



Theta lifts for Lorentzian lattices and coefficients of mock theta functions

Jan Hendrik Bruinier¹ · Markus Schwagenscheidt²

Received: 7 January 2020 / Accepted: 12 May 2020 / Published online: 9 July 2020
© The Author(s) 2020

Abstract

We evaluate regularized theta lifts for Lorentzian lattices in three different ways. In particular, we obtain formulas for their values at special points involving coefficients of mock theta functions. By comparing the different evaluations, we derive recurrences for the coefficients of mock theta functions, such as Hurwitz class numbers, Andrews' spt-function, and Ramanujan's mock theta functions.

1 Introduction

Special values of modular forms at complex multiplication points play a prominent role in number theory. For instance, they are crucial in explicit class field theory and in the Chowla–Selberg formula. Moreover, the evaluation of automorphic Green functions at CM points determines archimedean height pairings appearing in the Gross–Zagier formula and some of its generalizations [24]. These can be computed using suitable see-saw dual pairs for regularized theta lifts of harmonic Maass forms to orthogonal groups of signature $(2, n)$, see [35] or [15], for example.

In the present paper, we study similar special values of regularized theta lifts for Lorentzian lattices, that is, for even lattices of signature $(1, n)$. It was shown in [16] that these values appear naturally as vanishing orders of Borcherds products along boundary divisors of toroidal compactifications of orthogonal Shimura varieties. Here we compute the special values in several different ways. As an application, we derive general recursive formulas for

Jan Hendrik Bruinier is partially supported by the DFG Research Unit FOR 1920 ‘Symmetry, Geometry and Arithmetic’ and the LOEWE Research Unit USAG. Markus Schwagenscheidt is supported by the SFB-TRR 191 ‘Symplectic Structures in Geometry, Algebra and Dynamics’, funded by the DFG. The authors thank Michael Mertens for insightful discussions and the anonymous referee for helpful remarks.

✉ Markus Schwagenscheidt
mschwage@math.uni-koeln.de

Jan Hendrik Bruinier
bruinier@mathematik.tu-darmstadt.de

¹ Fachbereich Mathematik, Technische Universität Darmstadt, Schlossgartenstraße 7,
64289 Darmstadt, Germany

² Mathematical Institute, University of Cologne, Weyertal 86-90, 50931 Cologne, Germany

the coefficients of mock theta functions. These include the Hurwitz–Kronecker class number relations and some generalizations as special cases. We give a more detailed outline of our results now.

1.1 Theta lifts for Lorentzian lattices

Let L be an even lattice of signature $(1, n)$ with $n \geq 1$. Let L' denote its dual lattice and let $\text{Gr}(L)$ be the Grassmannian of positive lines in $L \otimes \mathbb{R}$. The associated Siegel theta function $\Theta_L(\tau, z)$ is defined on $\mathbb{H} \times \text{Gr}(L)$ and takes values in the group ring $\mathbb{C}[L'/L]$. As a function of $\tau \in \mathbb{H}$ it transforms like a modular form of weight $(1 - n)/2$ for the Weil representation ρ_L associated to L . Furthermore, it is invariant in z under the subgroup of $O(L)$ fixing L'/L . Following Borcherds [4], for a harmonic Maass form f of weight $(1 - n)/2$ for ρ_L we define the *regularized theta lift*

$$\Phi(f, z) = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathcal{F}_T} \langle f(\tau), \Theta_L(\tau, z) \rangle v^{\frac{1-n}{2}} \frac{dudv}{v^2}, \quad (\tau = u + iv \in \mathbb{H}, z \in \text{Gr}(L)),$$

where \mathcal{F}_T denotes the standard fundamental domain for $\text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$, cut off at height $v = T$, and $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is the natural inner product on $\mathbb{C}[L'/L]$ which is antilinear in the second variable. One of the special features in signature $(1, n)$ is that the theta lift $\Phi(f, z)$ converges without the additional regularization employed by Borcherds in [4]. Another peculiarity is the fact that $\Phi(f, z)$ defines a *continuous* function on $\text{Gr}(L)$ which is real-analytic up to singularities along certain sub-Grassmannians of signature $(1, n - 1)$, whose shape is determined by the principal part of the input harmonic Maass form f .

