

The Main Conjecture of Iwasawa Theory over \mathbb{Q}

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1 Cyclotomic Units

Definition 1.1. Let $m \neq 2 \pmod{4}$ ¹ and ζ_m a primitive m^{th} root of unity. We define the group of **cyclotomic units** of $F = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_m)$ to be the multiplicative group

$$\mathcal{E}_m = \langle \pm \zeta_m, \zeta_m^a - 1 \mid 1 < a < m \rangle \cap \mathcal{O}_F^\times$$

Moreover, we define the **real cyclotomic units** to be $\mathcal{E}_m^+ = \mathcal{E}_m \cap F^+$.

The following is a consequence of the analytic class number formula:

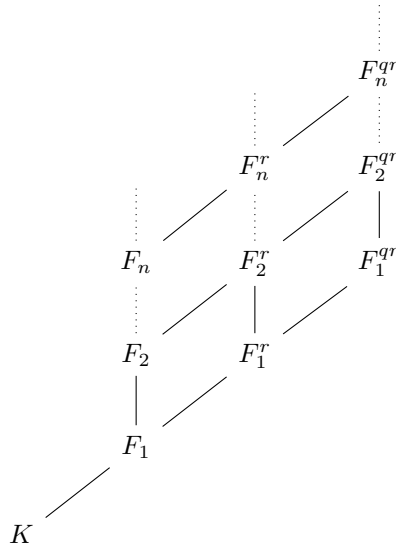
Theorem 1.2. Let h_m^+ be the class number of $F = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_m)^+$. Then

$$h_m^+ = [\mathcal{O}_{F^+}^\times : \mathcal{E}_m^+] = [\mathcal{O}_F^\times : \mathcal{E}_m]$$

2 Euler Systems

For each $k > 1$, fix a primitive k^{th} root of unity ζ_k such that $\zeta_{kl}^l = \zeta_k$ for all k and l .

Fix an odd prime p . Let \mathcal{R} be the collection of square-free products of primes coprime to p . For each $n \geq 1$, let $F_n = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{p^n})^+ = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_p + \zeta_p^{-1})$. For each $r \in \mathcal{R}$, let $F_n^r = F_n(\zeta_r)$. By $q \in \mathcal{R}$ we shall always mean a prime. Visually, we have the following situation for each $r, q \in \mathcal{R}$:



2.1 The Universal Euler System

Denote $G_r = \text{Gal}(F_n^r/F_n)$. Then we have a natural isomorphism $G_r = \prod_{q|r} G_q$.

¹so that m is the conductor of $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_m)$

Definition 2.1. We define the **norm operator** of $\mathbb{Z}[G_r]$ to be

$$N_r = \prod_{q|r} N_q = \prod_{q|r} \sum_{\sigma_q \in G_q} \sigma_q$$

Now let σ_q be a generator of G_q . We define the **derivative operator** of $\mathbb{Z}[G_r]$ to be

$$D_r = \prod_{q|r} D_q = \prod_{q|r} \sum_{i=0}^{q-2} i \sigma_q^i$$

Definition 2.2. Given $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $r \in \mathcal{R}$, let $x_{n,r}$ be a symbol. Let $Y_{n,r}$ be the free $\mathbb{Z}[\text{Gal}(F_n^r/F)]$ -module on the set $\{x_{n,s} : s | r\}$. Moreover, let $Z_{n,r}$ be the submodule of $Y_{n,r}$ generated by the relations

- $G_{t/s}$ acts trivially on $x_{n,s}$
- If $qs | r$ then $N_q x_{n,qs} = (1 - \text{Fr}_q^{-1})x_{n,s}$

where Fr_q is the arithmetic Frobenius at q in $\text{Gal}(F_n^s/K)$. Finally, we set $X_{n,r}$ to be the factor module $X_{n,r} = Y_{n,r}/Z_{n,r}$.

