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ON THE ZEROS OF EISENSTEIN SERIES ASSOCIATED WITH $\Gamma_0^*(2)$, $\Gamma_0^*(3)$

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1. INTRODUCTION

Let $k \ge 4$ be an even integer, for $z \in \mathbb{H} := \{z \in \mathbb{C} ; Im(z) > 0\}$, let

(1)
$$E_k(z) := \frac{1}{2} \sum_{(c,d)=1} (cz+d)^{-k}$$

be the *Eisenstein series* associated with $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$. Then,

$$\mathbb{F} := \left\{ |z| \ge 1, \ -\frac{1}{2} \le \operatorname{Re}(z) \le 0 \right\} \bigcup \left\{ |z| > 1, \ 0 \le \operatorname{Re}(z) < \frac{1}{2} \right\}$$

is a fundamental domain of $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$.

In [RSD], F. K. C. Rankin and H. P. F. Swinnerton-Dyer considered the problem of locating the zeros of $E_k(z)$ in \mathbb{F} . They proved that for k = 12n + s (s = 4, 6, 8, 10, 0, and 14), then n zeros are in $A := \{z \in \mathbb{C} ; |z| = 1, \pi/2 < Arg(z) < 2\pi/3\}$. They also said in the last part of the paper, "This method can equally well be applied to Eisenstein series associated with subgroup of the modular group." However, it seems unclear how widely this claim holds.

Here, we consider the same problem for Fricke groups $\Gamma_0^*(2)$ and $\Gamma_0^*(3)$ (See [K], [Q]), which are commensurable groups of $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$. For a fixed prime p, we define the following;

(2)
$$\Gamma_0^*(p) := \Gamma_0(p) \cup \Gamma_0(p) W_p$$

where

(3)
$$\Gamma_0(p) := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \operatorname{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}) \; ; \; c \equiv 0 \pmod{p} \right\}, \quad W_p := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1/\sqrt{p} \\ \sqrt{p} & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let $k \ge 4$ be an even integer, for $z \in \mathbb{H}$, let

(4)
$$E_{k,p}^{*}(z) := \frac{1}{p^{k/2} + 1} \left(p^{k/2} E_k(pz) + E_k(z) \right)$$

be the Eisenstein series associated with $\Gamma_0^*(p)$. Then the next regions

$$\mathbb{F}^{*}(2) := \left\{ |z| \ge 1/\sqrt{2}, \ -\frac{1}{2} \le Re(z) \le 0 \right\} \bigcup \left\{ |z| > 1/\sqrt{2}, \ 0 \le Re(z) < \frac{1}{2} \right\}$$
$$\mathbb{F}^{*}(3) := \left\{ |z| \ge 1/\sqrt{3}, \ -\frac{1}{2} \le Re(z) \le 0 \right\} \bigcup \left\{ |z| > 1/\sqrt{3}, \ 0 \le Re(z) < \frac{1}{2} \right\}$$

are fundamental domains of $\Gamma_0^*(2)$ and $\Gamma_0^*(3)$, respectively.

Define

(5)
$$m_2(k) := \left\lfloor \frac{k}{8} - \frac{t}{4} \right\rfloor, \quad m_3(k) := \left\lfloor \frac{k}{6} - \frac{t}{4} \right\rfloor,$$

where t = 0 or 2, s.t. $t \equiv k \pmod{4}$, and $\lfloor n \rfloor$ is the largest integer not more than n.

In this paper, we will apply the method of F. K. C. Rankin and H. P. F. Swinnerton-Dyer (RSD Method) to the Eisenstein series associated with $\Gamma_0^*(2)$ and $\Gamma_0^*(3)$. We will prove the next theorems.

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Theorem 1. Let $k \ge 4$ be an even integer. $E_{k,2}^*(z)$ has $m_2(k)$ zeros on $A_2^* := \{z \in \mathbb{C}; |z| = 1/\sqrt{2}, \pi/2 < Arg(z) < 3\pi/4\}.$

Theorem 2. Let $k \ge 4$ be an even integer. $E_{k,3}^*(z)$ has $m_3(k)$ zeros on $A_3^* := \{z \in \mathbb{C}; |z| = 1/\sqrt{3}, \pi/2 < Arg(z) < 5\pi/6\}.$

2. $\Gamma_0^*(2)$ (Proof of Theorem1)

2.1. **Preliminaries.** We give the next definition;

$$F_{k,2}^*(\theta) := e^{ik\theta/2} E_{k,2}^* \left(e^{i\theta}/\sqrt{2} \right)$$

