JOURNAL OF THE
CHUNGCHEONG MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY
Volume **29**, No. 3, August 2016
http://dx.doi.org/10.14403/jcms.2016.29.3.509

STUDY ON THE ARITHMETIC OF MODULAR FORMS

SoYoung Choi*

Abstract. By constructing a canonical basis for the space $M_k^\sharp(\Gamma_0(N))$ explicitly, we find a basis of the space of cusp forms for $\Gamma_0(N)$ consisting of Poincaré series.

1. Introduction and statement of results

We assume that k is an even integer and $N > 1$ is a positive integer not a prime for which the genus of a Hecke group $\Gamma_0(N)$ is zero, that is,

$$N \in \{4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 16, 18, 25\}.$$

Let $M_k(\Gamma_0(N))$ (resp. $S_k(\Gamma_0(N))$ be the vector space of holomorphic modular forms (resp. cusp forms) for $\Gamma_0(N)$ and $M_k^\sharp(\Gamma_0(N))$ be the space of weakly holomorphic modular forms of weight k for $\Gamma_0(N)$ that are holomorphic away from the cusp at infinity.

The classical Poincaré series at ∞, $P(m, k, N; z)$ are defined by

$$P(m, k, N; z) := \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma_\infty \backslash \Gamma_0(N)} \frac{e^{2\pi i m \gamma z}}{(cz + d)^k},$$

for $m \in \mathbb{N}$, $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $k > 2$. Here $\Gamma_\infty = \{\pm \left(\begin{smallmatrix} 1 & n \\ 0 & 1 \end{smallmatrix}\right) \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$. For $m \geq 1$, we know that $P(m, k, N; z) \in S_k(\Gamma_0(N))$ (see [4]). Moreover it is well known in [4] that the set $\{P(m, k, N; z) \mid m \geq 1\}$ spans the space $S_k(\Gamma_0(N))$. Beyond this, little is known about such Poincaré series. For example, Iwaniec in [4] gave two open problems about Poincaré series such as: Since the space $S_k(\Gamma_0(N))$ is finite dimensional, there are many relations among the Poincaré series. Find all the linear relations among Poincaré series and find a basis of $S_k(\Gamma_0(N))$ consisting of the Poincaré series. Recently Rhoades [6] gave a partial answer to the first question.

Received July 06, 2016; Accepted July 29, 2016.
2010 Mathematics Subject Classification: Primary 11F12, 11F11.
Key words and phrases: weakly holomorphic modular form, Poincaré series.
This Work(2015-04-021) was Supported by the Fund for New Professor research foundation Program, Gyeongsang National University, 2015.

In this paper we give an answer to the second question as follows. Let the dimension of $S_k(\Gamma_0(N))$ be t.

THEOREM 1.1. *Let k be an even integer with $k > 2$. We have that $\{P(m,k,N;z) \mid 1 \leq m \leq t\}$ is a basis for the space $S_k(\Gamma_0(N))$.*

REMARK 1.2. For a prime N for which the genus of $\Gamma_0(N)$ is zero, Ahn and Choi in [1] showed that for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $k > 2$, $\{P(m,k,N;z) \mid 1 \leq m \leq t\}$ is a basis for the space $S_k(\Gamma_0(N))$. Moreover, It is well known that $\{P(m,k,1;z) \mid 1 \leq m \leq t\}$ is a basis for the space $S_k(\Gamma_0(1))$.

2. A basis for the space $M_k^\sharp(\Gamma_0(N))$

Let $\Delta_{N,k}(z)$ be the unique normalized modular form of weight k on $\Gamma_0(N)$ with zero of maximum order at ∞. We denote the order of the zero of $\Delta_{N,k}(z)$ at ∞ by $\xi_{N,k}$. Since the genus of $\Gamma_0(N)$ is zero, we have that $\dim M_k(\Gamma_0(N)) = \xi_{N,k} + 1$ if $k \geq 2$.

In particular, we need only the following $\Delta_{N,k}(z)$ (see[3]):

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta_{4,2}(z) &= \frac{\eta^8(4z)}{\eta^4(2z)} = q + O(q^2), \\
\Delta_{6,2}(z) &= \frac{\eta^{12}(6z)\eta^2(z)}{\eta^4(2z)\eta^6(3z)} = q^2 + O(q^3), \\
\Delta_{8,2}(z) &= \frac{\eta^8(8z)}{\eta^4(4z)} = q^2 + O(q^3), \\
\Delta_{9,2}(z) &= \frac{\eta^6(9z)}{\eta^2(3z)} = q^2 + O(q^3), \\
\Delta_{12,2}(z) &= \frac{\eta^{12}(12z)\eta^2(2z)}{\eta^6(6z)\eta^4(4z)} = q^4 + O(q^5), \\
\Delta_{16,2}(z) &= \frac{\eta^8(16z)}{\eta^4(8z)} = q^4 + O(q^5), \\
\Delta_{18,2}(z) &= \frac{\eta^{12}(18z)\eta^2(3z)}{\eta^6(9z)\eta^4(6z)} = q^6 + O(q^7), \\
\Delta_{10,4}(z) &= \frac{\eta^2(z)\eta^{20}(10z)}{\eta^4(2z)\eta^{10}(5z)} = q^6 + O(q^7), \\
\Delta_{25,4}(z) &= \frac{\eta^{10}(25z)}{\eta^2(5z)} = q^{10} + O(q^{11}).
\end{aligned}$$