Definition 2.3. We define the **universal Euler system** to be the direct limit

$$\mathcal{X} = \varinjlim_{n,r} X_{n,r}$$

taken with respect to the norm operators. An **Euler system** is a G_K -equivariant map

$$\eta : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \bigcup_{n,r} F_n^{r \times}$$

Remark. Specifying an Euler system is equivalent to specifying a collection of global units

$$\{\eta(n,r) \in F_n^r \mid n > 1, r \in \mathcal{R}\}$$

satisfying the **norm-compatibility** relations

1. $N_{F_n^{qr}/F_n^r} \eta(n,qr) = \eta(n,r)^{1 - \text{Fr}_q^{-1}}$
2. $N_{F_{n+1}^r/F_n^r} \eta(n+1,r) = \eta(n,r)$

Theorem 2.4. For each $n \geq 1$ and $r \in \mathcal{R}$, write $\tau_{n,r} = \text{Fr}_p^{-n}(\zeta_r)$. Define

$$\eta(n,r) = (\zeta_{p^n} \tau_{n,r} - 1)(\zeta_{p^{-1}} \tau_{n,r} - 1)$$

Then each $\eta(n,r)$ is a cyclotomic unit and η is an Euler system.

Here we have used $\tau_{n,r}$ to ensure the second norm-compatibility relation. Without it we can still prove the theorems in the next section but it is nice to have in generality.

2.2 Kolyvagin's Derivative Construction

Let M be a power of p and define

$$\mathcal{R}_{n,M} = \{r \in \mathcal{R} : \forall q | r, q \text{ splits completely in } F_n \text{ and } q-1 \equiv 0 \pmod{M}\}$$

Proposition 2.5. Let $r \in \mathcal{R}_{n,M}$. Then $D_r(x_{n,r}) \in (X_{n,r}/MX_{n,r})^{G_r}$.

Proposition 2.6. Let η be an Euler system. Then there exists a $\beta_r \in F_n^{r \times}$ which is unique modulo F_n^{\times} such that

$$\frac{\eta(n,r)^{D_r}}{\beta_r^M} \in F_n^{r \times}$$

We then define a map

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_{n,M} : \mathcal{R}_{n,M} &\rightarrow F_n^{r \times} / (F_n^{r \times})^M \\ r &\mapsto \left[\frac{\eta(n,r)^{D_r}}{\beta_r^M} \right] \end{aligned}$$

For the rest of this section, fix $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and denote $L = F_n$. Let M_L be the collection of finite primes of L and I_L the group of fractional ideals of L written additively:

$$I_L = \bigoplus_{\mathfrak{q} \in M_L} \mathbb{Z}\mathfrak{q}$$

Given a finite prime q of K , let I_L^q be

$$I_L^q = \bigoplus_{\mathfrak{q}/q} \mathbb{Z}\mathfrak{q}$$

Given $y \in L^\times$, let $(y) \in I_L$ be the principal ideal generated by y , and $[y]_q$ the projection of (y) into I_L^q/MI_L^q .

Proposition 2.7. *Let $q \in \mathcal{R}_{n,M}$. Then there exists a $\text{Gal}(L/K)$ -equivariant homomorphism*

$$\phi_q : L^\times / (L^\times)^M \rightarrow I_L^q / MI_L^q$$

Theorem 2.8. *Let η be an Euler system and $q \in \mathcal{R}_{n,M}$. Then*

$$[\kappa_{n,M}(r)]_q = \begin{cases} \phi_q(\kappa_{n,M}(r/q)) & \text{if } q \mid r \\ 0 & \text{if } q \nmid r \end{cases}$$

The following proposition gives us a supply of primes in $\mathcal{R}_{n,M}$ to work with. Let $p > 2$ be prime and C be the p -part of the ideal class group of $F = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_p)^+$.