Before proving Theorem1, we consider an expansion of $F_{k,2}^*(\theta)$. By the definition of $E_k(z), E_{k,2}^*(z)$ (cf. (1),(4)), we have

$$2(2^{k/2}+1)e^{ik\theta/2}E_{k,2}^*\left(e^{i\theta}/\sqrt{2}\right)$$

= $2^{k/2}\sum_{(c,d)=1}(ce^{-i\theta/2}+\sqrt{2}de^{i\theta/2})^{-k}+2^{k/2}\sum_{(c,d)=1}(ce^{i\theta/2}+\sqrt{2}de^{-i\theta/2})^{-k}$

Now, we consider the case if c is *even*. We have

$$2^{k/2} \sum_{\substack{(c,d)=1\\c:even}} (ce^{-i\theta/2} + \sqrt{2}de^{i\theta/2})^{-k} = 2^{k/2} \sum_{\substack{(c,d)=1\\d:odd}} (2c'e^{-i\theta/2} + \sqrt{2}de^{i\theta/2})^{-k} \quad (c = 2c')$$
$$= \sum_{\substack{(c,d)=1\\d:odd}} (\sqrt{2}c'e^{-i\theta/2} + de^{i\theta/2})^{-k} = \sum_{\substack{(c,d)=1\\c:odd}} (ce^{i\theta/2} + \sqrt{2}de^{-i\theta/2})^{-k}.$$

Thus we can write as follows;

(7)
$$F_{k,2}^{*}(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{(c,d)=1\\c:odd}} (ce^{i\theta/2} + \sqrt{2}de^{-i\theta/2})^{-k} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{(c,d)=1\\c:odd}} (ce^{-i\theta/2} + \sqrt{2}de^{i\theta/2})^{-k}.$$

Hence we use this expression as a definition.

In the last part of this section, we compare the two series in this expression. Note that for any pair (c,d), $(ce^{i\theta/2} + \sqrt{2}de^{-i\theta/2})^{-k}$ and $(ce^{-i\theta/2} + \sqrt{2}de^{i\theta/2})^{-k}$ are conjugates of each other. The next lemma follows.

Lemma 2.1. $F_{k,2}^*(\theta)$ is real, for $\forall \theta \in \mathbb{R}$.

2.2. Application of the RSD Method. We will apply the method of F. K. C. Rankin and H. P. F. Swinnerton-Dyer (RSD Method) to the Eisenstein series associated with $\Gamma_0^*(2)$. We note that $N := c^2 + d^2$.

Firstly, we consider the case N = 1. Because c is odd, there are two cases, (c,d) = (1,0) and (c,d) = (-1,0). Then

(8)
$$F_{k,2}^*(\theta) = 2\cos(k\theta/2) + R_2^*$$

where R_2^* is the summation of the rest terms.

Let $v_k(c, d, \theta) := |ce^{i\theta/2} + \sqrt{2}de^{-i\theta/2}|^{-k}$, then $v_k(c, d, \theta) = 1/(c^2 + 2d^2 + 2\sqrt{2}cd\cos\theta)^{k/2}$, and $v_k(c, d, \theta) = v_k(-c, -d, \theta)$.

Now we will consider the next three cases, namely N = 2, 5, and $N \ge 10$. Note that $\theta \in [\pi/2, 3\pi/4]$. When N = 2, $v_k(1, 1, \theta) \le 1$, $v_k(1, -1, \theta) \le (1/3)^{k/2}$. When N = 5, $v_k(1, 2, \theta) \le (1/5)^{k/2}$, $v_k(1, -2, \theta) \le (1/3)^k$. When $N \ge 10$, $|ce^{i\theta/2} \pm \sqrt{2}de^{-i\theta/2}|^2 \ge (c^2 + d^2)/3 = N/3$, and the rest of the question is about the number of terms with $c^2 + d^2 = N$. Because c is odd, $|c| = 1, 3, ..., 2N' - 1 \le N^{1/2}$, so the number of |c| is not more than $(N^{1/2} + 1)/2$. Thus the number of terms with $c^2 + d^2 = N$ is not more than $2(N^{1/2} + 1) \le 3N^{1/2}$, for $N \ge 5$. Then we get the upper bound $\frac{162}{k-3} \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^{k/2}$.

