

# MODULARITY OF $d$ -ELLIPTIC LOCI WITH LEVEL STRUCTURE

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ABSTRACT. We consider the generating series of special cycles on  $\mathcal{A}_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}_g(N)$ , with full level  $N$  structure, valued in the cohomology of degree  $2g$ . The modularity theorem of Kudla-Millson for locally symmetric spaces implies that these series are modular. When  $N = 1$ , the images of these loci in  $\mathcal{A}_g$  are the  $d$ -elliptic Noether-Lefschetz loci, which are conjectured to be modular. In the appendix, it is shown that the resulting modular forms are nonzero for  $g = 2$  when  $N \geq 11$  and  $N \neq 12$ .

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1.  **$d$ -elliptic loci.** For integers  $d, g \geq 1$ , let  $\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,d}$  be the moduli space of morphisms of abelian varieties  $h : E \rightarrow A$ , where  $E$  is an elliptic curve,  $A$  is a principally polarized abelian variety (PPAV) of dimension  $g$  with polarization  $\Theta_A$ , and  $\deg(h^*\Theta_A) = d$ . Let  $[\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,d}] \in \text{CH}^{g-1}(\mathcal{A}_g)$  be the Noether-Lefschetz cycle class associated to the forgetful morphism  $\epsilon : \widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,d} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_g$ . (We work throughout with Chow and cohomology groups with rational coefficients.) Set also  $[\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,0}] = \frac{1}{12}(-1)^g \lambda_{g-1} \in \text{CH}^{g-1}(\mathcal{A}_g)$ , see §3.1. These classes have attracted much recent attention; see [17] for a survey. The purpose of this paper is to advance the following conjecture.

**Conjecture 1.** *The generating series*

$$\sum_{d \geq 0} [\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,d}] q^d \in \text{CH}^{g-1}(\mathcal{A}_g) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[[q]]$$

*is a cycle-valued modular form of weight  $2g$ .*

Iribar López [9] shows that Conjecture 1 is true upon projection to the tautological ring  $R^{g-1}(\mathcal{A}_g)$ , in the sense of [2]. Further plausibility checks for Conjecture 1 are afforded by pulling back by the Torelli map  $\text{Tor} : \mathcal{M}_g^{\text{ct}} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_g$ . It is proven in [7] that the pullbacks  $\text{Tor}^1[\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,d}]$  coincide with the Gromov-Witten virtual classes of the loci of curves  $[C] \in \mathcal{M}_g^{\text{ct}}$  admitting a stable map  $f : C \rightarrow E$  of degree  $d$  to some genus 1 curve  $E$ . In particular, Conjecture 1 would imply that the generating series

$$\sum_{d \geq 0} [\mathcal{M}_{g,1}^{\text{ct},q}(\mathcal{E}, d)]^{\text{vir}} q^d \in \text{CH}^{g-1}(\mathcal{M}_g^{\text{ct}}) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[[q]]$$

is a cycle-valued modular form of weight  $2g$ , where  $\mathcal{M}_{g,1}^{\text{ct},q}(\mathcal{E}, d)$  is the global moduli space of pointed stable maps  $f : (C, q) \rightarrow (E, p)$  from a compact type curve of genus  $g$  to a varying elliptic curve. In some cases, the Torelli pullback  $\text{Tor}^1[\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,d}]$  may be understood more explicitly, see [3].

The Gromov-Witten classes of stable curves admitting a cover of a *fixed* elliptic curve are shown to be *quasi*-modular in [16]. On the other hand, the closely related (but different) loci of curves  $[C] \in \overline{\mathcal{M}}_g$  admitting an *admissible cover* of some elliptic curve  $f : C \rightarrow E$  of degree  $d$  are conjectured to be quasi-modular in [11], and shown to be so when  $g \leq 3$ . It is furthermore shown in [12] that a certain obstruction to the admissible cover loci being tautological is modular in  $d$ , for any  $g$ .

We prove the following result in this paper.

**Theorem 1.1.** *The generating series*

$$\sum_{d \geq 0} [\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}]^+ q^d \in H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_g) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[[q]]$$

is a cycle-valued modular form of weight  $2g$ .

Here, we consider cycle classes of the maps  $\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_g$ , remembering both  $E$  and  $A$ , rather than only  $\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_g$ . We use the notation  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}]^+$  to distinguish from the classes  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}]$  on  $\mathcal{A}_g$ . We also set  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,0}]^+ = 0$ . Theorem 1.1 does not imply Conjecture 1 (even in cohomology), because there is no proper pushforward map  $H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_g) \rightarrow H^{2(g-1)}(\mathcal{A}_g)$ . In fact, as stated, Theorem 1.1 is trivial: as we prove in Proposition 3.4, the classes  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}]^+$  are zero in  $H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_g)$ , and are moreover zero in  $CH^g(\mathcal{A}_g \times \mathcal{A}_1)$  (Remark 3.5)!

To obtain a non-trivial statement, we add level structure to the moduli problem. Our main result is the following.

**Theorem 1.2.** *Fix an integer  $N \geq 1$  and a symplectic group homomorphism  $b : (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^2 \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{2g}$ . Let  $\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)$  be the moduli space of morphisms  $h : E \rightarrow A$  as before, where in addition  $E, A$  are endowed with full level- $N$  structure and the map induced on  $N$ -torsion by  $h$  is given by  $b$ .*

*Then, the generating series*

$$\sum_{d \geq 0} [\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)]^+ q^d \in H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}_g(N)) \otimes \mathbb{Q}[[q]]$$

is a cycle-valued modular form of weight  $2g$  and level  $N$ .

In contrast to the situation of Theorem 1.1, the classes  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)]^+$  are proven not all to vanish when  $g = 2$  and  $N = 11$  and  $N \geq 13$  in the appendix.

We will see in Proposition 3.4 that the classes  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)]^+$  are supported in the odd Künneth component  $H^1(\mathcal{A}_1(N)) \otimes H^{2g-1}(\mathcal{A}_g(N))$ . Thus, Theorem 1.2 witnesses modularity of Noether-Lefschetz cycles in a different part of cohomology as Iribar López's result, which lives in the tautological (hence even) part.

Theorem 1.2 is proven by expressing the cycles  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)]^+$  as pullbacks of special cycles from certain (non-algebraic) symmetric spaces, which we discuss in the next section.

**1.2. Symmetric spaces.** Let  $(\Lambda, \omega)$ , resp.  $(\Lambda', \omega')$  be  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ , resp.  $\mathbb{Z}^{2g}$ , equipped with the standard symplectic forms. The tensor product  $L = \Lambda \otimes \Lambda'$  has a natural symmetric bilinear pairing  $\gamma$  given by

$$\gamma(v_1 \otimes v'_1, v_2 \otimes v'_2) := \omega(v_1, v_2) \omega'(v'_1, v'_2).$$

As an integral lattice, we have  $L \simeq U^{\oplus 2g}$ , where  $U$  is the hyperbolic plane lattice with Gram matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let  $V = L \otimes \mathbb{R}$ , and let  $\Gamma_L \subset SO(V)$  be the subgroup of integral isometries of  $L$  that act trivially on  $L^\vee/V$ . If  $K_\infty \subset SO(V)$  is a maximal compact subgroup, then the double quotient

$$\mathrm{km}(L) := \Gamma_L \backslash SO(V) / K_\infty$$

is an example of a non-compact locally symmetric space studied by Kudla-Millson in [10]. In particular,  $\mathrm{km}(L)$  contains a countable collection of totally geodesic cycles  $C_d$  indexed by positive integers  $d$ . Since the lattice  $L$  has signature  $(2g, 2g)$ , these are cycles of real codimension  $2g$ . The main theorem of [10] implies that their Poincaré duals  $[C_d] \in H^{2g}(\mathrm{km}(L), \mathbb{Q})$  are the Fourier coefficients of a classical modular form of weight  $2g$ , level 1:

**Theorem 1.3** (Kudla-Millson [10]). *The generating series*

$$\Phi(q) = \sum_{d \geq 0} [C_d] q^d \in \mathrm{Mod}(2g, \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})) \otimes H^{2g}(\mathrm{km}(L)).$$

By convention, we set  $[C_0] := e(\Lambda_g^\vee) \in H^{2g}(\mathrm{km}(L))$ , where  $\Lambda_g$  is the tautological real vector bundle of rank  $2g$  on  $\mathrm{km}(L)$ . Recall that we work throughout with rational coefficients.

For  $g > 1$ ,  $\mathrm{km}(L)$  is not an algebraic variety, but by the tensor product construction above, it receives a map

$$\phi : \mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_g \rightarrow \mathrm{km}(L).$$

defined in §5. We show in Proposition 5.3 that the classes  $[C_d] \in H^{2g}(\mathrm{km}(L), \mathbb{Q})$  pull back under  $\phi$  to the Noether-Lefschetz cycles  $[\widetilde{\mathrm{NL}}_{g,d}^+] \in H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_g)$ , which implies Theorem 1.1.

However, as we have already mentioned, we prove in Proposition 3.4 that in fact the classes appearing in Theorem 1.1 are all zero. To obtain a non-trivial  $q$ -series, we need to add level structure to the moduli spaces involved.

Let  $N \geq 1$  be an integer, let  $\mathcal{A}_1(N)$  and  $\mathcal{A}_g(N)$  are the moduli spaces of elliptic curves and PPAVs with full level- $N$  structure. As in Theorem 1.2, let  $\widetilde{\mathrm{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)$  be the moduli space of maps  $f : E \rightarrow A$  of degree  $d$  whose induced map on  $N$ -torsion is given by a specified matrix  $b$ . Let  $\mathrm{km}(L(N))$  be the Kudla-Millson space defined by replacing  $\Gamma_L$  in the definition of  $\mathrm{km}(L(N))$  with the subgroup of isometries that reduce to the identity mod  $N$ . We have an enhanced map

$$\phi(N) : \mathcal{A}_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}_g(N) \rightarrow \mathrm{km}(L(N)).$$

Then, by the theorem of Kudla-Millson [10], we have a generating series

$$\Phi^b(q) := \sum_{d \geq 0} [C_d^b(N)] q^d \in \mathrm{Mod}(2g, \Gamma(N)) \otimes H^{2g}(\mathrm{km}(L(N)))$$

lifting  $\Phi(q)$ . The  $d$ -th Fourier coefficient of  $\Phi(q)$  pulls back to the Noether-Lefschetz cycle  $[\widetilde{\mathrm{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)]^+ \in H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}_g(N))$ . The difference here is that the modular curve  $\mathcal{A}_1(N)$  has non-trivial first cohomology group. We restate Theorem 1.2 as follows.

**Theorem 1.4.** *The pullback*

$$\phi(N)^* \Phi^b(q) = \sum_{d \geq 0} [\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)]^+ q^d$$

is a modular form of weight  $2g$ , level  $N$ , valued in  $H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}_g(N))$  with support in the odd Kunneth component

$$H^1(\mathcal{A}_1(N)) \otimes H^{2g-1}(\mathcal{A}_g(N)).$$

**1.3. Further directions.** In order to gain access to a proper pushforward map relating classes on  $\mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_g$  (possibly with level structure added) to those on  $\mathcal{A}_g$ , one needs to add cusps to  $\mathcal{A}_1$ . We take here  $N = 1$  for ease of notation, so that  $\mathcal{A}_1^* = \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{1,1}$ . Then, the natural map  $\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_1^* \times \mathcal{A}_g$  remains proper, because a PPAV contains no rational curves. Thus, we may consider the class  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}]^+ \in \text{CH}^g(\mathcal{A}_1^* \times \mathcal{A}_g)$ , which pushes forward to the class  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}] \in \text{CH}^{g-1}(\mathcal{A}_g)$  appearing in Conjecture 1. We refine the conjecture as follows:

**Conjecture 2.** *The classes of the compactified  $d$ -elliptic cycles  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}]^+ \in \text{CH}^g(\mathcal{A}_1^* \times \mathcal{A}_g)$  are the Fourier coefficients of a modular form of weight  $2g$ , level 1.*

After pushforward, Iribar López's tautological projection calculation [9] shows that the classes  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}] \in \text{CH}^{g-1}(\mathcal{A}_g)$  are non-zero in general, in contrast to the situation on  $\mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_g$ . It follows that the classes  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}]^+ \in \text{CH}^g(\mathcal{A}_1^* \times \mathcal{A}_g)$  are non-zero, and because the tautological subspace of  $\text{CH}^{g-1}(\mathcal{A}_g)$  maps injectively to  $H^{2(g-1)}(\mathcal{A}_g)$ , also that the classes  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}]^+ \in H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_1^* \times \mathcal{A}_g)$  are non-zero.