In this article, we study three different evaluations of the theta lift $\Phi(f, z)$. First, by writing f as a linear combination of Maass Poincaré series and using the unfolding argument we obtain an invariant representation of $\Phi(f, z)$ as a convergent series. Second, using the unfolding argument on (a Poincaré series representation of) the Siegel theta function $\Theta_L(\tau, z)$ we obtain the Fourier expansion of $\Phi(f, z)$. Finally, we evaluate the theta lift at *special points* $w \in \text{Gr}(L)$, which means that w is defined over \mathbb{Q} . In this case, we consider the positive definite one-dimensional and negative definite n -dimensional sublattices

$$P = L \cap w, \quad N = L \cap w^\perp.$$

Then $P \oplus N$ has finite index in L . For simplicity, let us assume in the introduction that $L = P \oplus N$. Then the Siegel theta function for L , evaluated at w , naturally splits as a tensor product

$$\Theta_L(\tau, w) = \Theta_P(\tau) \otimes \Theta_N(\tau)$$

of the Siegel theta functions associated to P and N . Note that $\Theta_P(\tau)$ is a holomorphic unary theta series of weight $1/2$. We choose a harmonic Maass form $\widetilde{\Theta}_P(\tau)$ of weight $3/2$ which maps to $\Theta_P(\tau)$ under the ξ -operator and then use Stokes' Theorem to evaluate the regularized integral defining $\Phi(f, w)$. To describe the resulting expression, let us assume for the moment that f is weakly holomorphic. Then we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(f, w) &= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathcal{F}_T} \langle f(\tau), \Theta_P(\tau) \otimes \Theta_N(\tau) \rangle v^{\frac{1-n}{2}} \frac{dudv}{v^2} \\ &= \text{CT} \left(\left\langle f, \overline{\widetilde{\Theta}_P^+ \otimes \Theta_N^-} \right\rangle \right), \end{aligned}$$

where CT denotes the constant term of a q -series, $\tilde{\Theta}_P^+$ is the holomorphic part of the harmonic Maass form $\tilde{\Theta}_P$, and Θ_{N^-} is the holomorphic theta series associated to the positive definite n -dimensional lattice $N^- = (N, -Q)$. A similar method for the evaluation of theta lifts at special points has been used by several authors, see [15,20,35], for example.

Note that $\tilde{\Theta}_P^+(\tau)$ is a mock theta function of weight $3/2$. Hence, by comparing the three evaluations of the theta lift, one can obtain recurrences for the coefficients of mock theta functions. A classical example of such recurrences are the Hurwitz–Kronecker class number relations

$$\sum_{r \in \mathbb{Z}} H(4m - r^2) = 2\sigma_1(m) - \sum_{\substack{a, b \in \mathbb{N} \\ ab=m}} \min(a, b),$$

for $m \in \mathbb{N}$, where $H(n)$ are the Hurwitz class numbers and $\sigma_1(m) = \sum_{d|m} d$ is the usual divisor sum. Note that the Hurwitz class numbers are the coefficients of the holomorphic part of Zagier’s weight $3/2$ non-holomorphic Eisenstein series [38]. In other words, they are the coefficients of a mock theta function. We will see in Sect. 4 that the class number relations can be deduced by comparing the different evaluations of the theta lift for the even unimodular lattice of signature $(1, 1)$.

The problem of finding recurrences for the Hurwitz class numbers has a long history, which goes back at least to Kronecker [30] and Hurwitz [26], and has been further investigated by Eichler [21] and Cohen [18], amongst others. By now, there is a very rich literature on recurrences for Hurwitz class numbers and, more generally, for the coefficients of mock theta functions. Such relations can be proved, for example, by studying Fourier coefficients of Eisenstein series (see [18,25,36,37]) or using the method of holomorphic projection (see [1,6,19,27,31,32]). Our work yields a new and quite flexible method for finding recurrences of mock theta functions, which offers a lot of freedom in the choice of the lattice L and the special point $w \in \text{Gr}(L)$.