Here $\eta(z) = q^{\frac{1}{24}} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty}(1-q^n)$. The above modular forms $\Delta_{N,k}(z)$ have no zeros on $\mathbb{H}$ and at all cusps except for ∞. Indeed by easy calculation we obtain

$$\frac{k[\Gamma_0(1):\Gamma_0(N)]}{12} = \xi_{N,k}$$

and hence from the valence formula we have that $\Delta_{N,k}(z)$ has no zero on $\mathbb{H}$ and at all cusps away form the cusp at infinity.

We now find an upper bound of $\mathrm{ord}_\infty f$ for nonzero $f \in M_k^\sharp(\Gamma_0(N))$.

Case I. $N = 4, 6, 8, 12, 16$ and 18. In this case we let $k = 2l_k$. Then we have an isomorphism from $M_k^\sharp(\Gamma_0(N))$ onto $M_0^\sharp(\Gamma_0(N))$ by $f \mapsto f/\Delta_{N,2}^{l_k}$. This implies that for any nonzero $f \in M_k^\sharp(\Gamma_0(N))$ we have $\mathrm{ord}_\infty f \leq \xi_{N,2} l_k$. We denote $\xi_{N,2} l_k$ by $m_{N,k}$.

Case II. $N = 10$ and 25. In this case we let $k = 4l_k + r_k$ with $r_k \in \{0, 2\}$. Then we have an isomorphism from $M_k^\sharp(\Gamma_0(N))$ onto $M_{r_k}^\sharp(\Gamma_0(N))$ by $f \mapsto f/\Delta_{N,4}^{l_k}$. This implies that for any nonzero $f \in M_k^\sharp(\Gamma_0(N))$ we obtain $\mathrm{ord}_\infty f \leq \xi_{N,4} l_k + \xi_{N,r_k}$. We denote $\xi_{N,4} l_k + \xi_{N,r_k}$ by $m_{N,k}$.

Under these notations we have the following theorem.

THEOREM 2.1. *For each integer m such that $-m \leq m_{N,k}$, there exists a unique weakly holomorphic modular form $f_{k,m} \in M_k^\sharp(\Gamma_0(N))$ with a q-expansion of the form*

$$f_{k,m} = q^{-m} + O(q^{m_{N,k}+1}).$$

Explicitly,

$$f_{k,m} = (\Delta_N)^{l_k} \Delta_{N,r_k} F_{k,m+m_{N,k}}(j_N),$$

where $F_{k,D}(x)$ is a monic polynomial in x of degree D and $j_N(z)$ is the Hauptmodul for $\Gamma_0(N)$. Here in the case $N = 4, 6, 8, 12, 16$ and 18, we define $\Delta_{N,r_k} = 1$.

Proof. For convenience let

$$\Delta_N := \begin{cases} \Delta_{N,2}, & \text{if } N = 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 16, 18 \\ \Delta_{N,4} & \text{if } N = 10, 25. \end{cases}$$

We observe that

$$\begin{aligned} (\Delta_N)^{l_k} \Delta_{N,r_k} (j_N)^{m+m_{N,k}} &= q^{-m} + \cdots \\ (\Delta_N)^{l_k} \Delta_{N,r_k} (j_N)^{m+m_{N,k}-1} &= q^{-m+1} + \cdots \\ &\vdots \\ (\Delta_N)^{l_k} \Delta_{N,r_k} &= q^{m_{N,k}} + \cdots \ . \end{aligned}$$

Now $f_{k,m}$ is constructed by taking a suitable linear combination of the above forms. Moreover, since $\mathrm{ord}_\infty f_{k,m} \le m_{N,k}$, a weakly holomorphic modular form $f_{k,m}$ is unique. $\square$