It is natural to expect a passage from modularity to *quasi*-modularity upon extending the cycles  $\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}$  to compactifications of  $\mathcal{A}_g$ , consistent with results [4, 6] establishing such phenomena at the boundary of orthogonal type Shimura varieties. This is also consistent with the calculations in [11, 16] finding cycled-valued quasi-modular forms on  $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_g$ .

Note that Conjectures 1 and 2 are formulated with values in the Chow group, following [17, 9]. The methods we employ here are more likely to prove the cohomological version, since the space  $\text{km}(L)$  is non-algebraic. One can also formulate both of these conjectures with level structure in the obvious way.

Extending the results of [7] to take level structure into account, the classes  $[\mathbf{NL}_{g,d}^b(N)]^+ \in H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}_g(N))$  pull back under the pointed Torelli map  $\text{Tor}_1(N) : \mathcal{M}_{g,1}^{\text{ct}}(N) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_g(N)$  to the virtual (in the sense of Gromov-Witten theory) loci of curves  $C$  admitting a cover  $f : C \rightarrow E$  inducing the map  $b$  on  $N$ -torsion. After capping with the  $\psi$  class on  $\mathcal{M}_{g,1}^{\text{ct}}(N)$  and pushing forward to  $\mathcal{M}_g^{\text{ct}}(N)$ , we obtain a modular series of classes in  $H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_1(N) \times \mathcal{M}_g^{\text{ct}}(N), \mathbb{Q})$ , again supported on the odd Kunneth component

$$\text{Mod}(2g, \Gamma(N)) \otimes H^1(\mathcal{A}_1(N)) \otimes H^{2g-1}(\mathcal{M}_g^{\text{ct}}(N)).$$

Dually, we obtain a map  $\text{Mod}(2g, \Gamma(N))^* \otimes H_1(\mathcal{A}_1(N)) \rightarrow H^{2g-1}(\mathcal{M}_g^{\text{ct}}(N))$ .

**Question 1.** *What is the image of this map?*

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## 2. LATTICES AND THETA FUNCTIONS

We follow the exposition in [14] for the definitions of metaplectic groups and vector-valued modular forms. Let  $(L, (\cdot, \cdot))$  be a positive definite, even integral lattice of rank  $r$ . The Poisson summation formula implies that

$$\Theta_L(q) := \sum_{x \in L^\vee} q^{\frac{1}{2}(x,x)} e_{[x]} \in \text{Mod}(r/2, \text{Mp}_2(\mathbb{Z}), \mathbb{Q}[L^\vee/L]),$$

where  $\text{Mp}_2(\mathbb{Z})$  is the integer metaplectic group, acting on  $\mathbb{Q}[L^\vee/L]$  via the Weil representation. This representation factors through a double cover of  $\text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})$ , where  $N$  is the smallest positive integer such that  $N \cdot (x, x) \in 2\mathbb{Z}$  for all  $x \in L^\vee$ . In particular, for any fixed coset  $\delta \in L^\vee/L$ , we have:

$$\Theta_{L,\delta}(q) := \sum_{x \in \delta} q^{\frac{1}{2}(x,x)} \in \text{Mod}(r/2, \Gamma(N)).$$

When  $r \in 2\mathbb{Z}$ , this gives a classical modular form of weight  $r/2$ , level  $\Gamma(N)$ .

The cohomological theta correspondence of Kudla-Millson allows us to reformulate this story in the setting of the locally symmetric space associated to an indefinite lattice. Let  $(L, \gamma)$  be an indefinite, even integral lattice of signature  $(r_+, r_-)$  and rank  $r$ , and set  $V = L \otimes \mathbb{R}$ . Let  $\Gamma_L \subset \text{SO}(V)$  be the subgroup of integral isometries acting trivially on  $L^\vee/L$ , and let  $K_\infty \subset \text{SO}(V)$  be a maximal compact subgroup, isomorphic to  $\text{SO}(r_+) \times \text{SO}(r_-)$ .

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $\text{km}(L) = \Gamma_L \backslash \text{SO}(V)/K_\infty$ . Note that the symmetric space  $\text{SO}(V)/K_\infty$  is naturally identified with  $\text{Gr}^-(r_-, V)$ , the space of oriented negative definite real  $r_-$ -planes in  $V$ .

In the symmetric space  $\text{SO}(V)/K_\infty$ , we have an infinite arrangement of totally geodesic submanifolds indexed by dual lattice vectors  $v \in V^\vee$  with  $\gamma(v, v) > 0$ .

**Definition 2.2.** Let  $C_v \subset \text{Gr}^-(r_-, V)$  be the set of negative definite  $r_-$ -planes that are orthogonal to  $v$ . It is a symmetric subspace isomorphic to  $\text{Gr}^-(r_-, v^\perp \otimes \mathbb{R})$ .

For each integer  $d \geq 0$ , and  $\delta \in V^\vee/V$ , the arithmetic subgroup  $\Gamma_L$  acts on the set  $\{v \in V^\vee : \gamma(v, v) = 2d, [v] = \delta\}$  with finitely many orbits; see Lemma 4.1. This allows one to define finite type cycles in the quotient  $\text{km}(L)$ .

**Definition 2.3.** For each  $d > 0$  and  $\delta \in V^\vee/V$ , let  $C_{d,\delta} \subset \text{km}(L)$  be the image of

$$\bigcup_{\substack{\gamma(v,v)=d \\ [v]=\delta}} C_v \subset \text{Gr}^-(r_-, V)$$

under the quotient map to  $\Gamma_L \backslash \text{Gr}^-(r_-, V)$ . We define smooth uniformizations of  $C_{d,\delta}$  using a finite set of  $\Gamma_L$ -orbit representatives  $v_1, \dots, v_{m(d)}$  among the dual lattice vectors of norm  $d$  and class  $\delta$ :

$$\tilde{C}_d := \bigsqcup_{i=1}^{m(d)} C_{v_i}$$

**Theorem 2.4.** [10] *For each  $\delta \in L^\vee/L$ , the power series*

$$\Phi_{L,\delta}(q) := e_0 + \sum_{d>0} [C_{d,\delta}] q^d \in \text{Mod}(r/2, \Gamma(N)) \otimes H^{r_-}(\text{km}(L), \mathbb{Q})$$

is a modular form, where  $e_0$  is the Euler class of the dual tautological bundle of  $r_-$ -planes.

In this paper, we specialize to the case where  $L = U^{\oplus 2g}$ , where  $U$  is the hyperbolic plane lattice. This lattice is unimodular, so  $L^\vee/L = \{0\}$ . More generally, we will consider  $L(N)$ , for some level  $N > 0$ , which is the lattice  $L$  with the quadratic form values multiplied by  $N$ .

**Proposition 2.5.**

$$L(N)^\vee/L(N) \simeq L/NL \simeq (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{4g}.$$

*Proof.* Multiplication by  $1/N$  induces horizontal isomorphisms of the abelian groups in the following commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} L & \xrightarrow{\sim} & L(N)^\vee \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ NL & \xrightarrow{\sim} & L(N). \end{array}$$

The vertical arrows are inclusions of lattices in the same quadratic space. Since  $L$  has rank  $4g$ , the discriminant formula follows.  $\square$

### 3. NOETHER-LEFSCHETZ LOCI

Fix again an integer  $N \geq 1$ .

**Definition 3.1.** Let  $\mathcal{A}_g(N)$  be the moduli space of triples  $(A, \Theta_A, \iota_A)$ , where  $(A, \Theta_A)$  is a principally polarized abelian variety (PPAV) of dimension  $g$  and  $\iota_A : A[N] \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{2g}$  is a symplectic isomorphism.

When  $g = 1$ , an elliptic curve is canonically polarized, so we drop  $\Theta$  from the notation.

**Definition 3.2.** Let  $d, g \geq 1$  be integers. Let  $\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)$  be the moduli space of maps of abelian varieties  $h : E \rightarrow A$ , where:

- $(E, \iota_E) \in \mathcal{A}_1(N)$  and  $(A, \Theta_A, \iota_A) \in \mathcal{A}_g(N)$ ,
- $h^*\Theta_A$  has degree  $d$  on  $E$ ,
- $b : (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^2 \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{2g}$  is a fixed group homomorphism respecting the standard symplectic forms, and
- the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E[N] & \xrightarrow{h} & A[N] \\ \downarrow \iota_E & & \downarrow \iota_A \\ (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^2 & \xrightarrow{b} & (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{2g} \end{array}$$

commutes.

The moduli space  $\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)$  may be constructed from  $\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d} = \widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}(1)$ , as considered in [7], as a union of connected components of the fiber product  $\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d} \times_{(\mathcal{A}_g \times \mathcal{A}_1)} (\mathcal{A}_g(N) \times \mathcal{A}_1(N))$ .

In particular,  $\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)$  is smooth of dimension  $\binom{g}{2} + 1$ .

Let  $e^b(N) : \widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_g(N)$  and  $\mu^b(N) : \widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_1(N)$  be the forgetful maps remembering the target and source, respectively, of  $h$ .

There is a map  $\nu_N : \widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N) \rightarrow \widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}$  forgetting level structure, which is surjective onto a union of components of  $\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}$ . For example, if  $b$  is injective, then  $\nu_N$  surjects onto components of  $\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}$  parametrizing  $h : E \rightarrow A$  that are injective on  $N$ -torsion. However, if  $\gcd(d, N) > 1$ , then there are components of  $\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}$  parametrizing  $h : E \rightarrow A$  that factor through an isogeny  $E \rightarrow E'$  of degree dividing  $N$ , which are thus not in the image of  $\nu_N$ . On the other hand, if  $b = 0$  and  $\gcd(d, N) = 1$ , then  $\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)$  is empty.

By the same proof as in [7, Lemma 3.4] (the level structure does not affect the arguments), the morphism  $\epsilon^b(N)$  is proper, as is the morphism  $(\epsilon^b(N), \nu^b(N)) : \widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}_g(N)$ . Thus, one may consider the cycle classes associated to these morphisms.

**Definition 3.3.** We define the cycle classes  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)] \in \mathrm{CH}^{g-1}(\mathcal{A}_g(N))$  and  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)]^+ \in \mathrm{CH}^g(\mathcal{A}_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}_g(N))$ , as well as their images in cohomology, to be the classes associated to the morphisms  $\epsilon^b(N)$ ,  $(\epsilon^b(N), \nu^b(N))$ , respectively.

In [7], the pullbacks by the pointed Torelli map  $\mathrm{Tor}_1 : \mathcal{M}_{g,1}^{\mathrm{ct}} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_g$  of  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}]$  and  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}]^+$  to  $\mathrm{CH}^{g-1}(\mathcal{M}_{g,1}^{\mathrm{ct}})$  and  $\mathrm{CH}^g(\mathcal{M}_{g,1}^{\mathrm{ct}} \times \mathcal{M}_{1,1})$ , respectively, are shown to agree with the Gromov-Witten virtual classes on the moduli spaces of stable maps  $\mathcal{M}_{g,1}^{\mathrm{ct},q}(\mathcal{E}, d)$  to the universal elliptic curve, where the superscript  $q$  denotes that the stable maps  $f : C \rightarrow E$  are required to send the marked point of  $C$  to the origin of  $E$ . Identical arguments show that the classes  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)]$  and  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)]^+$  pull back to virtual classes on the spaces of stable maps with full level- $N$  structure and whose induced maps on  $N$ -torsion are prescribed by  $b$ .