Proposition 2.9. *Let $[c] \in C$ be an ideal class, W a finite G -submodule of $L^\times / (L^\times)^M$ and a $G = \text{Gal}(L/K)$ -equivariant homomorphism*

$$\psi : W \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/M\mathbb{Z})[G]$$

Then there are infinitely many primes \mathfrak{q} of L such that

1. $q \in \mathcal{R}_{n,M}$ where q is the rational prime lying under \mathfrak{q}
2. $\mathfrak{q} \in [c]$
3. For all $w \in W$, $[w]_q = 0$ and there exists $u \in \mathbb{Z}/M\mathbb{Z}^\times$ such that $\phi_q(w) = u\psi(w)\mathfrak{q}$

3 The Main Conjecture

Fix a rational prime $p > 2$. Denote $K_\infty = \bigcup_{n \geq 1} K_n$

$$\Delta = \text{Gal}(K_1/\mathbb{Q}) = (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^\times, \quad \Gamma = \text{Gal}(K_\infty/K_1) = \mathbb{Z}_p$$

so that $\text{Gal}(K_\infty/\mathbb{Q}) = \Delta \times \text{Gal}(K_\infty/K_1)$. Let C_n be the p -part of the ideal class group of K_n , U_n the group of principal p -units of K_n and E_n the group of global units of K_n . Denote

$$\overline{E}_n = \overline{E_n \cap U_n}, \quad V_n = \overline{\mathcal{E}_n \cap U_n}$$

and

$$C_\infty = \varprojlim_n C_n, \quad E_\infty = \varprojlim_n \overline{E_n}, \quad V_\infty = \varprojlim_n V_n, \quad U_\infty = \varprojlim_n U_n$$

all with respect to norm maps. For $n \leq \infty$, let Ω_n be the maximal abelian p -extension of K_n unramified outside of p . Denote $X_n = \text{Gal}(\Omega_n/K_n)$. Let

$$\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}_p[[\Gamma]] = \varprojlim_n \mathbb{Z}_p[\text{Gal}(K_n/K_1)]$$

be the Iwasawa algebra. For each character $\chi \in \widehat{\Delta}$ define the χ -idempotent

$$e_\chi = \frac{1}{p-1} \sum_{\delta \in \Delta} \chi^{-1}(\delta) \delta$$

Given a $\mathbb{Z}_p[\Delta]$ -module Y , let $Y^\chi = e_\chi Y$ be its χ -isotypical part.

3.1 A first consequence of Kolyvagin's Theory

Theorem 3.1. *For every character χ of Δ and every n , $|C_n^\chi|$ divides $|(E_n/\mathcal{E}_n)^\chi|$.*

Corollary 3.2 (Mazur-Wiles, Kolyvagin). *For every character χ of Δ and every n , we have*

$$|C_n^\chi| = |(E_n/\mathcal{E}_n)^\chi|$$

Proof. By Theorem 1.2 (the analytic class number formula), we have that

$$\prod_x |C_n^\chi| = |C_n| = |E_n/\mathcal{E}_n \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z}_p| = \prod_x |E_n^\chi/\mathcal{E}_n^\chi|$$

The Corollary then follows by application of the previous Theorem. \square

3.2 The Main Conjecture

Theorem 3.3. *$C_\infty^\chi, E_\infty^\chi, V_\infty^\chi, U_\infty^\chi, X_\infty^\chi$ are all finitely-generated Λ -modules. C_∞^χ is a torsion Λ -module. If χ is an even character then X_∞^χ and $U_\infty^\chi/V_\infty^\chi$ have Λ -torsion too.*

Given a finitely generated torsion Λ -module M , there exists a pseudo-isomorphism $M \sim \bigoplus_i \Lambda/f_i\Lambda$. Denote $\text{char}(M) = \prod_i f_i\Lambda$. The Main Conjecture of Iwasawa Theory is the following Theorem of Mazur-Wiles.

Theorem 3.4 (Mazur-Wiles, Main Conjecture). *For every even character χ of Δ we have*

$$(f_\chi) = \text{char}(C_\infty^\chi) = \text{char}((E_\infty/V_\infty)^\chi) = (h_\chi)$$

3.3 The Strategy

Let γ be a topological generator of Γ . For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let $\Gamma_n = \Gamma/\Gamma^{p^n} = \text{Gal}(K_n/K_1)$. Recall that we have an isomorphism

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{Z}_p[\Gamma_n] &\rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p[T]/((1+T)^{p^n} - 1) \\ \gamma &\mapsto 1+T \end{aligned}$$