REMARK 2.2. Since the Hauptmoduln j_N has a integral Fourier coefficients at ∞ (see [3]) and we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta_{10,2}(z) &= \frac{1}{24}((5E_2(10z)-E_2(2z))-4(2E_2(10z)-E_2(5z))),\\
\Delta_{25,2}(z) &= \frac{1}{50}(5E_2(5z)-E_2(z))(\frac{1}{2}+\frac{3}{10}\frac{\eta^2(z)}{\eta^2(25z)}+\frac{1}{5}\frac{\eta^2(z)}{\eta^2(25z)}+\frac{1}{25}\frac{\eta^3(z)}{\eta^3(25z)})\\
&\quad -\frac{1}{50}(25E_2(25z)-E_2(z))(\frac{1}{3}+\frac{1}{4}\frac{\eta(z)}{\eta(25z)}+\frac{1}{15}\frac{\eta^2(z)}{\eta^2(25z)}+\frac{1}{150}\frac{\eta^3(z)}{\eta^3(25z)}),
\end{aligned}$$

we come up with that $f_{k,m}$ have integral Fourier coefficients at ∞ except for the case $N = 25$. On the other hand, $f_{k,m}$ have a rational Fourier coefficients at ∞ in the case $N = 25$. Here $E_2(z) = 1 - 24\sum_{n=1}^{\infty}\sigma(n)q^n$ and $\sigma(n) = \sum_{0<d|n} d$.

3. Proof of Theorem 1.1

Proof of Theorem 1.1 We now show that the set $\{P(m,k,N;z) \mid 1 \le m \le t\}$ is a basis for the space $S_k(\Gamma_0(N))$. To do it we need the following property.

PROPOSITION 3.1. *Let $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $k \ge 2$ and I be a finite set of positive integers. Then*

$$\sum_{m\in I}\alpha_m P(m,k,N;z) \equiv 0$$

if and only if there exists a weakly holomorphic modular form $f \in M^\sharp_{2-k}(\Gamma_0(N))$ with principal part at ∞ equal to

$$\sum_{m\in I}\frac{\alpha_m}{m^{k-1}}q^{-m}.$$

Proof. See [6, Theroem 1.1.] $\square$

Let $v_\infty(N)$ be the number of $\Gamma_0(N)$-inequivalent cusp. Then we have (see [5, Theorem 4.2.7 and Theorem 2.5.2])

$$v_\infty(N) = \sum_{0<d|N}\phi((d,N/d)) \tag{3.1}$$

and

$$\text{(3.2)} \qquad \dim M_k(\Gamma_0(N)) = \dim S_k(\Gamma_0(N)) + v_\infty(N) \qquad \text{if } k > 2.$$

Here ϕ is the Euler function.

LEMMA 3.2. $m_{N,2-k} = -t-1$.

Proof. Case I. $N = 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 16$ and 18. From (3.1) we see that $v_\infty(N) - 2 = \xi_{N,2}$. We note that

$$\dim M_k(\Gamma_0(N)) = 1 + \frac{k}{2}(v_\infty(N) - 2).$$

This and (3.2) mean that $t := \dim S_k(\Gamma_0(N)) = (1-l_k)(2-v_\infty(N))-1 = -\xi_{N,2}(1-l_k)-1$. On the other hand, we see that $2-k = 2-2l_k = 2(1-l_k)$ which means that $l_{2-k} = 1-l_k$ and hence $m_{N,2-k} = \xi_{N,2}(1-l_k) = -t-1$.

Case II. $N = 10$ and 25. We note that

$$\dim M_k(\Gamma_0(N)) = -(k-1) + \frac{k}{2}v_\infty(N) + 2[\frac{k}{4}].$$

This and (3.2) mean that

$$t := \dim S_k(\Gamma_0(N)) = \begin{cases} 6l_k + r_k - 3, & N = 10 \\ 10l_k + 2r_k - 5, & N = 25. \end{cases}$$

Because

$$v_\infty(N) = \begin{cases} 4, & N = 10 \\ 6, & N = 25 \end{cases}$$

On the other hand, we see that $2-k = -4l_k + 2 - r_k$ which means that $l_{2-k} = -l_k$ and $r_{2-k} = 2 - r_k$. Hence we obtain that

$$m_{N,2-k} = \xi_{N,4}(-l_k) + \xi_{N,2-r_k} = \begin{cases} -6l_k + 2, & N = 10, r_k = 0 \\ -6l_k, & N = 10, r_k = 2 \\ -10l_k + 4, & N = 25, r_k = 0 \\ -10l_k, & N = 25, r_k = 2, \end{cases}$$

which implies that $m_{N,2-k} = -t-1$. □

We are ready to prove Theorem 1.1. We assume $\alpha_1 P(1,k,N;z) + \alpha_2 P(2,k,N;z) + \cdots + \alpha_t P(t,k,N;z) \equiv 0$. Then by Proposition 3.1 there exists a weakly holomorphic modular form $f \in M_k^\sharp(\Gamma_0(N))$ with principal part at ∞ equal to

$$\sum_{1 \le m \le t} \frac{\alpha_m}{m^{k-1}} q^{-m}.$$

This is a contradiction to the fact that $\mathrm{ord}_\infty f \le m_{N,2-k}$ if f is not zero. Thus $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \cdots = \alpha_t = 0$ which implies Theorem 1.1.

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Department of Mathematics Education and RINS
Gyeongsang National University
Jinju 52828, Republic of Korea
E-mail: mathsoyoung@gnu.ac.kr