**3.1. The case  $d = 0$ .** Let  $\lambda_i \in \mathrm{CH}^i(\mathcal{A}_g(N))$  denote the  $i$ -th Chern class of the Hodge bundle on  $\mathcal{A}_g(N)$ . By convention, we set

$$\begin{aligned} [\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,0}^b] &= (-1)^g \frac{1}{12} \lambda_{g-1} \in \mathrm{CH}^{g-1}(\mathcal{A}_g(N)), \\ [\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,0}^b]^+ &= (-1)^g \lambda_g = 0 \in \mathrm{CH}^g(\mathcal{A}_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}_g(N)) \end{aligned}$$

if  $b \equiv 0 \pmod{N}$ , and both cycle classes  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,0}^b]$ ,  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,0}^b]^+$  to be zero otherwise. (See [21, Proposition 1.2] for the vanishing of  $\lambda_g$ .)

The definitions are explained as follows. The moduli space of maps  $f : E \rightarrow A$  of degree zero inducing  $b$  on  $H_1$  is empty if  $b \not\equiv 0 \pmod{N}$ , and isomorphic to  $\mathcal{A}_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}_g(N)$  if  $b \equiv 0 \pmod{N}$ . We also add cusps in the first factor, passing to  $\mathcal{A}_1(N)^* \times \mathcal{A}_g(N)$ . A constant map  $f : E \rightarrow A$  has obstruction space

$$H^1(E, f^*T_A) \cong H^1(E, \mathcal{O}_E) \otimes T_0A \cong H^0(E, \omega_E)^\vee \otimes H^0(A, \Omega_A)^\vee.$$

Thus, the product  $\mathcal{A}_1(N)^* \times \mathcal{A}_g(N)$  is equipped naturally with the global obstruction bundle  $\mathbb{E}_1^\vee \otimes \mathbb{E}_g^\vee$  given by the tensor product of Hodge bundles on each factor. The virtual class  $[\widetilde{\mathbf{NL}}_{g,0}^b]^+ \in \mathrm{CH}^g(\mathcal{A}_1(N)^* \times \mathcal{A}_g(N))$  is therefore naturally given by the top Chern class

$$\begin{aligned} c_g(\mathbb{E}_1^\vee \otimes \mathbb{E}_g^\vee) &= c_g(\mathbb{E}_g^\vee) + c_1(\mathbb{E}_1^\vee) c_{g-1}(\mathbb{E}_g^\vee) \\ &= (-1)^g \lambda_g + \left( -\frac{1}{12} \cdot [E_0] \right) \cdot ((-1)^{g-1} \lambda_{g-1}), \end{aligned}$$

where  $[E_0] \in \text{CH}^1(\mathcal{A}_1^*)$  is the class of a geometric point. Pushing forward to  $\text{CH}^{g-1}(\mathcal{A}_g(N))$  gives the formula for  $[\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,0}^b] \in \text{CH}^{g-1}(\mathcal{A}_g(N))$  above, and restricting to the interior gives the formula for  $[\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,0}^b]^+ \in \text{CH}^g(\mathcal{A}_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}_g(N))$ .

### 3.2. Vanishing.

**Proposition 3.4.** *The classes  $[\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)]^+ \in H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}_g(N))$  in cohomology are supported in the odd Künneth component  $H^1(\mathcal{A}_1(N)) \otimes H^{2g-1}(\mathcal{A}_g(N))$ . In particular, they vanish when  $N = 1$ .*

*Proof.* We may assume that  $d \geq 1$ . Passing from  $\mathcal{A}_1(N)$  to  $\mathcal{A}_1(N)^*$ , we have that the map  $\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_1(N)^* \times \mathcal{A}_g(N)$  is proper, by the same argument as in [7, Lemma 3.4]. Thus, we may consider the cycle class  $[\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)]^+$  as an element of  $H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}_g(N))$  or of  $H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_1(N)^* \times \mathcal{A}_g(N))$ ; the pullback of the former is equal to the latter.

Consider now the projection of  $[\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)] \in H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_1(N)^* \times \mathcal{A}_g(N))$  to the Künneth component  $H^0(\mathcal{A}_1(N)^*) \otimes H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_g(N))$ . Up to a constant, the projection map is given by  $\alpha \mapsto 1 \otimes p_*(\alpha \cap ([E] \times \mathcal{A}_g(N)))$ , where  $[E] \in H^2(\mathcal{A}_1(N)^*)$  is the class of any point and  $p_* : H^{2g+2}(\mathcal{A}_1(N)^* \times \mathcal{A}_g(N)) \rightarrow H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_g(N))$  is proper pushforward. Indeed, this map is easily seen to be the identity on  $H^0(\mathcal{A}_1(N)^*) \otimes H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_g(N))$  and zero on the other two Künneth components.

In particular, we may take  $[E]$  to be any cusp of  $\mathcal{A}_1(N)^*$ , and in this case we have that  $\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N) \cap ([E] \times \mathcal{A}_g(N))$  is empty in  $\mathcal{A}_1(N)^* \times \mathcal{A}_g(N)$ , because smooth PPAVs contain no rational curves. Thus,  $[\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)]^+$  projects to zero in  $H^0(\mathcal{A}_1(N)^*) \otimes H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_g(N))$ , so the same is true in  $H^0(\mathcal{A}_1(N)) \otimes H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_g(N))$ . Moreover, the Künneth component  $H^2(\mathcal{A}_1(N)) \otimes H^{2(g-1)}(\mathcal{A}_g(N))$  is identically zero, so the claim follows.

Finally, when  $N = 1$ , we have  $H^1(\mathcal{A}_1) = 0$ , as  $\mathcal{A}_1$  is contractible. Thus, the class  $[\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,d}^b]^+ \in H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_g)$  is identically zero.  $\square$

**Remark 3.5.** When  $N = 1$ , the same argument shows that the classes  $[\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,d}^b]^+$  vanish in  $\text{CH}^g(\mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_g)$ . Indeed, because the coarse space of  $\mathcal{A}_1^*$  is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{P}^1$ , the Chow group  $\text{CH}^g(\mathcal{A}_1^* \times \mathcal{A}_g)$  admits a Künneth decomposition

$$\text{CH}^g(\mathcal{A}_1^* \times \mathcal{A}_g) \cong \text{CH}^1(\mathcal{A}_1^*) \otimes \text{CH}^g(\mathcal{A}_g) \oplus \text{CH}^0(\mathcal{A}_1^*) \otimes \text{CH}^{g-1}(\mathcal{A}_g),$$

and one can proceed as in the proof of Proposition 3.4.

## 4. UNIFORMIZATION

Let  $\Gamma(N) \subset \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{Z})$  be the subgroup of matrices congruent to the identity modulo  $N$ , and more generally let  $\Gamma(N)_g \subset \text{Sp}(2g, \mathbb{Z})$  be the subgroup of such matrices for any  $g$ . Then, we have  $\mathcal{A}_1(N) = \Gamma(N) \backslash \mathbb{H}$  and  $\mathcal{A}_g(N) = \Gamma(N)_g \backslash \mathbb{H}_g$ .

We also denote by

$$J_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, J_{2g} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \text{Id} \\ -\text{Id} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

the matrices of the standard symplectic forms, where  $\text{Id}$  is the  $g \times g$  identity matrix.



**Lemma 4.1.** *Let  $M_{2g \times 2, d}$  be the set of integer  $2g \times 2$  matrices whose columns span a rank 2 sublattice of discriminant  $d^2$  in the standard symplectic lattice  $\mathbb{Z}^{2g}$ .*

*Then, for any  $N \geq 1$ , the set  $\Gamma(N) \backslash M_{2g \times 2, d} / \Gamma(N)_g$  is finite.*

*Proof.* Let  $V_{\mathbb{Q}} = \mathbb{Q} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z}^{2g}$  be the standard symplectic  $\mathbb{Q}$ -vector space. The symplectic group  $G_{\mathbb{Q}} = \mathrm{Sp}(2g, \mathbb{Q})$  acts on  $V$ , so it also acts diagonally on  $W = V \oplus V$ . Let  $O$  be the  $G_{\mathbb{Q}}$ -orbit of an element of  $M_{2g \times 2, d}$ ; this orbit clearly contains all of  $M_{2g \times 2, d}$ . By [1, Theorem 9.11],  $O \cap W_{\mathbb{Z}}$  is composed of finitely many orbits for  $G_{\mathbb{Z}}$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.2.** *Let  $E = \mathbb{C} / \Lambda_2$  be an elliptic curve and let  $A = \mathbb{C}^g / \Lambda'_{2g}$  be a PPAV. Choose symplectic bases  $H_1(E) \simeq \Lambda_2$  and  $H_1(A) \simeq \Lambda'_{2g}$  with respect to the polarization forms.*

*Let  $h : E \rightarrow A$  be a map of degree  $d$ , and let  $B_h$  be the matrix of the induced map on homology  $H_1(E) \rightarrow H_1(A)$  with respect to the chosen bases of  $\Lambda_2, \Lambda'_{2g}$ . Then, we have  $B_h \in M_{2g \times 2, d}$ .*

*Proof.* If  $h : E \rightarrow A$  has degree  $d$ , then the composition

$$E \xrightarrow{h} A \rightarrow A^{\vee} \xrightarrow{h^{\vee}} E^{\vee} \rightarrow E$$

is equal to the multiplication by  $d$  map  $[d]$ . The induced maps on first homology groups are given by

$$H_1(E) \rightarrow H_1(A) \xrightarrow{J_{2g}} H_1(A^{\vee}) \rightarrow H_1(E^{\vee}) \xrightarrow{J_2^{-1}} H_1(E),$$

and the composition is  $d \mathrm{Id}$ ,

With respect to their chosen bases, the map  $H_1(E) \rightarrow H_1(A)$  is given by  $B_h \in M_{2g \times 2}$ , and the map  $H_1(A^{\vee}) \rightarrow H_1(E^{\vee})$  by its transpose  $B_h^T$ , so we have

$$J_2^{-1} B_h^T J_{2g} B_h = d \mathrm{Id}.$$

This is equivalent to

$$B_h^T J_{2g} B_h = d J_2,$$

so  $B_h \in M_{2g \times 2, d}$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.3.** *Given a pair  $(\tau, \tau') \in \mathbb{H} \times \mathbb{H}_g$ , there exists a degree  $d$  map  $E_{\tau} \rightarrow A_{\tau'}$  between the associated abelian varieties if and only if*

$$(B\tilde{\tau})^T \cdot \tilde{\tau}' = 0 \in \mathbb{C}^g$$

*for some matrix  $B \in M_{2g \times 2, d}$ . Here,  $\tilde{\tau} = \begin{pmatrix} \tau \\ \mathrm{Id} \end{pmatrix}$  denotes the Siegel augmentation.*

*Proof.* Let  $h : E \rightarrow A$  be a degree  $d$  map. Let  $B_h \in M_{2g \times 2, d}$  be the matrix for

$$h_* : H_1(E) \rightarrow H_1(A)$$

with respect to symplectic bases  $\langle \alpha, \beta \rangle$  for  $H_1(E)$  and  $\langle \alpha_j, \beta_j \rangle_{j=1, \dots, g}$  for  $H_1(A)$ . The graph  $\Gamma_h \subset E \times A$  has homology class

$$\alpha \times h_* \beta - \beta \times h_* \alpha + E \times [\mathrm{pt}] + [\mathrm{pt}] \times h_* [E] \in H_2(E \times A, \mathbb{Z}).$$

If  $\omega \in H^{1,0}(E)$  and  $\omega_j \in H^{1,0}(A)$  are the normalized holomorphic 1-forms, then their external wedge product  $\omega \wedge \omega_j \in H^{2,0}(E \times A)$  integrates to 0 on any algebraic curve, so on  $\Gamma_h$  in particular. In terms of the decomposition above, this implies that

$$\int_{\alpha} \omega \int_{\beta} h^* \omega_j - \int_{\beta} \omega \int_{\alpha} h^* \omega_j = 0$$

for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, g$ .