Hence letting $I_n = (\gamma^{p^n} - 1)\Lambda$ we have

$$\Lambda_n := \Lambda/I_n \cong \mathbb{Z}_p[\Gamma_n]$$

If Y is a Λ -module, write

$$Y_{\Gamma_n} = Y/I_n Y = Y \otimes_{\Lambda} \Lambda_n$$

The strategy will be to show that $(f_\chi) = \text{char}(C_\infty^\chi)$ divides $(h_\chi) = \text{char}((E_\infty/V_\infty)^\chi)$. The Main Conjecture will then follow from the following two algebraic lemmas:

Lemma 3.5. *Let χ be an even character of Δ . Then*

1. *For all n , $\Lambda_n/f_\chi\Lambda_n$ and $\Lambda_n/h_\chi\Lambda_n$ are finite.*
2. *There is a positive constant c such that for all n we have*

$$c^{-1} \leq \frac{|C_n^\chi|}{|\Lambda_n/f_\chi\Lambda_n|} \leq c, \quad c^{-1} \leq \frac{|\overline{E_n^\chi}/V_n^\chi|}{|\Lambda_n/h_\chi\Lambda_n|} \leq c$$

Lemma 3.6. *Let $a_n \sim b_n$ mean that a_n/b_n is bounded above and below independently of n . Let $g_1, g_2 \in \Lambda$ such that $g_1 \mid g_2$ and $|(\Lambda/g_1\Lambda)_{\Gamma_n}| \sim |(\Lambda/g_2\Lambda)_{\Gamma_n}|$. Then $g_1\Lambda = g_2\Lambda$.*

We can now prove the Main Conjecture:

Proof. Denote $f = \prod_{\chi \text{ even}} f_\chi$ and $h = \prod_{\chi \text{ even}} h_\chi$. Then the first Lemma and the Mazur-Wiles Theorem imply that

$$\begin{aligned} |(\Lambda/f\Lambda)_{\Gamma_n}| &\sim \prod_{\chi \text{ even}} |(\Lambda/f_\chi\Lambda)_{\Gamma_n}| \sim \prod_{\chi \text{ even}} |C_n^\chi| = |C_n| = [\overline{E_n}^\chi : V_n^\chi] = \prod_{\chi \text{ even}} |\overline{E_n}^\chi : V_n^\chi| \\ &\sim \prod_{\chi \text{ even}} |\Lambda/h_\chi\Lambda| \\ &\sim |(\Lambda/h\Lambda)_{\Gamma_n}| \end{aligned}$$

By hypothesis, $f \mid h$ so the second Lemma implies that $f\Lambda = g\Lambda$. The division assumption then yields the result. \square

Hence it suffices to show that (f_χ) divides (h_χ) .

3.4 Some Results from Iwasawa Theory

Theorem 3.7. *For every character of Δ , the natural map $(C_\infty^\chi)_{\Gamma_n} \rightarrow C_n^\chi$ is an isomorphism. If χ is even and non-trivial then the natural maps*

$$(X_\infty^\chi)_{\Gamma_n} \rightarrow X_n^\chi, \quad (U_\infty^\chi)_{\Gamma_n} \rightarrow U_n^\chi, \quad (V_\infty^\chi)_{\Gamma_n} \rightarrow V_n^\chi$$

are isomorphisms.

Theorem 3.8. *Let χ be a non-trivial even character of Δ . Then there is an ideal \mathcal{A} of finite index in Λ such that for all $\eta \in \mathcal{A}$ and n there exists a homomorphism $\phi_{n,\eta} : \overline{E_n}^\chi \rightarrow \Lambda_n$ such that $\theta_{n,\eta}(V_n^\chi) = \eta h_\chi \Lambda_n$.*

Theorem 3.9. *There exists an ideal \mathcal{B} of finite index in Λ and for each n ideal classes $\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n \in C_n^\chi$ such that the annihilator $\text{Ann}(\mathbf{c}_i)$ of \mathbf{c}_i in $C_n^\chi/(\Lambda\mathbf{c}_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \Lambda\mathbf{c}_{i-1})$ satisfies $\mathcal{B}\text{Ann}(\mathbf{c}_i) \subseteq f_i\Lambda_n$ where f_i is the i^{th} “summand” of f_χ^2 .*

Lemma 3.10. *Let χ be an even character of Δ . If χ is trivial then f_χ and h_χ are units in Λ .*

3.5 The Proof of the First Division

For this section, we fix n and write $C = C_n, E = \overline{E_n}, V = V_n$ and $F = K_n^+$. Note that if χ is even then we can identify C^χ with the χ -part of the p -part of the ideal class group of F .