Thus

(9)
$$|R_2^*| \leq 2 + 2\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^{k/2} + 2\left(\frac{1}{5}\right)^{k/2} + 2\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^k + \frac{162}{k-3}\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^{k/2}$$

Recalling "RSD Method", we want to show that $|R_2^*| < 2$. But the right-hand side is greater than 2. The point is the case $(c, d) = \pm (1, 1)$. We will consider the expansion of the method.

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2.3. Expansion of the RSD Method (1). In the previous subsection, the point was the case (c, d) = $\pm(1,1)$. Notice that " $v_k(1,1,\theta) < 1 \Leftrightarrow \theta < 3\pi/4$ ". So we can easily expect that we get a good bound for $\theta \in [\pi/2, 3\pi/4 - x]$ for small x > 0. But if k = 8n, we need $|R_2^*| < 2$ for $\theta = 3\pi/4$ in this method. We will consider the case when $k = 8n, \theta = 3\pi/4$ in the next section.

Let k = 8n + s (n = m(k), s = 4, 6, 0, and 10). If k < 8, then n < 1. Consequently, $F_{k,2}^{*}(\theta)$ has at least 0 zeros, which does not make sense. So we may assume that $k \ge 8$.

The first problem is how small x should be. We consider each of the cases s = 4, 6, 0, and 10.

When s = 4, $(2n+1)\pi \leq k\theta/2 \leq (3n+1)\pi + \pi/2$. So the last integer point (*i.e.* ± 1) is $k\theta/2 = (3n+1)\pi$, then $\theta = 3\pi/4 - \pi/k$. Similarly, when s = 6, and 10, we have $\theta = 3\pi/4 - \pi/2k$, $3\pi/4 - 3\pi/2k$, respectively. When s = 0, the second to the last integer point is $\theta = 3\pi/4 - \pi/k$.

Thus we need $x \leq \pi/2k$.

Lemma 2.2. Let $k \ge 8$. For $\forall \theta \in [\pi/2, 3\pi/4 - x]$ $(x = \pi/2k), |R_2^*| < 2$.

Before proving the above lemma, we need the following preliminaries.

Proposition 2.1.

- (1) If $0 \le x \le \pi/2$, then $\sin x \ge 1 \cos x$.
- (2) If $0 \le x \le \pi/16$, then $1 \cos x \ge \frac{31}{64}x^2$.

Proof of Lemma 2.2. Let $k \ge 8$ and $x = \pi/2k$, then $0 \le x \le \pi/16$.

$$|e^{i\theta/2} + \sqrt{2}e^{-i\theta/2}|^2 \ge 1 + \frac{31}{16}x^2. \quad (Prop.2.1)$$

$$|e^{i\theta/2} + \sqrt{2}e^{-i\theta/2}|^k \ge 1 + \frac{k}{2}\frac{31}{16}x^2 \ge 1 + \frac{31}{4}x^2. \quad (k \ge 8)$$

$$v_k(1, 1, \theta) \le 1 - \frac{(31/4)}{1 + (31/4)x^2}x^2 \le 1 - \frac{31 \times 256}{31\pi^2 + 1024}x^2.$$

Thus

$$2v_k(1,1,\theta) \leqslant 2 - \frac{31 \times 512}{31\pi^2 + 1024} \left(\frac{\pi}{2k}\right)^2 \leqslant 2 - \frac{265}{9} \frac{1}{k^2}$$

In inequality(15), replace 2 with the bound $2 - \frac{265}{9} \frac{1}{k^2}$. Then

$$|R_2^*| \leq 2 - \frac{265}{9} \frac{1}{k^2} + 35 \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^{k/2} \quad (k \ge 8)$$

Finally, we can show that $35\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^{k/2} < \frac{265}{9}\frac{1}{k^2}$. So, the proof is complete. 2.4. Expansion of the RSD Method (2). For the case " $k = 8n, \theta = 3\pi/4$ ", we need the next lemma.

Lemma 2.3. Let k be an integer such that k = 8n for $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}$. If n is even, then $F_{k,2}^*(3\pi/4) > 0$. On the other hand if n is odd, then $F_{k,2}^*(3\pi/4) < 0$.