The Siegel augmented period matrices are given by

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\tau} &= \begin{pmatrix} \int_{\alpha} \omega \\ \int_{\beta} \omega \end{pmatrix}, \\ \tilde{\tau}' &= \begin{pmatrix} \int_{\alpha_i} \omega_j \\ \int_{\beta_i} \omega_j \end{pmatrix}.\end{aligned}$$

Multiplying  $\tilde{\tau}'$  by  $B_h^T$  on the left has the effect of replacing  $\alpha_i$  and  $\beta_j$  with the pushforwards of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  under  $h$ :

$$B_h^T \tilde{\tau}' = \begin{pmatrix} \int_{h_*\alpha} \omega_j \\ \int_{h_*\beta} \omega_j \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \int_{\alpha} h^* \omega_j \\ \int_{\beta} h^* \omega_j \end{pmatrix}.$$

Now, we also have

$$J_2^{-1} \tilde{\tau} = \begin{pmatrix} -\int_{\beta} \omega \\ \int_{\alpha} \omega \end{pmatrix}$$

and the vanishing above is equivalent to

$$\tilde{\tau}^T J_2 B_h^T \tilde{\tau}' = (B_h J_2^{-1} \tilde{\tau})^T \cdot \tilde{\tau}' = 0.$$

Taking  $B = B_h J_2^{-1}$  yields the first direction of the Lemma.

Conversely, given  $B \in M_{2g \times 2, d}$ , define  $B_h = B J_2$ , and a linear subtorus

$$\Gamma \subset E \times A = \mathbb{C}/\Lambda_{\tau} \times \mathbb{C}^g/\Lambda'_{\tau'}$$

by  $\Gamma = \{(z, B_h z) \mid z \in \mathbb{C}\}$ , where we extend the symplectic bases of the lattices  $\Lambda_{\tau}, \Lambda'_{\tau'}$  to  $\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{C}^g$ , respectively. Reversing the previous calculation, the vanishing  $(B\tilde{\tau})^T \cdot \tilde{\tau}' = 0$  implies that integrals of holomorphic 2-forms on  $\Gamma$  vanish, which in turn implies that  $\Gamma \cong E$  is a complex subtorus. Post-composing with the projection to  $A$  gives the desired map  $h : E \rightarrow A$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 4.4.** *We have an isomorphism*

$$\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N) \cong \Gamma(N) \backslash \left\{ (\tau, \tau', B) \in \mathbb{H} \times \mathbb{H}_g \times M_{2g \times 2, d} \mid \begin{array}{l} (B\tilde{\tau})^T \cdot \tilde{\tau}' = 0 \\ b \equiv B J_2 \pmod{N} \end{array} \right\} / \Gamma(N)_g$$

*Proof.* Lemmas 4.2 and 4.3 show that, given  $E_{\tau} \in \mathcal{M}_{1,1}(N)$  and  $A_{\tau'} \in \mathcal{A}_g(N)$ , the data of  $f : E_{\tau} \rightarrow A_{\tau'}$  of degree  $d$  is equivalent to the data of a matrix  $B \in M_{2g \times 2, d}$ , up to the actions of  $\Gamma(N), \Gamma(N)_g$ , satisfying  $(B\tilde{\tau})^T \cdot \tilde{\tau}' = 0$ . Moreover, the induced map  $b : (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^2 \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{2g}$  on  $N$ -torsion is given, by the calculation of Lemma 4.3, by the matrix  $B_h = B J_2$ .  $\square$

## 5. KUDLA-MILLSON MODULARITY

**5.1. Symmetric spaces.** Let  $(W_2, \omega)$  and  $(W'_{2g}, \omega')$  be real symplectic vector spaces. The tensor product  $V = W_2 \otimes W'_{2g}$  has a natural symmetric pairing  $\gamma$  given by the product  $\omega \cdot \omega'$ . Note that all pure tensors in  $V$  are isotropic with respect to  $\gamma$ . Choose Darboux bases  $\langle e, f \rangle$  and  $\langle e_i, f_i \rangle$  for  $W_2$  and  $W'_{2g}$ , respectively, so that

$$e \otimes e'_i + f \otimes f'_i \quad (1 \leq i \leq g)$$

$$e \otimes f'_i - f \otimes e'_i \quad (1 \leq i \leq g)$$

form a basis for a maximal positive definite subspace  $P_0 \subset V$ . Similarly,

$$e \otimes e'_i - f \otimes f'_i \quad (1 \leq i \leq g)$$

$$e \otimes f'_i + f \otimes e'_i \quad (1 \leq i \leq g)$$

form a basis for a maximal negative definite subspace  $N_0 \subset V$ , with  $N_0 = P_0^\perp$ . Hence, the symmetric pairing  $\gamma$  is non-degenerate of signature  $(2g, 2g)$ .

Next, consider the map

$$\varphi : \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R}) \times \mathrm{Sp}_{2g}(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathrm{SO}(V)_0 \simeq \mathrm{SO}(2g, 2g)_0$$

defined by  $\varphi(M, M') = M \otimes M'$ . Its kernel is  $\{\pm(\mathrm{Id}, \mathrm{Id})\}$ , which is contained in the maximal compact  $K = \mathrm{SO}(2) \times U(g)$ . The restriction of  $\varphi$  to  $K$  lands in  $K'$ :

$$\varphi|_K : K \rightarrow K' = \mathrm{SO}(2g) \times \mathrm{SO}(2g) \subset \mathrm{SO}(2g, 2g)_0.$$

Hence  $\varphi$  induces an embedding  $\phi$  on the associated symmetric spaces:

$$\phi : \mathbb{H} \times \mathbb{H}_g \rightarrow \mathrm{Gr}^-(2g, V).$$

The symmetric space for  $\mathrm{SO}(2g, 2g)_0$  may be identified with the positive definite Grassmannian or the negative definite Grassmannian; we choose the latter. Explicitly, given  $(\tau, \tau') \in \mathbb{H} \times \mathbb{H}_g$ , there exist matrices  $(M, M') \in \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R}) \times \mathrm{Sp}_{2g}(\mathbb{R})$  sending  $(i, iI_g) \mapsto (\tau, \tau')$ .

$$\phi(\tau, \tau') = (M \otimes M')(N_0) \in \mathrm{Gr}^-(2g, V).$$

One easily checks that  $\mathrm{Stab}(i, iI_g)$  preserves  $N_0$ , so the map  $\phi$  is well-defined.

**Proposition 5.1.** *Let*

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & b_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{2g} & b_{2g} \end{pmatrix} \in M_{2g \times 2}$$

be an integer  $2g \times 2$  matrix. Let

$$B_\phi = \sum_{k=1}^g b_{g+k}(e \otimes e'_k) - b_k(e \otimes f'_k) - a_{g+k}(f \otimes e'_k) + a_k(f \otimes f'_k) \in W_2 \otimes W'_{2g}.$$

Then, for any  $(\tau, \tau') \in \mathbb{H} \times \mathbb{H}_g$ , the following are equivalent:

- $\phi(\tau, \tau')$  is orthogonal to  $B_\phi$  in  $V$ .
- $(B\tilde{\tau})^T \cdot \tilde{\tau}' = 0 \in \mathbb{C}^g$ . Here,  $\tilde{\tau} = \begin{pmatrix} \tau \\ \mathrm{Id} \end{pmatrix}$  denotes the Siegel augmentation.

*Proof.* Let

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} w & x \\ y & z \end{pmatrix}, M' = \begin{pmatrix} W & X \\ Y & Z \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $W, X, Y, Z$  are  $g \times g$  real matrices. then, we have

$$\tau = \frac{wi + x}{yi + z}, \tau' = (iW + X)(iY + Z)^{-1}.$$

For  $j = 1, 2, \dots, g$ , the  $j$ -th entry of the  $1 \times g$  matrix  $(yi + z)(B\tilde{\tau})^T \cdot \tilde{\tau}'(iY + Z)$  is

$$\beta_j = \sum_{k=1}^g (a_k(wi + x) + b_k(yi + z))(iW + X)_{kj} + \sum_{k=1}^g (a_{g+k}(wi + x) + b_{g+k}(yi + z))(iY + Z)_{kj}$$

where  $(iW + X)_{kj}, (iY + Z)_{kj}$  denote the entries in the  $k$ -th row and  $j$ -th column of the respective matrices. Thus, we have

$$\Re(\beta_j) = \sum_{k=1}^g [a_k(xx_{kj} - ww_{kj}) + b_k(zx_{kj} - yw_{kj}) + a_{g+k}(xz_{kj} - wy_{kj}) + b_{g+k}(zz_{kj} - yy_{kj})],$$

$$\Im(\beta_j) = \sum_{k=1}^g [a_k(wx_{kj} + xw_{kj}) + b_k(yx_{kj} + zw_{kj}) + a_{g+k}(wz_{kj} + xy_{kj}) + b_{g+k}(yz_{kj} + zy_{kj})].$$

On the other hand, we compute that  $\phi(\tau, \tau') = (M \otimes M')(N_0)$  is spanned by

$$\begin{aligned} r_j &= (we + yf) \otimes (We'_j + Yf'_j) - (xe + zf) \otimes (Xe'_j + Zf'_j), \\ &= - \sum_{k=1}^g [(e \otimes e'_k)(xx_{kj} - ww_{kj}) + (e \otimes f'_k)(xz_{kj} - wy_{kj}) \\ &\quad + (f \otimes e'_k)(zx_{kj} - yw_{kj}) + (f \otimes f'_k)(zz_{kj} - yy_{kj})], \\ s_j &= (we + yf) \otimes (Xe'_j + Zf'_j) + (xe + zf) \otimes (We'_j + Yf'_j), \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^g [(e \otimes e'_k)(wx_{kj} + xw_{kj}) + (e \otimes f'_k)(wz_{kj} + xy_{kj}) \\ &\quad + (f \otimes e'_k)(yx_{kj} + zw_{kj}) + (f \otimes f'_k)(yz_{kj} + zy_{kj})]. \end{aligned}$$

for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, g$ . Here, the matrices  $W, X$  are taken to act on the basis  $\{e'_1, \dots, e'_g\}$  and the matrices  $Y, Z$  are taken to act on the basis  $\{f'_1, \dots, f'_g\}$ .

Finally, we see that  $\gamma(B_\phi, -r_j) = \Re(\beta_j)$  and  $\gamma(B_\phi, s_j) = \Im(\beta_j)$ , which yields the needed equivalence.  $\square$

**5.2. Arithmetic Quotients.** Fix principal lattices  $\Lambda \subset W_2$  and  $\Lambda' \subset W'_{2g}$ , which give rise to an even unimodular lattice  $L := \Lambda \otimes \Lambda' \subset V$ . The map of  $\phi$  between symmetric spaces descends to a map on arithmetic quotients:

$$\phi : \text{Aut}(\Lambda)_N \backslash \mathbb{H} \times \text{Aut}(\Lambda')_N \backslash \mathbb{H}_g \rightarrow \text{Aut}(L)_N \backslash \text{Gr}^-(2g, V) =: \text{km}(L(N)).$$

Here,  $\text{Aut}(\Lambda)_N, \text{Aut}(\Lambda')_N, \text{Aut}(L)_N$  denote the automorphism groups of the respective lattices that reduce to the identity mod  $N$ , so that  $\phi$  is a map  $\mathcal{A}_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}_g(N) \rightarrow \text{km}(L(N))$ .

If  $v \in L$  is a vector of positive norm, then set

$$\tilde{C}_v := \{P \in \text{Gr}^-(2g, V) : P \subset v^\perp\}.$$

This is a non-empty sub-symmetric space of codimension  $2g$ . By Lemma 4.1,  $\text{Aut}(L)_N$  acts on the lattice vectors of norm  $2d > 0$  with finitely many orbits.