Given a power of p , M , a prime $q \in \mathcal{R}_{n,M}$ and $w \in F^\times$, we write $(w)_q \in I_q$ to be the portion of (w) supported on primes lying above q and $[w]_q$ for its image in I_q/MI_q . If \mathfrak{q} is a prime of F lying above q then $I_\mathfrak{q}^\chi$ is a free Λ_n -module of rank 1, generated by \mathfrak{q}^χ . Define a map

$$v_\mathfrak{q} = v_{\mathfrak{q},\chi} : F^\times \rightarrow \Lambda_n$$

by setting $v_\mathfrak{q}(w)\mathfrak{q}^\chi = (w)_q^\chi$. Write $\overline{v}_\mathfrak{q}$ for the induced map

$$\overline{v}_\mathfrak{q} : F^\times/(F^\times)^M \rightarrow \Lambda_n/M\Lambda_n$$

which satisfies $v_\mathfrak{q}(w)\mathfrak{q}^\chi = [w]_q^\chi$.

Lemma 3.11. *Fix $r \in \mathcal{R}_{n,M}$, a prime $q \mid r$ and a prime \mathfrak{q} of F lying above q . Let B be the subgroup of C generated by the primes of F dividing r/l . Let $\mathbf{c} \in C^\chi$ be the class of \mathfrak{q}^χ and W the Λ_n -submodule of $F^\times/(F^\times)^M$ generated by $\kappa_{n,M}(r)^\chi$. If*

1. $\eta, f \in \Lambda_n$ are such that $\text{Ann}(\mathbf{c})$ in Λ_n of \mathbf{c} in C^χ/B^χ satisfies $\eta\text{Ann}(\mathbf{c}) \subseteq f\Lambda_n$
2. $\Lambda_n/f\Lambda_n$
3. $M \geq |C^\chi| \cdot \left| \frac{I_\mathfrak{q}^\chi/MI_\mathfrak{q}^\chi}{\Lambda_n[\kappa_{n,M}(r)^\chi]_\mathfrak{q}} \right|$

then there is a Galois-equivariant map $\psi : W \rightarrow \Lambda_n/M\Lambda_n$ such that

$$f\psi(\kappa_{n,M}(r)^\chi) = \eta\overline{v}_\mathfrak{q}(\kappa_{n,M}(r))$$

² C_∞^χ is pseudoisomorphic to a Λ -module of the form $\bigoplus_{i=1}^k \Lambda/(f_i)\Lambda$ so that $f_\chi = \prod_{i=1}^k f_i$

Theorem 3.12. *Let χ be an even character of Δ . Then $\text{char}(C_\infty^\chi)$ divides $\text{char}(E_\infty^\chi/V_\infty^\chi)$.*

Proof. First suppose that χ is trivial. Then Lemma 3.10 implies that the characteristic ideals are trivial so the Theorem then follows immediately.

Now suppose that χ is not trivial. Observe that $\kappa_{n,M}(1)$ is represented by $\xi = \eta(n, 1) = (\zeta_{p^n} - 1)(\zeta_{p^n}^{-1} - 1)$ and that ξ^χ generates V_n^χ . Fix ideal classes $\mathfrak{c}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{c}_k \in C^\chi$ satisfying Theorem 3.9 3.9. Fix, furthermore, any ideal class $\mathfrak{c}_{k+1} \in C^\chi$. Fix an ideal \mathcal{C} satisfying Theorem 3.8 and Theorem 3.9 (this is possible since the ideals satisfying these Theorems are just annihilators of finite Λ -modules). Fix $\eta \in \mathcal{C}$ such that $\Lambda_m/\eta\Lambda_m$ is finite for all m . Let $\theta := \theta_{n,\eta} : \overline{E}_n^\chi \rightarrow \Lambda_n$ be the map provided by Theorem 3.8. Without loss of generality, we may normalise θ so that $\theta(\xi^\chi) = \eta h_\chi$.