We explain our results in an example in signature $(1, 2)$ in more detail now.

1.2 Theta lifts in signature $(1, 2)$

We consider the lattice $L = \mathbb{Z}^3$ with the quadratic form $Q(a, b, c) = -b^2 + ac$. It is an even lattice of signature $(1, 2)$. The Grassmannian of L can be identified with the complex upper half-plane \mathbb{H} , and the action of the modular group $\Gamma = \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ by fractional linear transformations on \mathbb{H} corresponds to its natural action on L by isometries, so we can view the theta lift $\Phi(f, z)$ as a Γ -invariant function on \mathbb{H} . Moreover, vector-valued modular forms for the Weil representation associated to L can be identified with scalar-valued modular forms f for $\Gamma_0(4)$ satisfying the Kohnen plus space condition, so we can use scalar-valued modular forms f as inputs for the theta lift. Finally, the set of vectors in the dual lattice L' of fixed norm $-D/4$ may be identified with the set \mathcal{Q}_D of integral binary quadratic forms $[a, b, c]$ of discriminant $D = b^2 - 4ac$. These simplifications allow us to describe our results in a more classical language in the introduction. We also refer the reader to Sect. 4.4 for more details on the translation of the results from the body of the paper to the language used in the introduction.

We let $M_{-1/2}^1$ be the space of weakly holomorphic modular forms $f = \sum_{n \gg -\infty} a_f(n)q^n$ of weight $-1/2$ for $\Gamma_0(4)$ satisfying the Kohnen plus space condition $a_f(n) = 0$ for $n \equiv 1, 2 \pmod{4}$. For every discriminant $D > 0$ there exists a unique weakly holomorphic modular form $f_D \in M_{-1/2}^1$ whose Fourier expansion starts $f_D = q^{-D} + O(1)$, and these forms

constitute a basis of $M_{-1/2}^1$. The function f_D can be explicitly constructed as a Maass Poincaré series. Using the unfolding argument, we obtain the following expression as an infinite series for the theta lift $\Phi(f_D, z)$.

Theorem 1.1 For $z = x + iy \in \mathbb{H}$ we have

$$\Phi(f_D, z) = 4 \sum_{[a,b,c] \in \mathcal{Q}_D} \left(\sqrt{D} - \frac{1}{y} |a|z|^2 + bx + c \mid \arcsin \left(\frac{y\sqrt{D}}{|az^2 + bz + c|} \right) \right).$$

The series on the right-hand side converges absolutely.

We refer the reader to Theorem 3.1 for the general result for lattices of signature $(1, n)$. We would like to remark that a direct computation shows that the image of $\Phi(f_D, z)$ under the Maass lowering operator $L = -2iy^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}}$ is a multiple of the weight -2 locally harmonic Maass form $\mathcal{F}_{-1,D}(z)$ investigated in [7].

To describe our second expression for $\Phi(f_D, z)$ we require the L -function

$$L_D(s) = L_{D_0}(s) \sum_{d|f} \mu(d) \chi_{D_0}(d) d^{-s} \sigma_{1-2s} \left(\frac{f}{d} \right),$$

where we wrote $D = D_0 f^2$ with a fundamental discriminant D_0 and a suitable $f \in \mathbb{N}$ (compare [29, p. 188]). Moreover, $L_{D_0}(s)$ denotes the usual Dirichlet L -function associated to the quadratic character $\chi_{D_0} = \left(\frac{D_0}{\cdot} \right)$, μ is the Moebius function and $\sigma_s(n) = \sum_{d|n} d^s$ is a generalized divisor sum. The special values $L_D(1 - k)$ at negative integers $1 - k$ appear as Fourier coefficients of Cohen’s Eisenstein series of weight $k + 1/2$, compare [18]. Using Cohen’s Eisenstein series of weight $5/2$ and the residue theorem one can show that the constant coefficient of the weakly holomorphic modular form f_D is given by $a_{f_D}(0) = -120L_D(-1)$. The following expression for $\Phi(f_D, z)$ can be obtained by writing the theta function as a Poincaré type series and using the unfolding argument.