Fix now an abelian group homomorphism  $b : (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^2 \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{2g}$ . Choose symplectic bases  $\{e, f\}$  and  $\{e'_1, \dots, e'_g, f'_1, \dots, f'_g\}$  of  $\Lambda, \Lambda'$ , respectively, and given

$$v = \sum_{k=1}^g b_{g+k}(e \otimes e'_k) - b_k(e \otimes f'_k) - a_{g+k}(f \otimes e'_k) + a_k(f \otimes f'_k) \in L$$

define

$$v_h = \begin{pmatrix} -b_1 & a_1 \\ -b_2 & a_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ -b_{2g} & a_{2g} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & b_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{2g} & b_{2g} \end{pmatrix} \cdot J_2.$$

Here, the vector  $v \in L$  plays the role of  $B_\phi$  in Proposition 5.1, and  $v_h$  plays the role of the matrix  $B_h$  in Lemmas 4.2 and 4.2. The intermediate matrix  $B$  appearing in Lemma 4.2 and Proposition 5.1 satisfies  $BJ_2 = B_h$ . Given a  $d$ -elliptic map  $h : E \rightarrow A$ , the matrix of the induced map on first homology is given by  $B_h$ , which will be required to reduce modulo  $N$  to the prescribed map  $b$ .

**Definition 5.2.** We define the special cycles

$$C_d^b(N) := \text{Aut}(L)_N \setminus \left( \bigcup_{\substack{v \in L / \text{Aut}(L)_N \\ v^2 = 2d \\ v_h \equiv b \pmod{N}}} \tilde{C}_v \right) \subset \text{km}(L(N)).$$

**Proposition 5.3.** We have a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N) & \longrightarrow & C_d^b(N) \\ (\epsilon(N), \mu(N)) \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathcal{A}_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}_g(N) & \xrightarrow{\phi} & \text{km}(L(N)) \end{array}$$

inducing a birational map  $\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N) \rightarrow \phi^{-1}(C_d^b(N))$ . In particular, we have

$$[\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)]^+ = \phi^*[C_d^b(N)]$$

in  $H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}_g(N))$ .

*Proof.* Proposition 5.1 shows that the composition  $\phi \circ (\epsilon(N), \mu(N))$  has image equal to  $C_d^b(N)$ , and furthermore that  $\phi^{-1}(C_d^b(N))$  is equal to the locus of  $(E, A)$  (with full level- $N$  structure) for which there *exists* a map  $h : E \rightarrow A$  inducing the map  $b$  on  $N$ -torsion. To identify this pullback generically with  $\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)$ , it therefore suffices to show that the map  $(\epsilon(N), \mu(N))$  is birational onto its image.

Note that  $(\epsilon(N), \mu(N))$  is unramified by [7, Proposition 3.6] (the level structure does not affect the local arguments), so it suffices to show that  $(\epsilon(N), \mu(N))$  is generically of degree 1 on geometric points. This amounts to the statement that, at a general point  $h : E \rightarrow A$  of  $\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)$ , the map  $h$  is the only one (up to isomorphism) from  $E$  to  $A$ . By a dimension count, we may assume that  $A$  splits up to isogeny into the product of  $E$  and a simple abelian variety  $B$  of dimension  $g - 1$ , and when  $g = 2$ , we can assume further that  $B$  is not isogeneous to  $E$ . We may furthermore assume that  $E$  is general.

Now, if there are two non-isomorphic maps  $h_1, h_2 : E \rightarrow A$ , then the induced map  $E \times E \rightarrow A$  must have a 1-dimensional kernel  $E'$ , by the assumption on the splitting of  $A$ . The two maps  $i_1, i_2 : E' \rightarrow E$  must have the same degree  $\delta$ , as the two compositions

$E' \rightarrow E \times \{0\} \rightarrow A$  and  $E' \rightarrow \{0\} \times E \rightarrow A$  agree up to sign, and  $\deg(h_1) = \deg(h_2) = d$ . Thus, the two maps  $i_1 \circ i_1^\vee$  and  $i_2 \circ i_1^\vee$  must both have map  $\delta^2$ . The first map is multiplication by  $\delta$ . If  $E$  is general, then  $\text{End}(E) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ , so  $i_2 \circ i_1^\vee$  must either be multiplication by  $\delta$  or  $-\delta$ . In particular, we have  $i_1 \circ i_1^\vee = \pm i_2 \circ i_2^\vee$ , and hence  $i_1 = \pm i_2$ , implying that  $h_1, h_2$  are the same geometric point of  $\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{g,d}^b(N)$ .  $\square$

The main input into Theorem 1.2 is the modularity of Kudla-Millson.

**Theorem 5.4** (Kudla-Millson [10]). *Let  $e_0$  be the Euler class of the dual of the rank  $2g$  tautological bundle on  $\text{km}(L(N))$  of negative definite  $2g$ -planes. For any  $b \in L(N)^\vee/L(N)$ , the power series*

$$\Phi^b(q) := e_0 + \sum_{d \geq 1} [C_d^b(N)] q^d \in \text{Mod}(2g, \Gamma(N)) \otimes H^{2g}(\text{km}(L(N)))$$

is a modular form of weight  $2g$  and level  $N$ .

*Proof of Theorem 1.2.* The pullback under  $\phi$  of the tautological bundle is a real vector bundle on  $\mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_g$  whose complexification has fiber at  $(E, X)$  equal to  $H^{1,0}(E) \otimes H^{1,0}(X) \oplus H^{0,1}(E) \otimes H^{0,1}(X)$ . The two direct summands are duals and complex conjugates of each other. The inclusion of the real  $2g$ -plane followed by projection onto the first summand gives an isomorphism of real oriented vector bundles, so

$$\phi^*(e_0) = (-1)^g c_g(\mathbb{E}_1 \boxtimes \mathbb{E}_g) \in H^{2g}(\mathcal{A}_1 \times \mathcal{A}_g, \mathbb{Q}).$$

$\square$

## APPENDIX A. NONVANISHING OF CERTAIN NOETHER-LEFSCHETZ CLASSES

by N. Sweeting

**A.1. Overview.** In this appendix, we prove the nonvanishing of the Noether-Loebschetz classes  $[\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{2,1}^b(N)]^+$  for sufficiently large  $N$  when  $b$  is an embedding (Theorem A.11 below). The strategy of the proof is to produce, using theta lifts from  $\text{GSO}_{2,2}$  to  $\text{GSp}_4$ , explicit classes in  $H_c^4(\mathcal{A}_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}_2(N), \mathbb{C})$  with nonzero pairing against  $[\widetilde{\text{NL}}_{2,1}^b(N)]^+$  under Poincaré duality. Most of the theoretical work is contained in [20, Theorems A and C], but without any precise control of the level  $N$ ; thus we must supplement the methods of *loc. cit.* with a number of additional computations to make the level structures explicit.

### A.2. Conventions.

**A.2.1.** If  $G$  is an algebraic group over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , then  $[G] := G(\mathbb{Q}) \backslash G(\mathbb{A})$  denotes the usual adelic quotient. We denote by  $\mathcal{A}(G)$  the space of automorphic forms on  $[G]$ , and by  $\mathcal{A}_0(G)$  the subspace of cusp forms. If  $K \subset G(\mathbb{A}_f)$  is a compact open subgroup, then we write  $\mathcal{A}_0(G; K)$  for the space of  $K$ -invariant cusp forms.

**A.2.2.** For an integer  $N \geq 1$ , we consider the compact open subgroup

$$K_1(N) = \prod K_1(N)_p = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \text{GL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}}) : c \in N\widehat{\mathbb{Z}}, d \in 1 + N\widehat{\mathbb{Z}} \right\}$$

of  $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{A}_f)$ . It is clear that  $K_1(N)_p$  depends only on the  $p$ -adic valuation of  $N$ .

A.2.3. We denote by  $B \subset \mathrm{GL}_2$  the upper triangular Borel subgroup, and by  $U \subset B$  the unipotent radical. We define a map of algebraic groups  $\mathbb{G}_m \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_2$  by  $c \mapsto h_c = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & c \end{pmatrix}$ .

A.2.4. Let  $\psi : \mathbb{Q} \backslash \mathbb{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be the unique everywhere unramified character such that  $\psi(x) = e^{2\pi i x}$  for  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , and let  $\psi_k$  be the local component of  $\psi$  for every completion  $k$  of  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

A.2.5. Let  $\mathrm{SO}(2) \subset \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{R})$  be the standard maximal compact subgroup; we denote by  $\chi_m$  the weight- $m$  character of  $\mathrm{SO}(2)$  defined by

$$\begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \mapsto (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)^m.$$

### A.3. Shimura varieties.

A.3.1. *Disconnected moduli spaces of abelian varieties.* Fix  $N \geq 1$ , and define  $K_N = K_{N,g} = \prod_p K_{N,g,p} \subset \mathrm{GSp}_{2g}(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$  to be the compact open subgroup of matrices that are congruent to the identity modulo  $N$ . Let  $\mathcal{A}'_g(N)_{\mathbb{Q}}$  be the complex Shimura variety for  $\mathrm{GSp}_{2g}$  of level  $K_N$ :

$$(1) \quad \mathcal{A}'_g(N) = \mathrm{GSp}_{2g}(\mathbb{Q}) \backslash \mathrm{GSp}_{2g}(\mathbb{A}_f) \times \mathbb{H}_g / K_N.$$

There is a natural projection  $\mathcal{A}'_g(N) \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}^\times \backslash \mathbb{A}_f^\times / (1 + N\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})^\times \simeq \mu_N$ , whose fibers are the geometric connected components, each isomorphic to  $\mathcal{A}_g(N)$ . We also have the natural embedding

$$(2) \quad \mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times_{\mu_N} \mathcal{A}'_{g-1}(N) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}'_g(N)$$

corresponding to the embedding of groups  $\mathrm{GSp}_2 \times_{\mathbb{G}_m} \mathrm{GSp}_{2g-2} \hookrightarrow \mathrm{GSp}_2 \times \mathrm{GSp}_{2g}$ .

**Proposition A.1.** *For all  $b : (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^2 \hookrightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{2g}$ , we have*

$$0 \neq [\widetilde{\mathrm{NL}}_{g,1}^b]^+ \in H^4(\mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}_g(N), \mathbb{Q})$$

*if and only if*

$$0 \neq [\mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times_{\mu_N} \mathcal{A}'_{g-1}(N)] \in H^4(\mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}'_g(N), \mathbb{Q}).$$

*Proof.* Because all choices of the embedding  $b$  differ by an element of  $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})$ , the resulting classes  $[\widetilde{\mathrm{NL}}_{g,1}^b]^+$  are transitively permuted by the natural action of  $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})$  on  $\mathcal{A}_g(N)$ . Hence we may assume without loss of generality that  $b$  is the embedding sending  $(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^2$  isomorphically onto the last two coordinates of  $(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{2g}$ .

