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# L-SERIES WITH NON-ZERO CENTRAL CRITICAL VALUE

## Kevin James

Department of Mathematics Pennsylvania State University 218 McAllister Building University Park, Pennsylvania 16802-6401 Phone: 814-865-7527 Fax: 814-865-3735 klj@math.psu.edu

Abstract. Given a cusp form f of even integral weight and its associated L-function L(f,s), we expect that a positive proportion of the quadratic twists of L will have non-zero central critical value. In this paper we give examples of weight two newforms whose associated L-functions have the property that a positive proportion of its quadratic twists have non-zero central critical value.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

Suppose that  $f = \sum_{n \ge 1} a_n(f)q^n$  is a cusp form of weight  $2k \ (k \in \mathbb{N})$ . We denote by L(f,s) the *L*-function of f. For  $\operatorname{Re}(s)$  sufficiently large, the value of L(f,s) is given by  $L(f,s) = \sum_{n\ge 1} \frac{a_n(f)}{n^s}$  and, one can show that L(f,s) has analytic continuation to the entire complex plane. The value of L(f,s) at s = k will be of particular interest to us, and we will refer to this value as the *central critical value* of L(f,s).

Let  $\chi_D$  denote the Dirichlet character associated to the extension  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{D})/\mathbb{Q}$ , that is  $\chi_D(n) = \left(\frac{\Delta_D}{n}\right)$ , where  $\Delta_D$  denotes the discriminant of  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{D})/\mathbb{Q}$ . Define the  $D^{th}$ quadratic twist of f to be  $f_{\chi_D} = \sum_{n\geq 1} a_n(f)\chi_D(n)q^n$ . For any integer D, the L-function of  $f_{\chi_D}$  is the  $D^{th}$  quadratic twist of L(f,s), that is  $L(f_{\chi_D},s) = \sum_{n\geq 1} \frac{a_n(f)\chi_D(n)}{n^s}$ . We will be interested in determining how often  $L(f_{\chi_D},s)$  has nonzero central critical value as D varies over all integers. Since  $\chi_{Dm^2} = \chi_D$ , we will restrict our attention to the squarefree integers D. We expect that as we let D vary over all of the square-free integers, a positive proportion of the L-functions  $L(f_{\chi_D},s)$  will have nonzero central critical value. Indeed, Goldfeld [7] conjectures that for newforms f of weight 2,  $L(f_{\chi_D}, 1) \neq 0$  for  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the square-free integers.

Given an elliptic curve  $E: y^2 = x^3 + Ax^2 + Bx + C$   $(A, B, C \in \mathbb{Z})$  with conductor  $N_E$  and an integer D, we define the  $D^{th}$  quadratic twist of E to be the curve  $E_D: y^2 = x^3 + ADx^2 + BD^2x + CD^3$ . Let  $L(E_D, s)$  denote the L-function associated to  $E_D$ . For square-free D coprime to  $2N_E$ ,  $L(E_D, s)$  is simply the  $D^{th}$  quadratic twist of  $L(E_1, s)$ .

If  $f \in S_2(N)$  is a newform with integer coefficients, we know via the theory of Eichler and Shimura that there is an elliptic curve E over  $\mathbb{Q}$  having conductor N so that L(E, s) = L(f, s). Thus if D is coprime to 2N, then  $L(E_D, s) = L(f_{\chi_D}, s)$ . Also, one knows form

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the work of Kolyvagin [13], as supplemented by the work of Murty and Murty [17] or that of Bump, Friedberg and Hoffstein [3] (see also [10] for a shorter proof), that if E is a modular elliptic curve and, if  $L(E, 1) \neq 0$ , then the rank of E is 0. Thus, if f has the property that a positive proportion of the twists of L(f, s) have nonzero central critical value, then this implies that a positive density of the quadratic twists  $E_D$  have rank 0.

There have been many papers which have proved results in this direction. For example, in [2, 3, 6, 10, 16, 17, 19, 28] one can find general theorems on the vanishing and nonvanishing of the quadratic twists of a given *L*-function. These theorems ensure that an infinite number of the quadratic twists of an *L*-function associated to a cusp form will have nonzero central critical value.