Before proving this lemma, recall that $E_k(z)$ is the *modular form* of weight k for $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ for $k \ge 4$: even. Then

(10)
$$E_k(z+1) = E_k(z), \quad E_k(-1/z) = z^k E_k(z).$$

Proof of Lemma 2.3. Let k = 8n $(n \ge 1)$. By the definition of $E_{k,2}^*(z), F_{k,2}^*(z)$ (cf. (4), (12)), we have

$$F_{k,2}^*(3\pi/4) = \frac{e^{i3(k/8)\pi}}{2^{k/2}+1} \left(2^{k/2} E_k(-1+i) + E_k\left(\frac{-1+i}{2}\right) \right).$$

By using the equations (10), $E_k(-1+i) = E_k(i)$, $E_k((-1+i)/2) = 2^{k/2}E_k(i)$. Then

$$F_{k,2}^*(3\pi/4) = 2e^{i(k/8)\pi} \frac{2^{k/2}}{2^{k/2}+1} F_k(\pi/2).$$

The next question is: "Which one holds; $F_k(\pi/2) < 0$ or $F_k(\pi/2) > 0$?".

In [RSD], they showed $F_k(\theta) := e^{ik\theta/2}E_k(\theta) = 2\cos(k\theta/2) + R_1$. Then they proved $|R_1| < 2$ for $k \ge 12$. Moreover, for k = 8, $|R_1|$ is not more than 1.29658... < 2. It is monotonically decreasing in k. Thus we can show

(11)
$$|R_1| < 2 \quad for \quad \forall k \ge 8.$$

When k = 8n,

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$$F_{8n,2}^*(3\pi/4) = 2e^{in\pi} \frac{2^{4n}}{2^{4n}+1} F_{8n}(\pi/2),$$

where $\frac{2^{4n}}{2^{4n}+1} > 0$, $F_{8n}(\pi/2) = 2\cos(2n\pi) + R_1 > 0$. So the sign(±) of $F_{k,2}^*(3\pi/4)$ is that of $e^{in\pi}$. Thus the proof is complete.

3. $\Gamma_0^*(3)$ (Proof of Theorem 2)

3.1. **Preliminaries.** We give the next definition;

(12)
$$F_{k,3}^{*}(\theta) := e^{ik\theta/2} E_{k,3}^{*}\left(e^{i\theta}/\sqrt{3}\right).$$

By the definition of $E_k(z), E_{k,3}^*(z)$ (cf. (1),(4)), we have

$$2(3^{k/2}+1)e^{ik\theta/2}E_{k,3}^*\left(e^{i\theta}/\sqrt{3}\right)$$

= $3^{k/2}\sum_{(c,d)=1}(ce^{-i\theta/2}+\sqrt{3}de^{i\theta/2})^{-k}+3^{k/2}\sum_{(c,d)=1}(ce^{i\theta/2}+\sqrt{3}de^{-i\theta/2})^{-k}.$

We consider the case if 3 is divisible by c. Then we can write as follows;

(13)
$$F_{k,3}^*(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{(c,d)=1\\3\nmid c}} (ce^{i\theta/2} + \sqrt{3}de^{-i\theta/2})^{-k} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{(c,d)=1\\3\nmid c}} (ce^{-i\theta/2} + \sqrt{3}de^{i\theta/2})^{-k}$$

The next lemma follows.

Lemma 3.1. $F_{k,3}^*(\theta)$ is real, for $\forall \theta \in \mathbb{R}$.

3.2. Application of the RSD Method. We note that $N := c^2 + d^2$, and consider the case N = 1. Then we can write;

(14)
$$F_{k,3}^*(\theta) = 2\cos(k\theta/2) + R_3^*. \quad (\exists R_3^* \in \mathbb{R})$$

Let $v_k(c, d, \theta) := |ce^{i\theta/2} + \sqrt{3}de^{-i\theta/2}|^{-k}$. Now we will consider the next cases, namely N = 2, 5, 10, 13, 17, and $N \ge 25$. Considering $\theta \in [\pi/2, 5\pi/6]$, we calculate $v_k(c, d, \theta)$ for N = 2, 5, 10, 13, 17. Furthermore, for $N \ge 25$, we get the upper bound $\frac{352\sqrt{6}}{k-3} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^k$. Thus

(15)
$$|R_3^*| \leqslant 4 + 176 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^k$$

Now, we want to show that $|R_3^*| < 2$. But the right-hand side is much greater than 2. The points are the cases $(c, d) = \pm (1, 1), \pm (2, 1)$.

3.3. Expansion of the RSD Method (1). In this subsection, we will prove following lemma.

Lemma 3.2. Let $k \ge 8$. For $\forall \theta \in [\pi/2, 5\pi/6 - x]$ $(x = \pi/3k)$, $|R_3^*| < 2$.

Before proving the above lemma, we need the following preliminaries.

Proposition 3.1.