The embedding  $\mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times_{\mu_N} \mathcal{A}'_{g-1}(N) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}'_g(N)$  factors through the open and closed subvariety  $\mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times_{\mu_N} \mathcal{A}'_g(N) \subset \mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}'_g(N)$ . For each connected component  $\mathcal{A}_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}_g(N)$  of  $\mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times_{\mu_N} \mathcal{A}'_g(N)$ , our choice of  $b$  implies that

$$(\mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times_{\mu_N} \mathcal{A}'_{g-1}(N)) \cap (\mathcal{A}_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}_g(N)) = \widetilde{\mathrm{NL}}_{g,1}^b,$$

and the proposition follows. □

**Lemma A.2.** *Let  $N, M \geq 1$  be integers, and suppose*

$$0 \neq [\mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times_{\mu_N} \mathcal{A}'_{g-1}(N)] \in H^4(\mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}'_g(N), \mathbb{Q}).$$

*Then*

$$0 \neq [\mathcal{A}'_1(NM) \times_{\mu_{NM}} \mathcal{A}'_{g-1}(NM)] \in H^4(\mathcal{A}'_1(NM) \times \mathcal{A}'_g(NM), \mathbb{Q}).$$

*Proof.* The pullback map  $H^4(\mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}'_g(N), \mathbb{Q}) \rightarrow H^4(\mathcal{A}'_1(NM) \times \mathcal{A}'_g(NM), \mathbb{Q})$  is injective because the projection  $\pi_{N,M} : \mathcal{A}'_1(NM) \times \mathcal{A}'_g(NM) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}'_g(N)$  is finite. Hence by assumption,  $\pi_{N,M}^* [\mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times_{\mu_N} \mathcal{A}'_{g-1}(N)] \neq 0$ . On the other hand, the preimage  $\pi_{N,M}^{-1}(\mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times_{\mu_N} \mathcal{A}'_{g-1}(N))$  is a union of  $\mathrm{GSp}_2(\mathbb{Z}/NM\mathbb{Z}) \times \mathrm{GSp}_{2g}(\mathbb{Z}/NM\mathbb{Z})$ -translates of  $\mathcal{A}'_1(NM) \times_{\mu_{NM}} \mathcal{A}'_{g-1}(NM)$ , and the lemma follows.  $\square$

**A.3.2. Automorphic forms in cohomology.** Fix  $\tau = i \mathrm{Id} \in \mathbb{H}_g$ . The stabilizer of  $\tau$  in  $\mathrm{GSp}_{2g}(\mathbb{R})$  is the subgroup  $\mathbb{R}^\times \cdot U(g)$ , and the tangent space to the real manifold  $\mathbb{H}_g$  at  $\tau$  is  $\mathfrak{p} := \mathfrak{sp}_{2g, \mathbb{R}}/\mathfrak{u}(g)$ . As a  $U(g)$ -module,  $\mathfrak{p}_{\mathbb{C}}$  is isomorphic to  $\mathrm{Sym}^2 \oplus (\mathrm{Sym}^2)^\vee$ , where  $\mathrm{Sym}^2$  is the symmetric square of the  $g$ -dimensional defining representation of  $U(g)$ .

Thus we have a canonical map

$$(3) \quad (\mathcal{A}(\mathrm{GSp}_{2g}) \otimes \wedge^i \mathfrak{p}_{\mathbb{C}}^*)^{\mathbb{R}^\times \cdot U(g)} \rightarrow H^i(\mathcal{A}'_g(N), \mathbb{C}),$$

which on cusp forms restricts to a map

$$(4) \quad (\mathcal{A}_0(\mathrm{GSp}_{2g}) \otimes \wedge^i \mathfrak{p}_{\mathbb{C}}^*)^{\mathbb{R}^\times \cdot U(g)} \rightarrow H_c^i(\mathcal{A}'_g(N), \mathbb{C}).$$

#### A.4. Newforms and Whittaker models for $\mathrm{GL}_2$ .

**A.4.1.** Let  $\pi$  be an irreducible, admissible, infinite-dimensional representation of  $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Q}_p)$  for prime  $p$ . The conductor of  $\pi$  is the least  $n$  such that  $\pi^{K_1(p^n)_p} \neq 0$ ; it is well-known that such an  $n$  always exists, and, if  $n$  is minimal, then  $\pi^{K_1(p^n)_p}$  is one-dimensional. A generator of this space is called a local newform for  $\pi$ .

**A.4.2.** Recall the nontrivial additive character  $\psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}$  of  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ , which is trivial on  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  but not on  $p\mathbb{Z}_p$ . We also view  $\psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}$  as a character of

$$U(\mathbb{Q}_p) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, a \in \mathbb{Q}_p \right\} \subset \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Q}_p).$$

Then  $\pi$  has a Whittaker model

$$W_{\psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}}(\pi) \subset \mathrm{Ind}_{U(\mathbb{Q}_p)}^{\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Q}_p)} \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}.$$

Let  $W_{\pi, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}}^0 \in W_{\psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}}(\pi)$  be a local newform.

**Proposition A.3.** *Suppose  $\pi$  has conductor  $n \geq 1$ , so that  $L(s, \pi) = (1 - \alpha p^{-s})$  for some  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$ . Then up to rescaling  $W_{\pi, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}}^0$ , we have*

$$W_{\pi, \psi_k}^0 \left( \begin{pmatrix} t & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right) = \begin{cases} 0, & \mathrm{ord}_p(t) < 0, \\ 1, & \mathrm{ord}_p(t) = 0, \\ |t|^{1/2} \alpha^{\mathrm{ord}_p(t)}, & \mathrm{ord}_p(t) > 0. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* This is a special case of [15, Theorem 4.1].  $\square$

#### A.5. Induced representations and Eisenstein series on $\mathrm{GL}_2$ .



A.5.1. For each place  $v$  of  $\mathbb{Q}$ , let

$$(5) \quad I_v(s) = \text{Ind}_{B(\mathbb{Q}_v)}^{\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Q}_v)} \delta_B^s$$

be the normalized induction, and let  $I(s) = \otimes'_v I_v(s)$ .

For  $\varphi(s) \in I(s)$ , we have the Eisenstein series

$$E(g, s; \varphi) = \sum_{\gamma \in B(\mathbb{Q}) \backslash \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Q})} \varphi(s)(\gamma g), g \in \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{A}),$$

which converges for  $\Re(s) \gg 0$ .

A.5.2. For  $N \geq 1$ , we define a section  $\varphi_N^0 = \otimes_v \varphi_{N,v}^0 \in I(1/2)$  as follows:

- For  $v = p$ ,  $\varphi_{N,p}^0$  is the unique  $K_1(N)_p$ -invariant section supported on  $B(\mathbb{Q}_p) \cdot K_1(N)_p$  and satisfying  $\varphi_{N,p}^0(1) = 1$ .
- For  $v = \infty$ ,  $\varphi_{N,\infty}^0$  is the unique  $\text{SO}(2)$ -spherical section satisfying  $\varphi_{N,\infty}^0(1) = 1$ .

We can extend  $\varphi_N^0$  uniquely to a section  $\varphi_N^0(s) \in I(s)$  so that the restriction of  $\varphi_N^0$  to  $\text{GL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}}) \cdot \text{SO}(2)$  is independent of  $s$ .

**Proposition A.4.** *The Eisenstein series  $E(g, s; \varphi_N^0)$  has a pole at  $s = 1/2$ , with residue a nonzero constant function of  $g$ .*

*Proof.* By the well-known theory of Eisenstein series for  $\text{GL}_2$ , it suffices to show that  $\varphi_{N,v}^0$  has nontrivial image under the intertwining operator

$$M_v : I_v(1/2) \rightarrow I_v(-1/2)$$

for all primes  $v$ . At  $v = \infty$  and  $v = p \nmid N$ , this is clear because  $\varphi_{N,v}^0$  is the unique spherical vector for a maximal compact subgroup of  $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Q}_v)$ , so we consider the case of  $v = p \mid N$ . The intertwining operator is given explicitly by

$$M_p(\varphi)(g) = \int_{\mathbb{Q}_p} \varphi \left( \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & y \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} g \right) dy, \quad \varphi \in I_v(1/2), g \in \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Q}_p).$$

Normalizing the measure so that  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  has unit volume, we therefore calculate:

$$\begin{aligned} M_p(\varphi_{N,p}^0)(1) &= \varphi_{N,p}^0 \left( \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right) + \int_{\mathbb{Q}_p \backslash \mathbb{Z}_p} \varphi_{N,p}^0 \left( \begin{pmatrix} y^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & y \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -y \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ y^{-1} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right) dy \\ &= 0 + \int_{\mathbb{Q}_p \backslash \mathbb{Z}_p} |y|^{-2} \varphi_{N,p}^0 \left( \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ y^{-1} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right) dy \\ &= \sum_{n \geq \text{ord}_p(N)} \int_{p^{-n} \mathbb{Z}_p^\times} |y|^{-2} dy = \sum_{n \geq \text{ord}_p(N)} p^{-n-1} (p-1) \neq 0, \end{aligned}$$

where in the second line we have used that  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \notin B(\mathbb{Q}_p) K_1(N)_p$  for all  $p \mid N$ .  $\square$

## A.6. Weil representation and theta lifting.

A.6.1. Let  $\epsilon = \pm 1$ , and let  $V, W$  be vector spaces over a field  $k$  equipped with nondegenerate  $\epsilon$ -symmetric and  $(-\epsilon)$ -symmetric pairings, respectively. We assume  $\dim W = 2n$  and  $\dim V = 2m$  are even, that  $V$  has trivial discriminant character, and that  $W$  is equipped with a complete polarization

$$(6) \quad W = W_1 \oplus W_2, \quad W_2 = W_1^*.$$

A.6.2. Let  $G_1 = G_1(V)$ ,  $G = G(V)$  be the connected isometry and similitude groups, respectively, of  $V$ , and likewise  $H_1 = H_1(W)$  and  $H = H(W)$ ; we have the natural similitude characters  $\nu_G : G \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_m$  and  $\nu_H : H \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_m$ .

A.6.3. *The local Weil representation.* Suppose that  $k$  is a local field, and let  $\psi_k$  be a nontrivial additive character of  $k$ . Then following Roberts' construction [18], the similitude Weil representation  $\omega = \omega_{V,W,\psi_k}$  of  $(H \times_{\mathbb{G}_m} G)(k)$  is realized on the Schwartz space  $\mathcal{S}(W_2 \otimes V)$  of compactly supported, complex-valued functions on  $W_2 \otimes V$ . Concise descriptions of this representation can be found in [5, §2] or [20, §4], but all we require are the following two facts:

- The action of

$$\left( \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \nu_G(g) \end{pmatrix}, g \right) \in (H \times_{\mathbb{G}_m} G)(k)$$

on  $\mathcal{S}(W_2 \otimes V)$  is given by  $\phi \mapsto |\nu_G(g)|^{-mn/2} \phi \circ g^{-1}$ .

- Suppose  $V = V_1 \oplus V_2$  is a polarization of  $V$ . Then the Fourier transform

$$(7) \quad \begin{aligned} &\mathcal{S}(W_2 \otimes V) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}(W \otimes V_2) \\ &\phi \mapsto \widehat{\phi}, \quad \widehat{\phi}(x_1, x_2) = \int_{W_2 \otimes V_1} \phi(z, x_2) \psi(z \cdot x_1) dz, \end{aligned}$$

with  $dz$  the self-dual Haar measure, defines an  $(H \times_{\mathbb{G}_m} G)(k)$ -linear isomorphism from  $\omega_{V,W,\psi_k}$  to  $\omega_{W,V,\psi_k}$ .

A.6.4. *The global Weil representation.* Now turn to the global situation, and take  $k = \mathbb{Q}$  in (A.6.1). The adelic Schwartz space  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{A}}(W_2 \otimes V)$  is the restricted tensor product of the local Schwartz spaces  $\mathcal{S}_k(W_2 \otimes V) = \mathcal{S}(W_2 \otimes V \otimes k)$  as  $k$  ranges over completions of  $\mathbb{Q}$ . The global Weil representation  $\omega = \omega_{V,W,\psi}$  of  $(H \times_{\mathbb{G}_m} G)(\mathbb{A})$  is realized on  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{A}}(W_2 \otimes V)$  as the restricted tensor product of the local Weil representations.

Recall the automorphic realization of  $\omega$ , given by the theta kernel:

$$(8) \quad \theta(h, g; \phi) = \sum_{x \in W_2(\mathbb{Q}) \otimes V(\mathbb{Q})} \omega(h, g) \phi(x), \quad (h, g) \in (H \times_{\mathbb{G}_m} G)(\mathbb{A}), \quad \phi \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{A}}(W_2 \otimes V).$$

A.6.5. *Theta lifts of automorphic forms.* Let  $f \in \mathcal{A}_0(G(\mathbb{A}))$  be an automorphic cusp form and choose any  $\phi \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{A}}(W_2 \otimes V)$ . Then, fixing a Haar measure  $dg_1$  on  $G_1(\mathbb{A})$ , the similitude theta lift  $\theta_{\phi}(f)$  to  $H$  is the automorphic function

$$(9) \quad h \mapsto \int_{[G_1]} \theta(g_1 g_0, h; \phi) f(g_1 g_0) dh_1, \quad h \in H(\mathbb{A}),$$

where  $g_0 \in G(\mathbb{A})$  is any element such that  $\nu_G(g_0) = \nu_H(h)$ .