Theorem 1.2 The theta lift $\Phi(f_D, z)$ has the Fourier expansion

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(f_D, z) = & -\frac{40\pi}{y} L_D(-1) - \frac{8\pi}{y} \sum_{\substack{[a,b,c] \in \mathcal{Q}_D \\ a|z|^2 + bx + c > 0 > a}} (a|z|^2 + bx + c) \\ & + \delta_{D=\square} \left(4\pi y D + \frac{2\pi}{y} \left(\mathbb{B}_2(\sqrt{D}x) + \mathbb{B}_2(-\sqrt{D}x) \right) \right), \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathbb{B}_2(x)$ is the one-periodic function which agrees with the Bernoulli polynomial $B_2(x) = x^2 - x + \frac{1}{6}$ for $0 \leq x < 1$, and $\delta_{D=\square}$ equals 1 or 0 according to whether D is a square or not.

The general version of this result can be found in Theorem 3.3.

Remark 1.3 (1) The condition $a|z|^2 + bx + c > 0 > a$ means that the geodesic $C_Q = \{z \in \mathbb{H} : a|z|^2 + bx + c = 0\}$ is a semi-circle centered at the real line and that z lies in the interior of the bounded component of $\mathbb{H} \setminus C_Q$. This implies that the sum on the right-hand side in the theorem is finite for fixed z , and vanishes for all $y > \sqrt{D}$. In particular, the above theorem gives a finite expression for $\Phi(f_D, z)$.

(2) It is easy to see from the above evaluation of $\Phi(f_D, z)$ that the special value of the lift at a CM point z of discriminant $d < 0$ is a rational multiple of $\pi\sqrt{|d|}$.

We next describe another evaluation of $\Phi(f_D, z)$ at CM points $z \in \mathbb{H}$. Note that the special points in $\text{Gr}(L)$ precisely correspond to the CM points in \mathbb{H} . The crucial observation here is that the Siegel theta function $\Theta_L(\tau, z)$, evaluated at a CM point $z \in \mathbb{H}$, splits as a tensor product of two Siegel theta functions $\Theta_P(\tau)$ and $\Theta_N(\tau)$ associated to a positive definite one-dimensional sublattice P and a negative definite two-dimensional sublattice N . We can then use Stokes' Theorem to evaluate the theta integral $\Phi(f_D, z)$ in terms of the Fourier coefficients of $f_D(\tau)$ and the coefficients of the holomorphic part of a harmonic Maass form $\tilde{\theta}_P(\tau)$ of weight $3/2$ which maps to the unary theta function $\Theta_P(\tau)$ under the antilinear differential operator

$$\xi_{\frac{3}{2}} = 2iv^{\frac{3}{2}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{\tau}},$$

where we wrote $\tau = u + iv \in \mathbb{H}$.

To simplify the exposition in the introduction, we consider the CM point $z = i$. In this case, the unary theta function $\Theta_P(\tau)$ is essentially equal to the usual Jacobi theta function $\theta(\tau) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} q^{n^2}$. We let $\tilde{\theta}(\tau)$ be a harmonic Maass form of weight $3/2$ for $\Gamma_0(4)$ which maps to $\theta(\tau)$ under $\xi_{3/2}$. We have the following result.

Theorem 1.4 *The special value of $\Phi(f_D, z)$ at $z = i$ is given by*

$$\Phi(f_D, i) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{d \in \mathbb{Z}} a_{f_D}(-d) \sum_{\substack{x, y \in \mathbb{Z} \\ x \equiv d(2)}} a_{\tilde{\theta}}^+(d - x^2 - y^2),$$

where $a_{f_D}(-d)$ and $a_{\tilde{\theta}}^+(d)$ denote the coefficients of $f_D(\tau)$ and the holomorphic part of $\tilde{\theta}(\tau)$, respectively.