In [20], Ono has shown several examples of cusp forms f associated to elliptic curves such that for a positive density of the primes p, the  $p^{th}$  quadratic twist of L(f, s) will have nonzero central critical value. Ono also proves a theorem which gives sufficient conditions under which a cusp form associated to an elliptic curve will have this property. Using methods similar to those of Ono, the author [11] was able to prove that the elliptic curve  $E_p: y^2 = x^3 - 32p^3$  has rank 0 for at least 1/3 of the primes p.

Subsequently, Ono and Skinner [22] used the theory of Galois representations to extend Ono's theorem to all even weight eigenforms satisfying a very mild hypothesis. In fact they verify that this hypothesis is satisfied for all modular elliptic curves of conductor less than or equal to 100.

In a series of two papers [8, 9], Heath-Brown has done an extensive investigation of the behavior of the 2-Selmer groups associated to the quadratic twists of the congruent number curve:  $y^2 = x^3 - x$ . He states as a corollary to one of his theorems that at least 5/16 of these quadratic twists have rank 0. This result along with the Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer conjecture implies that at least 5/16 of the quadratic twists of the *L*function L(E, s) associated to the congruent number curve should have nonzero central critical value.

Using ideas developed by Frey [5] along with the Davenport-Heilbronn theorem [18], Wong [27] has shown the existence of an infinite family of non-isomorphic elliptic curves such that a positive proportion of the quadratic twists of each curve have rank 0. Thus if we assume the Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer and Shimura-Taniyama conjectures, Wong's result would then imply the existence of an infinite family of weight 2 cusp forms  $\{f_i\}$ such that a positive proportion of the twists of each  $L(f_i, s)$  have nonzero central critical value.

In section 3 of this paper we exhibit weight 2 newforms F such that  $L(F_{\chi_D}, 1) \neq 0$ for all D in a subset of the square-free natural numbers having positive lower density. We now describe the first of those results. Let E denote the elliptic curve with equation  $y^2 = x^3 - x^2 + 72x + 368$ . Then E is a modular curve (it is the -1 twist of  $X_0(14)$ ). We let F denote the weight 2 cusp form whose Mellin transform is L(E, s). We then prove unconditionally:

**Theorem 1.**  $L(F_{\chi_D}, 1) \neq 0$  for at least 7/64 of the square-free natural numbers D.

In light of Kolyvagin's work, we have as a corollary to Theorem 1

### **Corollary 2.** For at least 7/64 of the square-free natural numbers D, $E_D$ has rank 0.

Our proof differs from those of Heath-Brown and Wong in that while they work directly with the Selmer groups of elliptic curves, our proof uses the theory of modular forms developed by Shimura and Waldspurger to gain information about the central critical values of the L-functions associated to elliptic curves. An outline of the proof of Theorem 1 is as follows. Using ideas of Schoeneberg [23] and Siegel [25], we construct a weight 3/2 cusp form f as the difference of the theta functions associated to two inequivalent ternary quadratic forms  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  which together make up a genus of ternary forms. This f will be an eigenform for all of the Hecke operators and will lift through the Shimura correspondence to  $F_{\chi_{-1}}$ . By a theorem of Waldspurger [26] we will be able to equate the vanishing of the central critical values of the quadratic twists of L(F, s) to the vanishing of certain Fourier coefficients of f. Since our ternary forms  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  are the only forms in a certain genus of ternary forms, we are able to study the automorph structure of these forms to show that the Fourier coefficients of f are related modulo 3 to certain class numbers of imaginary quadratic number fields. We will then use the Davenport-Heilbronn theorem (see [18]) to show that at least 7/64 of these class numbers are not divisible by 3, and hence, the associated Fourier coefficients of f are nonzero. It will then follow that at least 7/64 of the quadratic twists of L(F, s) have nonzero central critical value.

The key ingredient in the above argument is that our ternary forms  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  are a complete set of representatives for a genus of forms having the correct automorph structure. In particular, if  $A_i$  denotes the number of automorphs of  $Q_i$  (i=1,2), then we need that  $A_1 + A_2 \equiv 0$  modulo 3 while  $3 \nmid A_1A_2$ . This congruence modulo 3 is what allows the use of the Davenport-Heilbronn Theorem. It is important to note that there are examples of genera of ternary quadratic forms which contain exactly two equivalence classes but whose automorph structure does not satisfy the above congruence modulo 3 (see the tables of ternary forms in [14]) and, for such examples the Davenport-Heilbronn Theorem is of no consequence.