For any compact open subgroup  $K \subset H(\mathbb{A}_f)$ , we say  $\phi_f \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{A}_f}(W_2 \otimes V)$  is  $K$ -invariant, which we write as

$$\phi_f \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{A}_f}(W_2 \otimes V)^K,$$

if for all  $k \in K$ , there exists  $g_0 \in G(\mathbb{A}_f)$  with  $\nu_G(g_0) = \nu_H(k)$  such that

$$\omega(g_0, k)\phi_f = \phi_f.$$

Note that, if we fix  $\phi_\infty \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{R}}(W_2 \otimes V)$ , then

$$(10) \quad \theta_{\phi_f \otimes \phi_\infty}(f) \text{ is } K\text{-invariant for all } \phi_f \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{A}_f}(W_2 \otimes V)^K.$$

### A.7. Some explicit Schwartz functions.

A.7.1. *The split four-dimensional quadratic space.* We briefly recall the conventions of [20, §5.1]. Let  $V = M_2$ , with its canonical involution  $x \mapsto x^*$  and quadratic form given by  $(x, y) = \text{tr}(x\bar{y}^*)$ . We have the map of algebraic groups over  $\mathbb{Q}$ :

$$(11) \quad \mathbf{p}_Z : \text{GL}_2 \times \text{GL}_2 \rightarrow \text{GO}(V)$$

defined by  $\mathbf{p}_Z(g_1, g_2) \cdot x = g_1 x g_2^*$ . The kernel of  $\mathbf{p}_Z$  is the antidiagonally embedded  $\mathbb{G}_m$ , and  $\mathbf{p}_Z$  is a surjection onto the connected similitude group  $\text{GSO}(V) \subset \text{GO}(V)$ .

A.7.2. For any pair of automorphic forms  $f_1, f_2$  on  $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{A})$  with the same central character, we obtain an automorphic form  $f_1 \boxtimes f_2$  on  $\text{GSO}(V)$  defined by

$$(12) \quad (f_1 \boxtimes f_2)(\mathbf{p}_Z(g_1, g_2)) = f_1(g_1)f_2(g_2), \quad g_1, g_2 \in \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{A}).$$

A.7.3. *Symplectic spaces.* For all  $g$ , we consider the standard symplectic space of dimension  $2g$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , with basis  $e_1, e_2, \dots, e_{2g}$  such that

$$e_{2n-1} \cdot e_{2n} = -e_{2n} \cdot e_{2n-1} = 1, \quad \forall 1 \leq n \leq g,$$

and all other pairings of basis vectors are trivial. We will always take the complete polarization

$$\langle e_1, e_2, \dots, e_{2n} \rangle = \langle e_1, e_3, \dots, e_{2g-1} \rangle \oplus \langle e_2, e_4, \dots, e_{2g} \rangle.$$

A.7.4. *Nonarchimedean Schwartz functions.* For each prime  $p$ , define the Schwartz function

$$\phi_{N,p} \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{Q}_p}(V)$$

to be the indicator function of the subset

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{Z}_p & \mathbb{Z}_p \\ N\mathbb{Z}_p & \mathbb{Z}_p \end{pmatrix} \subset V \otimes \mathbb{Q}_p = M_2(\mathbb{Q}_p).$$

Clearly  $\phi_{N,p}$  depends only on the  $p$ -adic valuation of  $N$ . Also identify  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{Q}_p}(V)$  with the Schwartz space  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{Q}_p}(\langle e_2 \rangle \otimes V)$ , which realizes the Weil representation of  $(\text{GSp}_2 \times_{\mathbb{G}_m} \text{GSO}(V))(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ .

Fix the polarization  $V = V_1 \oplus V_2$ , where

$$(13) \quad V_1 = \begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad V_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ z & w \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Proposition A.5.** *Under the Fourier transform of (7),*

$$\widehat{\phi}_{N,p} \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{Q}_p}(\langle e_1, e_2 \rangle \otimes V_2)$$

is the indicator function of the set

$$e_1 \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ \mathbb{Z}_p & \mathbb{Z}_p \end{pmatrix} + e_2 \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ N\mathbb{Z}_p & \mathbb{Z}_p \end{pmatrix} \subset \langle e_1, e_2 \rangle \otimes V_2.$$

*Proof.* By definition,

$$\widehat{\phi}_{N,p} \left( e_1 \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ z_1 & w_1 \end{pmatrix} + e_2 \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ z_2 & w_2 \end{pmatrix} \right) = \int_{\mathbb{Q}_p^2} \phi_{N,p} \left( \begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ z_2 & w_2 \end{pmatrix} \right) \cdot \psi(xw_1 - yz_1),$$

and the proposition follows.  $\square$

**Proposition A.6.** *Fix integers  $N$  and  $M$  and consider the Schwartz function*

$$\phi_{N,M,p} := \phi_{N,p} \otimes \phi_{M,p} \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{Q}_p}(\langle e_2 \rangle \otimes V) \otimes \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{Q}_p}(\langle e_4 \rangle \otimes V) \subset \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{Q}_p}(\langle e_2, e_4 \rangle \otimes V).$$

Then we have

$$\phi_{N,M,p} \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{Q}_p}(\langle e_2, e_4 \rangle \otimes V)^{K_{N,2,p} \cap K_{M,2,p}}.$$

*Proof.* By the same calculation as Proposition A.5, the Fourier transform

$$\widehat{\phi}_{N,M,p} \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{Q}_p}(\langle e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4 \rangle \otimes V_2)$$

is the indicator function of the set

$$e_1 \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ \mathbb{Z}_p & \mathbb{Z}_p \end{pmatrix} + e_2 \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ \mathbb{Z}_p & N\mathbb{Z}_p \end{pmatrix} + e_3 \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ \mathbb{Z}_p & \mathbb{Z}_p \end{pmatrix} + e_4 \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ \mathbb{Z}_p & M\mathbb{Z}_p \end{pmatrix}.$$

Because the Fourier transform is equivariant for  $(\mathrm{GSp}_4 \times_{\mathbb{G}_m} \mathrm{GSO}(V))(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ , the proposition follows from the stability of this set under the action of

$$K_{N,2,p} \cap K_{M,2,p} = \{g \in \mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{Z}_p) : g \equiv \mathrm{Id} \pmod{p^{\max\{\mathrm{ord}_p(N), \mathrm{ord}_p(M)\}}}\}.$$

$\square$

A.7.5. *The local Siegel-Weil map.* For each place  $v$  of  $\mathbb{Q}$ , we have a map

$$M_{1,v}[\cdot] : \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{Q}_v}(V) \rightarrow I_v(1/2)$$

given by

$$M_{1,v}[\phi](g) = \omega(h_{\det(g)}, \mathbf{p}_Z(g, 1)) \widehat{\phi}(0) = |\det(g)|^{-1} \int_{\mathbb{Q}_v} \phi \left( g^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right) dx dy,$$

cf. [20, §6.4.6].

**Proposition A.7.** *Suppose  $p|N$ . Then*

$$M_{1,p}[\phi_{N,p} - p^{-1}\phi_{N/p,p}] = (1 - p^{-1})\varphi_{N,p}^0.$$

*Proof.* First, we calculate, for  $i \geq 0$ :

$$\begin{aligned} M_{1,p}[\phi_{N,p}] \left( \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ p^i & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right) &= \int_{\mathbb{Q}_p} \phi_{N,p} \left( \begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ p^i x & p^i y \end{pmatrix} \right) dx dy \\ &= \mathrm{Vol}(\mathbb{Z}_p \cap p^{\mathrm{ord}_p(N)-i}\mathbb{Z}_p) = \begin{cases} p^{i-\mathrm{ord}_p(N)}, & i \leq \mathrm{ord}_p(N) \\ 1, & i > \mathrm{ord}_p(N). \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

In particular,

$$(14) \quad M_{1,p}[\phi_{N,p} - p^{-1}\phi_{N/p,p}] \left( \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ p^i & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right) = \begin{cases} 1 - p^{-1}, & i \geq \text{ord}_p(N) \\ 0, & 0 \leq i < \text{ord}_p(N). \end{cases}$$

On the other hand, it is clear that  $M_{1,p}[\phi_{N,p} - p^{-1}\phi_{N/p,p}]$  is invariant under  $K_1(N)_p$ . By the Iwasawa decomposition  $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Q}_p) = B(\mathbb{Q}_p) \cdot \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$  and the coset decomposition

$$\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) = \bigsqcup_{0 \leq i \leq \text{ord}_p(N)} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ p^i & 1 \end{pmatrix} K_1(N)_p,$$

we conclude from (14) that  $M_{1,p}[\phi_{N,p} - p^{-1}\phi_{N/p,p}]_p = (1 - p^{-1})\varphi_{N,p}^0$ .  $\square$

**A.7.6. Archimedean Schwartz function.** Let  $\tau$  be the representation of  $U(2)$  of highest weight  $(3, -1)$ . We fix the nontrivial vector-valued archimedean Schwartz function

$$\phi_\infty \in (\mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{R}}(W_2 \otimes V) \otimes \tau \otimes (\chi_2^\vee \boxtimes \chi_4^\vee))^{U(2) \times \mathfrak{p}_Z(\text{SO}(2) \times \text{SO}(2))},$$

denoted  $\varphi_{2,4}^-$  in [20, §7.1.6].

## A.8. Proof of Theorem A.11.

**A.8.1. Construction of cohomology classes.** Fix new cuspidal Hecke eigenforms  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  for  $\Gamma_1(N)$  of weights 4 and 2, respectively, and of equal nebetype character  $\varepsilon$ . Then  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  correspond to automorphic forms

$$f_{1,\mathbb{A}} \in (\mathcal{A}_0(\text{GSp}_2; K_{N,1}) \otimes \chi_4)^{\mathbb{R}^\times \cdot U(1)}, \quad f_{2,\mathbb{A}} \in (\mathcal{A}_0(\text{GSp}_2; K_{N,1}) \otimes \chi_2)^{\mathbb{R}^\times \cdot U(1)}.$$

For any Schwartz function

$$\phi_f \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{A}_f}(\langle e_2, e_4 \rangle \otimes V)^{K_{N,2}},$$

we consider the vector-valued lift

$$\Theta_{\phi_f \otimes \phi_\infty}(f_{1,\mathbb{A}} \boxtimes f_{2,\mathbb{A}}) \in (\mathcal{A}(\text{GSp}_4; K_{N,2}) \otimes \tau)^{\mathbb{R}^\times \cdot U(2)}.$$

**Remark A.8.** Assuming it is nonzero, the vector-valued automorphic form  $\Theta_{\phi_f \otimes \phi_\infty}(f_{1,\mathbb{A}} \boxtimes f_{2,\mathbb{A}})$  generates the unique generic member of the endoscopic Yoshida lift  $L$ -packet on  $\text{GSp}_4$  associated to  $f_1$  and  $f_2$ , cf. [19].

By [19, Theorem 8.3],  $\Theta_{\phi_f \otimes \phi_\infty}(f_{1,\mathbb{A}} \boxtimes f_{2,\mathbb{A}})$  is a cusp form. Moreover, an easy calculation shows that  $\text{Hom}_{U(2)}(\tau, \wedge^3 \mathfrak{p}_{\mathbb{C}}^*)$  is one-dimensional in the notation of (A.3.2) with  $g = 2$ . Hence from (4), we obtain a class

$$(15) \quad [\Theta_{\phi_f \otimes \phi_\infty}(f_{1,\mathbb{A}} \boxtimes f_{2,\mathbb{A}})] \in H_c^3(\mathcal{A}'_2(N), \mathbb{C})$$

which is well-defined up to a scalar multiple.