The general formula for lattices of signature $(1, n)$ is given in Theorem 3.5.

Remark 1.5 The choice of $\tilde{\theta}(\tau)$ is not unique, but two ξ -preimages of $\theta(\tau)$ may differ by a weakly holomorphic modular form of weight $3/2$. Since the left-hand side in Theorem 1.4 does not depend on the choice of $\tilde{\theta}(\tau)$, we obtain the formula

$$\sum_{d \in \mathbb{Z}} a_{f_D}(-d) \sum_{\substack{x, y \in \mathbb{Z} \\ x \equiv d(2)}} a_g(d - x^2 - y^2) = 0$$

for every weakly holomorphic modular form $g = \sum_{n \gg -\infty} a_g(n)q^n \in M_{3/2}^1$ and every discriminant $D > 0$. This vanishing result can also be explained from the fact that the sum on the left-hand side is the constant coefficient of a weakly holomorphic modular form of weight 2 for $\text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$, which is essentially obtained by multiplying $f_D(\tau)g(\tau)$ with a weight one binary theta series, compare Theorem 3.5 below.

Note that the holomorphic part of $\tilde{\theta}(\tau)$ is a mock theta function of weight $3/2$. For other CM points $z \in \mathbb{H}$ the right-hand side will involve the coefficients of a mock theta function of weight $3/2$ of higher level (depending on the discriminant of z).

In the current situation, there is a canonical preimage $\tilde{\theta}(\tau)$ of $\theta(\tau)$. Namely, Zagier [38] showed that the generating series

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} H(n)q^n$$

of Hurwitz class numbers $H(n)$, with $H(0) = -1/12$, is the holomorphic part of a harmonic Maass form of weight $3/2$ for $\Gamma_0(4)$ which maps to $-(1/16\pi)\theta(\tau)$ under $\xi_{3/2}$. In particular, Theorem 1.4 yields the formula

$$\Phi(f_D, i) = -80\pi L_D(-1) - 8\pi \sum_{\substack{x,y \in \mathbb{Z} \\ x \equiv D(2)}} H(D - x^2 - y^2).$$

Here we used that $a_{f_D}(0) = -120L_D(-1)$. Comparing this evaluation of $\Phi(f_D, i)$ and the one from Theorem 1.2, we obtain the following recurrence for the Hurwitz class numbers.

Corollary 1.6 *For every discriminant $D > 0$ we have*

$$\sum_{\substack{x,y \in \mathbb{Z} \\ x \equiv D(2)}} H(D - x^2 - y^2) = -5L_D(-1) + \sum_{\substack{[a,b,c] \in \mathcal{Q}_D \\ a+c > 0 > a}} (a + c) - \frac{1}{12} \delta_{D \equiv 0(4)} (6D + 1).$$

To further illustrate the formulas that we can obtain using theta lifts for lattices of signature $(1, n)$, we give another example in signature $(1, 1)$. We consider Andrews’ smallest parts function $spt(n)$, which counts the total number of smallest parts in the partitions of n . For $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ we let

$$s(n) = spt(n) + \frac{1}{12}(24n - 1)p(n),$$

with the partition function $p(n)$. It follows from work of Bringmann [5] that the generating series

$$q^{-1/24} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} s(n)q^n$$

is a mock theta function of weight $3/2$ whose shadow is a multiple of the Dedekind eta function. By comparing our different evaluations of the theta lift for a certain lattice of signature $(1, 1)$, we obtain the following recurrences for $s(n)$.

Proposition 1.7 *We have*

$$\sum_{r \in \mathbb{Z}} \left(\frac{12}{r}\right) s\left(m - \frac{r^2}{24} + \frac{1}{24}\right) = 4\sigma_1(m) - 2 \sum_{d|m} (\min(6d, m/d) - \min(3d, 2m/d))$$

for all $m \in \mathbb{N}$.

