this form from polyharmonic weak Maaß forms f_{Ib} and f_{Ic} that realize Cases Ib and Ic. Then $f = f_{\text{Ib}} + f_{\text{Ic}}$ is harmonic of depth d and satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} L_k \Delta_k^d f &= L_k \Delta_k^d f_{\text{Ib}} + L_k \Delta_k^d f_{\text{Ic}} = L_k \Delta_k^d f_{\text{Ic}} \neq 0, \\ R_k \Delta_k^d f &= R_k \Delta_k^d f_{\text{Ib}} + R_k \Delta_k^d f_{\text{Ic}} = R_k \Delta_k^d f_{\text{Ib}} \neq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Another construction is given by Eisenstein series. Recall that $E_k(\cdot, 1-k)$ is harmonic. We have $L E_k(\cdot, 1-k) = E_{k-2}(\cdot, -k) \neq 0$ and $R_k^{1-k} E_k(\cdot, 1-k) = (1-k)! E_{2-k} \neq 0$ by (4.10).

For any non-negative integer m , Proposition 4.10 applied to $E_k(\cdot, 1-k)$ yields further realizations in weight $k - m$. If $m \leq -k$, then Proposition 4.12 yields yet further

realizations in weight $k + m$. Note that this includes the choice $m = -k$, which provides modular realizations in weight 0.

If $k < 0$ we obtain modular realizations in weight k and depth d from Corollary 4.8 applied to $E_k(\cdot, 1 - k - s)$. The vector-valued realizations in depth 0 and weight $k \pm m$ arising from $E_k(\cdot, 1 - k)$ via Propositions 4.10 and 4.12, can be extended to higher depth by virtue of Theorem 4.15.

Remark 5.2. The exceptional role of $k = 0$ in Case Id is connected to the realization of Case Ia via $E_0(\cdot, 0)$.

5.5. Case IIa

We provide a polyharmonic weak Maaß form f of exact depth d and weight $k = 1$ with $L_k \Delta_k^d f = 0$.

In analogy with Case Ib, weakly holomorphic modular forms provide modular realizations of Case IIa in depth $d = 0$. Corollary 4.8 in conjunction with Proposition 4.6 allows us to extend them to positive depth. More specifically, given a weakly holomorphic modular form f of weight $k = 1$, as in Case Ib Proposition 4.6 yields a spectral family f_s with $f_0 = f$ and $\Delta_1 f_s = s(1 - 1 - s)f_s = -s^2 f_s$. Note that as opposed to Cases Ia–Id, only even iterated derivatives $(\partial_s^{2d-2t} f_s)_{s=0}$, $0 \leq t \leq d$, of f_s occur when applying Corollary 4.8 to f_s .

5.6. Case IIb

We provide a polyharmonic weak Maaß form f of exact depth d and weight $k = 1$ with $L_k \Delta_k^d f \neq 0$.

Bringmann–Kudla realized depth 0 of Case IIb via incoherent Eisenstein series associated to prime fundamental discriminants $-D < 0$ and the function

$$\phi_D^-\left(\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}\right) = -i\sqrt{D}\left(\frac{-D}{c}\right), \text{ if } \gcd(D, c) = 1; \quad \phi_D^-\left(\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}\right) = \left(\frac{-D}{a}\right), \text{ otherwise,}$$

where $(-D/c)$ is the quadratic symbol. In the next definition, the normalization of s differs from the one in [7] in order to obtain a spectral family that satisfies the usual eigenvalue equation $\Delta_1 E_D^-(\tau, s) = s(1 - 1 - s)E_D^-(\tau, s) = -s^2 E_D^-(\tau, s)$:

$$E_D^-(\tau, s) := \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_\infty \backslash \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})} \phi_D^-(\gamma) y^s|_1 \gamma.$$

Since $E_D^-(\tau, s)$ vanishes at $s = 0$, the next definition features the exponent $d + 1$ as opposed to d . We set

$$E_D^{-(d)}(\tau) := (\partial_s^{d+1} E_D^-(\tau))_{s=0}.$$

A modular realization for $d = 0$ is given by $E_D^{-(0)}(\tau)$. We can apply Corollary 4.8 to the spectral family $E_D^-(\cdot, s)/s$ in weight $k = 1$ to obtain modular realizations in positive depth d from linear combinations of $E_D^{-(2d-2t)}$ for $0 \leq t \leq d$.