When  $g = 1$ , the space  $\mathfrak{p}_{\mathbb{C}}^*$  is a direct sum  $\chi_2 \oplus \chi_2^\vee$  as a  $U(1)$ -module. In particular,

$$\overline{f_{2,\mathbb{A}}} \in (\mathcal{A}_0(\text{GSp}_2; K_{N,1}) \otimes \chi_2^\vee)^{\mathbb{R}^\times \cdot U(1)}$$

defines a class

$$[\overline{f_{2,\mathbb{A}}}] \in H_c^1(\mathcal{A}'_1(N), \mathbb{C}).$$

This is the usual cohomology class attached to the holomorphic modular form  $f_2 \otimes \varepsilon^{-1}$ . By the Künneth formula, we also have the cohomology class

$$(16) \quad [\overline{f_{2,\mathbb{A}}}] \boxtimes [\Theta_{\phi_f \otimes \phi_\infty}(f_{1,\mathbb{A}} \boxtimes f_{2,\mathbb{A}})] \in H_c^4(\mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}'_2(N), \mathbb{C}).$$

**Proposition A.9.** *Up to a nonzero scalar depending on the normalizations, the Poincaré duality pairing*

$$\langle [\mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times_{\mu_N} \mathcal{A}'_1(N)], [\overline{f_{2,\mathbb{A}}}] \boxtimes [\Theta_{\phi_f \otimes \overline{\phi_\infty}}(f_{1,\mathbb{A}} \boxtimes f_{2,\mathbb{A}})] \rangle \in H_c^8(\mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}'_2(N), \mathbb{C}) \simeq \mathbb{C}$$

is given by

$$\int_{[H]} \Theta_{\phi_f \otimes \overline{\phi_\infty}}(f_{1,\mathbb{A}} \boxtimes f_{2,\mathbb{A}})(\iota(h_1, h_2)) \overline{f_{2,\mathbb{A}}}(h_1) d(h_1, h_2),$$

where  $H = \mathrm{GSp}_2 \times_{\mathbb{G}_m} \mathrm{GSp}_2$  is given the coordinates  $(h_1, h_2)$  and  $\iota : H \hookrightarrow \mathrm{GSp}_4$  is the standard embedding.

*Proof.* See [20, Proposition 7.2.4]. □

**Lemma A.10.** *Suppose  $N > 1$  is an integer such that there exist cuspidal newforms  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  for  $\Gamma_1(N)$  of weights 4 and 2, respectively, of equal nebentype character  $\varepsilon$ . Then*

$$0 \neq [\mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times_{\mu_N} \mathcal{A}'_1(N)] \in H^4(\mathcal{A}'_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}'_2(N), \mathbb{Q}).$$

*Proof.* Without loss of generality, we may assume  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  are Hecke eigenforms. Then Proposition A.9 reduces us to showing the nonvanishing of the period that appears therein, for some choice of  $\phi_f \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{A}_f}(\langle e_2, e_4 \rangle \otimes V)^{K_{N,2}}$ .

We now fix the Schwartz function  $\phi_f \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{A}_f}(\langle e_2, e_4 \rangle \otimes V)$  to be of the form  $\phi_f^{(1)} \otimes \phi_f^{(2)}$  for  $\phi_f^{(i)} = \otimes_p \phi_p^{(i)} \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathbb{A}_f}(\langle e_{2i} \rangle \otimes V)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ . By [20, Theorem 6.5.2, Proposition 7.1.9], it suffices to show that, for all  $p|N$ , we may choose  $\phi_p^{(i)}$  such that the following local zeta integrals are all nonzero:

$$(17) \quad \int_{(U \backslash \mathrm{PGL}_2 \times U \backslash \mathrm{PGL}_2)(\mathbb{Q}_p)} \int_{\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Q}_p)} W_{\pi_{1,p}, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}}^0(g_1) W_{\pi_{2,p}, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}}^0(g_2) W_{\pi_{2,p}^\vee, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}^{-1}}(h_1 h_c) \\ \omega(h_1 h_c, g) \widehat{\phi}_p^{(1)}(1, 0, 0, -1) \varphi_{N,p}^0(g_2) M_1[\phi_p^{(2)}](g_1) dh_1 dg_1 dg_2, \\ c = \det(g_1 g_2), \\ g = \mathbf{p}_Z(g_1, g_2).$$

Here,  $(1, 0, 0, -1) \in \langle e_1, e_2 \rangle \otimes V_2$  is the vector  $e_1 \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + e_2 \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ ;  $\pi_{1,p}$ ,  $\pi_{2,p}$ , and  $\pi_{2,p}^\vee$  are the local components of the automorphic representations generated by  $f_{1,\mathbb{A}}$ ,  $f_{2,\mathbb{A}}$ , and  $\overline{f_{2,\mathbb{A}}}$ , respectively; and  $W_{\pi_{1,p}, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}}^0$ , etc. are the corresponding local newforms in the Whittaker models. In fact, in [20, Theorem 6.5.2],  $\varphi_N^0$  is replaced with  $\varphi^0 := \varphi_1^0$ ; however, the proof of *loc. cit.* still applies, as long as Proposition A.4 is used to replace the explicit calculation of the residue in [20, Proposition 6.4.10]. We choose our Schwartz functions as follows for  $p|N$ :

- $\phi_p^{(1)} = \phi_{N,p}$  for all  $p$ .
- $\phi_p^{(2)} = \phi_{N,p} - p^{-1} \phi_{N/p,p}$  for all  $p$ .

With these choices, we now show that (17) is nonzero.

We first consider the inner integral:

$$(18) \quad I(g) = \int_{\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Q}_p)} W_{\pi_{2,p}^\vee, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}}^0(h_1 h_c) \omega(h_1 h_c, g) \widehat{\phi}_{N,p}^{(1)}(1, 0, 0, -1) dh_1.$$

Now, [20, Lemma 6.3.3] and its proof identifies (18) with a function in the  $\psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}^{-1} \boxtimes \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}^{-1}$ -Whittaker model of the representation  $\pi_{2,p}^\vee \boxtimes \pi_{2,p}^\vee$  of  $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Q}_p) \boxtimes \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ . Because  $\phi_{N,p}$  is clearly invariant by  $\mathbf{p}_Z(K_1(N)_p \times K_1(N)_p)$ , and because  $\mathrm{ord}_p(N)$  is the conductor of  $\pi_{2,p}$ , (18) is a scalar multiple of the local newform  $W_{\pi_{2,p}^\vee, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}^{-1}}^0 \boxtimes W_{\pi_{2,p}^\vee, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}^{-1}}^0$ . To show this scalar multiple is nonzero, we evaluate

$$(19) \quad I(1) = \int_{\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Q}_p)} W_{\pi_{2,p}^\vee, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}^{-1}}^0(h_1) \omega(h_1, 1) \widehat{\phi}_{N,p}(1, 0, 0, -1) dh_1.$$

Now by Proposition A.5, we can calculate directly that  $\omega(h_1, 1) \widehat{\phi}_{N,p}(1, 0, 0, -1)$  is the indicator function of  $K_1(N)_p$ . Hence

$$I(1) = \mathrm{Vol}(K_1(N)_p) \cdot W_{\pi_{2,p}^\vee, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}^{-1}}^0(1) \neq 0$$

by Proposition A.3. Hence, up to a nonzero scalar, (17) becomes, after using Proposition A.3: (20)

$$\int_{(U \setminus \mathrm{PGL}_2 \times U \setminus \mathrm{PGL}_2)(\mathbb{Q}_p)} W_{\pi_{2,p}^\vee, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}^{-1}}^0(g_1) W_{\pi_{2,p}^\vee, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}^{-1}}^0(g_2) W_{\pi_{1,p}^\vee, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}^{-1}}^0(g_1) W_{\pi_{2,p}^\vee, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}^{-1}}^0(g_2) \varphi_{N,p}^0(g_1) \varphi_{N,p}^0(g_2) dg_1 dg_2.$$

This factors into the product of the two integrals

$$(21) \quad \int_{(U \setminus \mathrm{PGL}_2)(\mathbb{Q}_p)} W_{\pi_{1,p}^\vee, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}^{-1}}^0(g_1) W_{\pi_{2,p}^\vee, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}^{-1}}^0(g_1) \varphi_{N,p}^0(g_1) dg_1,$$

$$(22) \quad \int_{(U \setminus \mathrm{PGL}_2)(\mathbb{Q}_p)} W_{\pi_{2,p}^\vee, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}^{-1}}^0(g_2) W_{\pi_{2,p}^\vee, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}^{-1}}^0(g_2) \varphi_{N,p}^0(g_2) dg_2.$$

Now, because  $\varphi_{N,p}^0$  is supported on  $B(\mathbb{Q}_p)K_1(N)_p$  by definition, and the local newforms are all  $K_1(N)_p$ -invariant, (21) and (22) become, up to nonzero scalars:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\mathbb{Q}_p^\times} W_{\pi_{1,p}^\vee, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}^{-1}}^0 \left( \begin{pmatrix} t & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right) W_{\pi_{2,p}^\vee, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}^{-1}}^0 \left( \begin{pmatrix} t & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right) |t| d^\times t, \\ & \int_{\mathbb{Q}_p^\times} W_{\pi_{2,p}^\vee, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}^{-1}}^0 \left( \begin{pmatrix} t & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right) W_{\pi_{2,p}^\vee, \psi_{\mathbb{Q}_p}^{-1}}^0 \left( \begin{pmatrix} t & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right) |t| d^\times t \end{aligned}$$

Now an easy computation using Proposition A.3 shows that both of these integrals are nonzero, which proves the lemma.  $\square$

**Theorem A.11.** *For  $N = 11$  and all  $N \geq 13$ , and for all  $b : (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^2 \hookrightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^{2g}$ , we have*

$$0 \neq [\widetilde{\mathrm{NL}}_{2,1}^b(N)]^+ \in H^4(\mathcal{A}_1(N) \times \mathcal{A}_2(N), \mathbb{Q}).$$

*Proof.* Combining Proposition A.1 with Lemmas A.2 and A.10, it suffices to show that, for all such  $N$ , there exists  $N_0 | N$  satisfying the following condition:

- (\*) There exist cuspidal newforms  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  of weights 4 and 2, respectively, for  $\Gamma_1(N_0)$ , with equal central characters  $\varepsilon$ .

First, we note that  $p = 11$  and all primes  $p > 13$  satisfy (\*). Indeed, for such  $p$  it is known that there exists a cuspidal newform  $f$  of weight 2 for  $\Gamma_0(p)$ , cf. [8, Proposition B.3]; then  $f^2$  is a cuspidal eigenform of weight 4 for  $\Gamma_0(p)$ , which is necessarily new because there are no cusp forms of weight 4 for  $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ .

To exhibit more integers satisfying (\*), we give the following table (sorted by prime factorization of  $N_0$ ), in which all the data and labels are taken from [13].

$N_0$	$f_1$	$f_2$	$\varepsilon$
$16 = 2^4$	16.4.e.a	16.2.e.a	16.e
$27 = 3^3$	27.4.a.a	27.2.a.a	triv
$25 = 5^2$	25.4.d.a	25.2.d.a	25.d
$49 = 7^2$	49.4.a.a	49.2.a.a	triv
13	13.4.e.a	13.2.e.a	13.e
$24 = 2^3 \cdot 3$	24.4.a.a	24.2.a.a	triv
$18 = 2 \cdot 3^2$	18.4.c.a	18.2.c.a	18.c
$20 = 2^2 \cdot 5$	20.4.a.a	20.2.a.a	triv
$14 = 2 \cdot 7$	14.4.a.a	14.2.a.a	triv
$15 = 3 \cdot 5$	15.4.a.a	15.2.a.a	triv
$21 = 3 \cdot 7$	21.4.a.a	21.2.a.a	triv
$35 = 5 \cdot 7$	35.4.a.a	35.2.a.a	triv

Now a direct calculation shows that all  $N$  as in the theorem are divisible by either 11, a prime  $p > 13$ , or one of the  $N_0$  appearing in the table, which completes the proof.  $\square$

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