### 2. BACKGROUND

The theory developed by Waldspurger in [26] provides a tool for obtaining information about the central critical values of the *L*-series  $L(f_{\chi_n}, s)$  associated to the quadratic twists of a particular integral weight newform f. Before stating his results we need to introduce one more bit of notation. If f is a newform of weight 2k and if  $\chi$  is a Dirichlet character, then  $f_{\chi}$  is an eigenform for all of the Hecke operators. Hence, by the theory of newforms developed in [1] and [15], there exists a newform of weight 2k which, following Waldspurger, we will denote  $f \cdot \chi$  with the same eigenvalues as  $f_{\chi}$  for all but finitely many of the Hecke operators. In fact it is the central critical values of the  $L(f \cdot \chi_n, s)$  which Waldspurger's theorem allows us to relate to the Fourier coefficients of a half-integral weight form. Since  $f_{\chi_n}$  and  $f \cdot \chi_n$  have the same eigenvalues for all but a finite number of the Hecke operators, it follows that  $L(f \cdot \chi_n, s)$  and  $L(f_{\chi_n}, s)$  differ only by a finite number of Euler factors. Thus,  $L(f_{\chi_n}, k) = 0$  if and only if  $L(f \cdot \chi_n, k) = 0$ .

Now, we are ready to state a special case of the main theorem in [26].

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**Theorem 2.1.** Let  $k \geq 3$  be an odd integer,  $N \in 4\mathbb{N}$ ,  $\chi$  a Dirichlet character modulo N, and M some divisor of N so that  $\chi^2$  is a Dirichlet character modulo M. Suppose  $F \in S_{k-1}(M, \chi^2)$  is a newform with Hecke eigenvalues  $\lambda_p(F)$ . Suppose also that there exists a cusp form  $f \in S_{k/2}(N, \chi)$  having the property that for all but finitely many primes p,  $T_p f = \lambda_p(F) f$ . Finally suppose that the Dirichlet character  $\nu$  defined by  $\nu(n) = \chi(n)(\frac{-1}{n})^{\frac{k-1}{2}}$  has conductor divisible by 4. Let  $\mathbb{N}^{sf}$  denote the square-free natural numbers. Then there is a function  $\mathbb{A} : \mathbb{N}^{sf} \to \mathbb{C}$ , depending only on F and satisfying the following condition.

$$(\mathbb{A}(t))^2 = L(F \cdot \nu^{-1}\chi_t, \frac{k-1}{2}) \cdot \epsilon(\nu^{-1}\chi_t, 1/2),$$

where  $\epsilon(\psi, s)$  is chosen so that if  $L(\psi, s)$  is the Dirichlet L-function for the Dirichlet character  $\psi$  and if

$$\Lambda(\psi, s) = \begin{cases} \pi^{-s/2} \Gamma(\frac{s}{2}) L(\psi, s) & \text{if } \psi(-1) = 1\\ \pi^{-(s+1)/2} \Gamma(\frac{s+1}{2}) L(\psi, s) & \text{if } \psi(-1) = -1 \end{cases}$$

then

$$\Lambda(\psi^{-1}, 1-s) = \epsilon(\psi, s)\Lambda(\psi, s).$$

Moreover f can be written as a finite  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear combination of Hecke eigenforms  $f_i$  such that  $a_t(f_i) = c(t^{sf}, F) \mathbb{A}(t)$ , where  $t^{sf}$  denotes the square-free part of t and  $c(t^{sf}, F) \in \mathbb{C}$ .

In particular, we can deduce from Theorem 2.1 that if  $a_t(f) \neq 0$  then  $L(F \cdot \nu^{-1}\chi_t, \frac{k-1}{2}) \neq 0.$ 

Also, we will use the following theorem which is an immediate corollary of a theorem of Davenport and Heilbronn [4] as improved by Nakagawa and Horie [18].

**Theorem 2.3.** Suppose that m and N satisfy:

- 1. If p is an odd prime dividing (N,m) then  $p^2 \mid N$  and  $p^2 \nmid m$ , and
- 2. If N is even, then either  $4 \mid N$  and  $m \equiv 1 \mod 4$  or  $16 \mid N$  and  $m \equiv 8$  or  $12 \mod 16$ .