 $\begin{array}{ll} (1) \ \ For \ k \ge 8, \ \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{2/k} \leqslant 1 + \left(2\log\frac{3}{2}\right)\frac{1}{k} + \frac{1}{2}\left(2\log\frac{3}{2}\right)^2 \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{2/k} \frac{1}{k^2}. \\ (2) \ \ For \ k \ge 8, \ 3 + 2\sqrt{3}\cos\left(\frac{5\pi}{6} - \frac{\pi}{3k}\right) \ge \frac{\pi}{\sqrt{3}}\frac{1}{k}. \\ (3) \ \ For \ k \ge 8, \ and \ let \ x = \pi/3k, \ then \ 4 + 2\sqrt{3}\cos\left(\frac{5\pi}{6} - x\right) \ge \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{2/k} \left(1 + \frac{256 \times 7 \times 13}{3 \times 127 \times k}x^2\right). \end{array}$

Proposition 3.2.

- (1) For $k \ge 8$, $3^{2/k} \le 1 + (2\log 3)\frac{1}{k} + \frac{1}{2}(2\log 3)^2 3^{2/k}\frac{1}{k^2}$.
- (2) For $k \ge 8$, $6 + 4\sqrt{3}\cos\left(\frac{5\pi}{6} \frac{\pi}{3k}\right) \ge \frac{2\pi}{\sqrt{3}}\frac{1}{k}$.
- (3) For $k \ge 8$, and let $x = \pi/3k$, then $7 + 4\sqrt{3}\cos\left(\frac{5\pi}{6} x\right) \ge 3^{2/k} \left(1 + \frac{256 \times 7 \times 13}{3 \times 127 \times k}x^2\right)$.

Proof of Lemma 3.2. Let $k \ge 8$ and $x = \pi/3k$, then $0 \le x \le \pi/24$. By Proposition 3.1

$$|e^{i\theta/2} + \sqrt{3}e^{-i\theta/2}|^2 \ge \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{2/k} \left(1 + \frac{256 \times 7 \times 13}{3 \times 127 \times k} x^2\right). \quad (Prop.3.1(3))$$
$$v_k(1,1,\theta) \le \frac{2}{3} - \frac{107}{8} x^2.$$

Similarly, by Proposition 3.2

$$|2e^{i\theta/2} + \sqrt{3}e^{-i\theta/2}|^2 \ge 3^{2/k} \left(1 + \frac{256 \times 7 \times 13}{3 \times 127 \times k}x^2\right). \quad (Prop.3.1(3))$$
$$v_k(2, 1, \theta) \leqslant \frac{1}{3} - \frac{107}{16}x^2.$$

In inequality (15), replace 4 with these bounds. Then

$$|R_3^*| \leq 2 - \frac{107\pi^2}{24} \frac{1}{k^2} + 176 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^k.$$

We can show that $176 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^k < \frac{107\pi^2}{24} \frac{1}{k^2}$.

3.4. Expansion of the RSD Method (2). For the case " $k = 12n, \theta = 5\pi/6$ ", we need the next lemma. Lemma 3.3. Let k be the integer such that k = 12n for $\exists n \in \mathbb{N}$. If n is even, then $F_{k,3}^*(5\pi/6) > 0$. On the other hand, if n is odd, then $F_{k,3}^*(5\pi/6) < 0$.

Proof. Let k = 12n $(n \ge 1)$. By the definition of $E_{k,3}^*(z), F_{k,3}^*(z)$ (cf. (4), (12)), we have

$$F_{k,3}^*(5\pi/6) = \frac{e^{i5(k/12)\pi}}{3^{k/2}+1} \left(3^{k/2}E_k\left(\frac{-3+\sqrt{3}i}{2}\right) + E_k\left(\frac{-\sqrt{3}+i}{2\sqrt{3}}\right)\right)$$

By using the equations (10), for k = 12n,

$$F_{12n,3}^*(5\pi/6) = 2e^{in\pi} \frac{3^{6n}}{3^{6n}+1} F_{12n}(2\pi/3),$$

where $\frac{3^{6n}}{3^{6n}+1} > 0$, $F_{12n}(2\pi/3) = 2\cos(4n\pi) + R_1 > 0(cf. (11))$. So the sign(±) of $F_{k,3}^*(5\pi/6)$ is that of $e^{in\pi}$. Thus the proof is complete.

Remark 1. Getz[G] considered a similar problem for the zeros of extremal modular forms of $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$. It seems that similar results do not hold for extremal modular forms of $\Gamma_0^*(2)$ and $\Gamma_0^*(3)$. We plan to look into this in the near future.

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