We refer the reader to Example 4.4 for more details on the proof of the above proposition. Using the method of holomorphic projection, similar recursions for the spt -function were derived by Ahlgren and Andersen in [1], and by Dabholkar, Murty and Zagier in [19, Example 3 in Section 7.1].

Finally, we would like to remark that our different evaluations of the theta lift only yield recurrences for mock theta functions of weight $3/2$. However, one can use the methods of this paper to study a similar theta lift obtained by replacing $\Theta_L(\tau, z)$ with a modified theta function $\Theta_L^*(\tau, z)$, in order to find recurrences for mock theta functions of weight $1/2$. We will sketch this method, which yields recurrences for some of Ramanujan’s classical mock theta functions, in Sect. 4.3.

This work is organized as follows. In Sect. 2 we collect the necessary preliminaries about vector-valued harmonic Maass forms for the Weil representation, Siegel theta functions and

their splittings at special points, and different models of the Grassmannian $\text{Gr}(L)$. In Sect. 3, which is the technical heart of this work, we compute the theta lift for lattices of signature $(1, n)$ in three different ways. Finally, in Sect. 4 we discuss several applications of these different evaluations and obtain recurrences for the coefficients of some mock theta functions.

2 Preliminaries

Throughout this section, we let L be an even lattice of signature (p, q) with quadratic form Q and associated bilinear form (\cdot, \cdot) . The dual lattice of L will be denoted by L' .

2.1 The Weil representation

Let $\mathbb{C}[L'/L]$ be the group ring of L , which is generated by the standard basis vectors ϵ_γ for $\gamma \in L'/L$. We let $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ be the natural inner product on $\mathbb{C}[L'/L]$ which is antilinear in the second variable. Let $\text{Mp}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ be the metaplectic double cover of $\text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$, realized as the set of pairs (M, ϕ) with $M = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ and $\phi : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ a holomorphic function with $\phi^2(\tau) = c\tau + d$. The Weil representation ρ_L of $\text{Mp}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ associated to L is defined on the generators $T = \left(\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, 1\right)$ and $S = \left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 & \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sqrt{\tau}\right)$ by

$$\rho_L(T) \epsilon_\gamma = e(Q(\gamma)) \epsilon_\gamma, \quad \rho_L(S) \epsilon_\gamma = \frac{\sqrt{i}^{q-p}}{\sqrt{|L'/L|}} \sum_{\beta \in L'/L} e(-\langle \beta, \gamma \rangle) \epsilon_\beta,$$

where we put $e(x) = e^{2\pi i x}$ for $x \in \mathbb{C}$. The Weil representation ρ_{L^-} associated to the lattice $L^- = (L, -Q)$ will be called the dual Weil representation associated to L .

2.2 Operators on vector-valued modular forms

For $k \in \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{Z}$ we let $A_{k,L}$ be the set of all functions $f : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ that transform like modular forms of weight k for ρ_L , which means that f is invariant under the slash operator

$$f|_{k,L}(M, \phi) = \phi(\tau)^{-2k} \rho_L(M, \phi)^{-1} f(M\tau)$$

for $(M, \phi) \in \text{Mp}_2(\mathbb{Z})$. Let $K \subset L$ be a sublattice of finite index. Then we have the inclusions $K \subset L \subset L' \subset K'$ and thus $L/K \subset L'/K \subset K'/K$. We have the natural map $L'/K \rightarrow L'/L, \gamma \mapsto \bar{\gamma}$. There are maps

$$\begin{aligned} \text{res}_{L/K} : A_{k,L} &\rightarrow A_{k,K}, & f &\mapsto f_K, \\ \text{tr}_{L/K} : A_{k,K} &\rightarrow A_{k,L}, & g &\mapsto g^L, \end{aligned}$$

which are defined for $f \in A_{k,L}$ and $\gamma \in K'/K$ by

$$(f_K)_\gamma = \begin{cases} f_{\bar{\gamma}}, & \text{if } \gamma \in L'/K, \\ 0, & \text{if } \gamma \notin L'/K, \end{cases}$$

and for $g \in A_{k,K}$ and $\bar{\gamma} \in L'/L$ by

$$(g^L)_{\bar{\gamma}} = \sum_{\beta \in L/K} g_{\beta+\gamma}.$$

They are adjoint with respect to the inner products on $\mathbb{C}[L'/L]$ and $\mathbb{C}[K'/K]$. We refer the reader to [10, Section 3], or [34, Section 4], for more details.