Let T denote the set of discriminants  $\Delta$  of imaginary quadratic extensions of  $\mathbb{Q}$  in the arithmetic progression  $\Delta \equiv m$  modulo N. Then there is a subset S of T having lower density at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  in T such that if  $\Delta \in S$  then  $3 \nmid h(\Delta)$ .

# 3. NONVANISHING THEOREMS

If Q is a primitive positive definite ternary quadratic form, then we will denote the discriminant of Q by  $d_Q$ . We also define  $\theta_Q(\tau) = \sum_{x,y,z \in \mathbb{Z}} q^{Q(x,y,z)}$   $(q = e^{2\pi i \tau})$ . It is well known (see [24]) that  $\theta_Q$  is a modular form of weight 3/2 and, we have a theorem of Siegel [25] which states that if  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  are two primitive positive definite ternary quadratic forms belonging to the same genus then  $(\theta_{Q_1} - \theta_{Q_2})$  is a cusp form.

**Proposition 3.1.** Suppose that  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  are even integral primitive positive definite ternary quadratic forms and that  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  are the only forms in a genus of forms. Let  $A_i$  denote the number of automorphs of  $Q_i$  (i = 1, 2). Assume that  $3 \nmid A_1A_2$  but  $3 \mid A_1 + A_2$ . Suppose also that  $f = (\theta_{Q_1} - \theta_{Q_2}) \in S_{3/2}(N, \chi_q)$  is a Hecke-eigenform which lifts through the Shimura correspondence to a cusp form  $F \in S_2(N/2)$ . Let G denote the unique weight 2 newform of trivial character having  $\lambda_p(F) = \lambda_p(G)$  for all but finitely many of the primes p and, let  $N_G$  denote the level of G. Put

$$R = \left\{ a \in (\mathbb{Z}/4d_{Q_1}^{\mathrm{sf}}\mathbb{Z})^* : \exists \text{ a square-free } n \equiv a \pmod{4d_{Q_1}^{\mathrm{sf}}} \text{ with } 3 \nmid a_n(f) \right\} \text{ and,}$$
  
$$\delta = \frac{\#R}{8d_{Q_1}^{\mathrm{sf}} \prod_{p \mid d_{Q_1}^{\mathrm{sf}}} (1 - \frac{1}{p^2})}.$$

$$(4)$$

Then, the set of square-free natural numbers n such that  $L(G \cdot \chi_{-qn}, 1) \neq 0$  has lower density at least  $\delta$  in the square-free natural numbers.

*Proof.* Let  $R(Q_1, m)$  denote the number of essentially distinct primitive representations of m by the genus of ternary forms containing  $Q_1$  and let  $r_i(m)$  denote the total number of representations of m by  $Q_i$  (i = 1, 2). Then for sufficiently large square-free natural numbers m, we have  $R(Q_1, m) = \frac{r_1(m)}{A_1} + \frac{r_2(m)}{A_2}$ .

Now, suppose that  $a \in R$ . Then there exists  $n \equiv a \mod 4d_{Q_1}^{\text{sf}}$  such that  $3 \nmid a_n(f)$  hence, it follows from the construction of f that  $R(Q_1.n) \neq 0$ . Thus,  $R(Q_1,m) \neq 0$  for all natural numbers  $m \equiv a \mod 4d_{Q_1}^{\text{sf}}$ . Applying a theorem of Gauss (see [12 Theorem 86]) and recalling the relationship of the class number of an order in an imaginary quadratic field to the class number of the ring of integers in the same field, we have that for all square-free natural numbers  $m \equiv a \mod 4d_{Q_1}^{\text{sf}}$ ,