Now let h be any integer such that $p^h \geq |\Lambda_n/\eta\Lambda_n|$ and $p^h \geq |\Lambda_n/h_\chi\Lambda_n|$ which is finite by Lemma 3.10. Set $M = p^{n+(k+1)h}|C^\chi|$.

Using Proposition 2.9 we can inductively choose primes \mathfrak{q}_1 of F lying over primes q_i of \mathbb{Q} for $1 \leq i \leq k+1$ such that

$$\lambda_i \in \mathfrak{c}_i, \quad q_i \equiv 1 \pmod{M} \quad (1)$$

$$\overline{v_{\mathfrak{q}_1}}(\kappa_{n,M}(q_1)) = u_1 \eta h_\chi, \quad f_{i-1} \overline{v_{\mathfrak{q}_i}}(\kappa_{n,M}(r_i)) = u_i \eta \overline{v_{\mathfrak{q}_{i-1}}}(\kappa_{n,M}(r_{i-1})) \quad (2)$$

where $r_i = \prod_{j \leq i} q_j$ and $u_i \in (\mathbb{Z}/M\mathbb{Z})^\times$.

We only show the basis case: let $\mathfrak{c} = \mathfrak{c}_1$, $W = (E/E^M)^\chi$ and

$$\psi : W \rightarrow (\overline{E}/\overline{E}^M)^\chi \xrightarrow{\theta} \Lambda_n/M\Lambda_n \xrightarrow{\chi} (\Lambda_n/M\Lambda_n)^\chi$$

By Proposition 2.9, there exists a prime \mathfrak{q}_1 of F , a prime q_i of \mathbb{Q} lying below \mathfrak{q}_1 and $u_1 \in (\mathbb{Z}/M\mathbb{Z})^\times$ satisfying (1) and such that for all $w \in W$, $[w]_{\mathfrak{q}_1} = 0$ and $\phi_{\mathfrak{q}_1}(w) = u_1 \psi(w)_{\mathfrak{q}_1}$. By the Factorisation Theorem and Proposition 2.9, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{v_{\mathfrak{q}_1}}(\kappa_{n,M}(q_1))_{\mathfrak{q}_1}^\chi &= [\kappa_{n,M}(q_1)]_{\mathfrak{q}_1}^\chi = \phi_{\mathfrak{q}_1}(\kappa_{n,M}(q_1))^\chi = u_1 \psi(\kappa_{n,M}(q_1))_{\mathfrak{q}_1}^\chi \\ &= u_1 \theta(\kappa_{n,M}(q_1)) \\ &= u_1 \eta h_\chi_{\mathfrak{q}_1}^\chi \end{aligned}$$

Since $I_{\mathfrak{q}_1}^\chi/M I_{\mathfrak{q}_1}^\chi$ is free of rank one over $\Lambda_n/M\Lambda_n$ generated by \mathfrak{q}_1^χ , this proves the basis case.

We now continue this inductive process for $k+1$ steps. Combining all of the relations in (2), we have

$$\eta^{k+1} h_\chi = u f_\chi \overline{v_{\mathfrak{q}_{k+1}}}(\kappa_{n,M}(r_{k+1}))$$

in $\Lambda_n/M\Lambda_n$ for some unit $u \in (\mathbb{Z}/M\mathbb{Z})^\times$. Hence f_χ divides $\eta^{k+1} h_\chi$ in $\Lambda_n/p^n \Lambda_n$. Since this holds for all n , we have that f_χ divides $\eta^{k+1} h_\chi$ in Λ .

To remove the factor of η^{k+1} , note that we can always choose η and η' relatively prime so that f_χ divides $\eta^{k+1} h_\chi$ and also $\eta'^{k+1} h_\chi$ (for example, let $\eta = p$, $\eta' = \gamma^{p^n} - p$). Since Λ is a unique factorisation domain, we necessarily have that $f_\chi \mid h_\chi$. \square