5.7. Case IIIa

We provide a polyharmonic weak Maaß form f of exact depth d and weight $k > 1$ with $L_k^k \Delta_k^{d-1} f \neq 0$, if $d > 0$, and $L_k \Delta_k^d f = 0$.

A modular realization in depth 0 is provided by holomorphic modular forms. For general d , let f be a modular realization of Case Id in depth $d > 0$ and weight $2 - k$. We claim that then $R_{2-k}^{k-1} f$ is a modular realization of Case IIIa in depth d and weight k . Indeed, by (4.1) and (4.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} L_k \Delta_k^d R_{2-k}^{k-1} f &= L_k R_{2-k}^{k-1} \Delta_{2-k}^d f = -R_{2-k}^{k-2} \Delta_{2-k}^{d+1} f = 0, \\ L_k^k \Delta_k^{d-1} R_{2-k}^{k-1} f &= L_k^k R_{2-k}^{k-1} \Delta_{2-k}^{d-1} f = (k-1)!(k-2)! L_{2-k} \Delta_{2-k}^d f \neq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Remark 5.3. A spectral deformation of holomorphic cusp forms can be achieved directly via Theorem 4.15 applied to the Poincaré series in Theorem 3.1 and 3.4 of [22].

5.8. Case IIIb

We provide a polyharmonic weak Maaß form f of exact depth d and weight $k > 1$ with $L_k \Delta_k^d f \neq 0$ and $L_k^k \Delta_k^d f = 0$.

A modular realization in depth 0 and weight 2 is given by the weight-2 Eisenstein series E_2 . We have $L E_2 = \frac{3}{\pi} \neq 0$ and $L^2 E_2 = 0$ as required. For any positive integer m Proposition 4.12 applied to E_2 yields a modular realization in weight $2 + m$, which has already appeared in the work of Bringmann–Kudla:

$$\sum_{r=0}^m \frac{1}{(m-r)!(r+1)!} \mathfrak{e}_{r,m-r} R_2^r E_2.$$

We employ Theorem 4.15 to the spectral family $E_2(\cdot, s)$ of weight $k = 2$ and any non-negative integer m to obtain modular realization of given depth d and weight $2 + m$.

5.9. Case IIIc

We provide a polyharmonic weak Maaß form f of exact depth d and weight $k > 1$ with $L_k^k \Delta_k^d f \neq 0$.

Bringmann–Kudla utilized Poincaré series to provide a modular realization. They fit, more generally, in the following framework. Let f be a modular realization of Case Ic in depth $d + 1$ and weight $2 - k$. We claim that then $R_{2-k}^{k-1} f$ is a modular realization of

Case IIIc in depth d and weight k . Similar to the treatment of Case IIIa, we employ (4.1) and (4.2) to find that if $d > 0$ then

$$\begin{aligned} L_k^k \Delta_k^d R_{2-k}^{k-1} f &= L_k^k R_{2-k}^{k-1} \Delta_{2-k}^d f = (k-1)!(k-2)! L_k \Delta_{2-k}^{d+1} f \neq 0, \\ \Delta_k^{d+1} R_{2-k}^{k-1} f &= R_{2-k}^{k-1} \Delta_{2-k}^{d+1} f = 0. \end{aligned}$$

5.10. Case III d

We provide a polyharmonic weak Maaß form f of exact depth $d > 0$ and weight $k > 1$ with $L^k \Delta^{d-1} f = 0$. Recall that this case does not appear in depth 0 and thus is absent from the classification of Bringmann–Kudla.

Let f be a modular realization of Case Ib in depth $d+1$ and weight $2-k$. We claim that then $R_{2-k}^{k-1} f$ is a modular realization of Case III d in depth d and weight k . Repeating the computation of Case IIIc based on (4.1) and (4.2), we confirm that

$$\begin{aligned} L_k^k \Delta_k^{d-1} R_{2-k}^{k-1} f &= L_k^k R_{2-k}^{k-1} \Delta_{2-k}^{d-1} f = (k-1)!(k-2)! L_{2-k} \Delta_{2-k}^d f = 0, \\ \Delta_k^d R_{2-k}^{k-1} f &= R_{2-k}^{k-1} \Delta_{2-k}^d f \neq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Observe that the first equality also implies that $R_{2-k}^{k-1} f$ vanishes under Δ_k^{d+1} .

Data availability

No data was used for the research described in the article.

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