$$R(Q_1, m) = \rho h(\Delta_{-m}), \tag{7}$$

where  $\rho \in \mathbb{Q}$ . Since  $3 \nmid A_1 A_2$  and  $3 \mid A_1 + A_2$ , we have that  $A_1 A_2 R(Q_1, m) = A_2 r_1(m) + A_1 r_2(m) \equiv A_2(r_1(m) - r_2(m)) \mod 3$ . From our construction of f, we have that  $a_m(f) = r_1(m) - r_2(m)$ . Therefore,  $3 \mid a_m(f)$  if and only if  $3 \mid \rho h(\Delta_{-m})$ . Recall that  $3 \nmid a_n(f)$  and  $n \equiv a \mod 4d_{Q_1}^{sf}$  and therefore,  $3 \nmid \rho h(\Delta_{-n})$ . Thus, we see that  $\operatorname{ord}_3(\rho) \leq 0$ . By the Davenport-Heilbronn Theorem (Theorem 2.3), we have for at least half of the square-free natural numbers  $m \equiv a \mod 4d_{Q_1}^{sf}$ , that  $3 \nmid h(\Delta_{-m})$ . Therefore, we have that  $\operatorname{ord}_3(\rho) = 0$  and hence it follows for all square-free natural numbers  $m \equiv a \mod 4d_{Q_1}^{sf}$ , that  $3 \mid a_m(f)$  if and only if  $3 \mid h(\Delta_{-m})$ . Now, applying Theorem 2.3 again, we see for each  $a \in R$ , that for at least 1/2 of the square-free natural numbers  $m \equiv a \mod 4d_{Q_1}^{sf}, a_m(G) \neq 0$  and hence by Theorem 2.1 that  $L(G \cdot \chi_{-qm}, 1) \neq 0$ . We note that each  $a \in R$  gives rise to  $d_{Q_1}^{sf}$  arithmetic progressions modulo  $4(d_{Q_1}^{sf})^2$ , and that the total number of arithmetic progressions modulo  $4(d_{Q_1}^{sf})^2$  in which square-free natural numbers m which are congruent modulo  $4d_{Q_1}^{sf}$  to some  $a \in R$  is  $\frac{\# R \cdot d_{Q_1}^{sf}}{4(d_{Q_1}^{sf})^2 \prod_{p \mid d_{Q_1}^{sf}} (1 - \frac{1}{p^2})}$ . The proposition now follows from Theorem 2.3.

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Example 3.1 Let

$$Q_1(x, y, z) = x^2 + 7y^2 + 7z^2, \text{ and} Q_2(x, y, z) = 2x^2 + 4y^2 + 7z^2 - 2xy.$$
(8)

Then one can easily check that  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  both have discriminant 196 and that they are both in the same genus. The numbers of automorphs of  $Q_1$  and  $Q_2$  are 8 and 4 respectively. Also, we can calculate (see [14] or [24]) that  $\theta_{Q_1}, \theta_{Q_2} \in M_{3/2}(28)$ , and therefore by [25] we have that  $f = (\theta_{Q_1} - \theta_{Q_2}) \in S_{3/2}(28)$ . We checked computationally that f is an eigenform for all of the Hecke operators and that f lifts through the Shimura correspondence to twice the weight 2 new form F of level 14 associated to the elliptic curve  $E: y^2 = x^3 + x^2 + 72x - 368$  of conductor 14, that is L(F, s) = L(E, s). Thus, f satisfies the hypotheses of Proposition 3.1. In this case, we have  $d_{Q_1}^{sf} = 14$ , and by computing the first 200 coefficients of f, we see that 1, 9, 15, 23, 25, 29, 37, 39 and 53 are all elements of R. Therefore,  $\delta = 7/64$  and, Theorem 1 now follows from Proposition 3.1.

We were also able to obtain positive density nonvanishing results as in Corollary 2 for the quadratic twists of nine other elliptic curves. Since the calculations involved in the verification of the hypotheses of Proposition 3.1 are completely analogous to the calculations discussed in Example 3.1, we omit them and simply present the results in the following table. We list for each curve E a Weierstrauss equation for E, the conductor  $N_E$  of E, and the lower bound  $\delta_E$  on the lower density of square-free natural numbers dsuch that  $L(E_{-d}, 1) \neq 0$ .

E	$N_E$	$\delta_E$
$y^2 = x^3 + x^2 + 72x - 368$	14	7/64
$y^2 = x^3 + 8$	576	1/4
$y^2 = x^3 + 1$	36	5/24
$y^2 = x^3 + 4x^2 - 144x - 944$	19	19/240
$y^2 = x^3 + x^2 + 4x + 4$	20	5/72
$y^2 = x^3 + x^2 - 72x - 496$	26	13/112
$y^2 = x^3 + x^2 + 24x + 144$	30	5/128
$y^2 = x^3 + x^2 - 48x + 64$	34	17/144
$y^2 = x^3 + x^2 + 3x - 1$	44	11/144
$y^2 = x^3 + 5x^2 - 200x - 14000$	50	5/24

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