2.3 Harmonic Maass forms

Recall from [12] that a harmonic Maass form of weight $k \in \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{Z}$ for ρ_L is a smooth function $f : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ which is annihilated by the weight k Laplace operator

$$\Delta_k = -v^2 \left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial u^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial v^2} \right) + ikv \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u} + i \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \right), \quad (\tau = u + iv \in \mathbb{H}),$$

which transforms like a modular form of weight k for ρ_L , and which is at most of linear exponential growth at the cusp ∞ . The space of harmonic Maass forms of weight k for ρ_L is denoted by $H_{k,L}$. We let $M_{k,L}^1$ be subspace of weakly holomorphic modular forms, which consists of the forms that are holomorphic on \mathbb{H} . The antilinear differential operator

$$\xi_k = 2iv^k \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{\tau}}$$

maps $H_{k,L}$ onto $M_{2-k,L}^1$. We let $H_{k,L}^{\text{hol}}$ and $H_{k,L}^{\text{cusp}}$ be the subspaces of $H_{k,L}$ which are mapped to the space $M_{2-k,L}^1$ of holomorphic modular forms or the space $S_{2-k,L}$ of cusp forms under ξ_k , respectively. For $k \leq 0$ every $f \in H_{k,L}^{\text{hol}}$ decomposes as a sum $f = f^+ + f^-$ of a holomorphic and a non-holomorphic part, having Fourier expansions of the form

$$\begin{aligned} f^+(\tau) &= \sum_{\gamma \in L'/L} \sum_{\substack{n \in \mathbb{Q} \\ n \gg -\infty}} a_f^+(\gamma, n) q^n \epsilon_\gamma, \\ f^-(\tau) &= \sum_{\gamma \in L'/L} \left(a_f^-(\gamma, 0) v^{1-k} + \sum_{\substack{n \in \mathbb{Q} \\ n < 0}} a_f^-(\gamma, n) \Gamma(1-k, 4\pi|n|v) q^n \right) \epsilon_\gamma, \end{aligned} \tag{2.1}$$

where $a_f^\pm(\gamma, n) \in \mathbb{C}$, $q = e^{2\pi i \tau}$, and $\Gamma(s, x) = \int_x^\infty e^{-t} t^{s-1} dt$ is the incomplete Gamma function. Note that $f \in H_{k,L}^{\text{cusp}}$ is equivalent to $a_f^-(\gamma, 0) = 0$ for all $\gamma \in L'/L$.

2.4 Maass Poincaré series

Examples of harmonic Maass forms of weight $k \leq 0$ can be constructed using Maass Poincaré series, compare [9, Section 1.3]. For $s \in \mathbb{C}$ and $v > 0$ we let

$$\mathcal{M}_s(v) = v^{-k/2} M_{-k/2, s-1/2}(v),$$

with the usual M -Whittaker function. For $\beta \in L'/L$ and $m \in \mathbb{Z} - Q(\beta)$ with $m > 0$, and $s \in \mathbb{C}$ with $\Re(s) > 1$ we define the Maass Poincaré series

$$F_{\beta,m}(\tau, s) = \frac{1}{2\Gamma(2s)} \sum_{(M, \phi) \in \tilde{\Gamma}_\infty \backslash \text{Mp}_2(\mathbb{Z})} \mathcal{M}_s(4\pi m v) e(-mu) \epsilon_\beta |_{k,L}(M, \phi),$$

where $\tilde{\Gamma}_\infty$ is the subgroup of $\text{Mp}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ generated by $T = \left(\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, 1 \right)$. It converges absolutely for $\Re(s) > 1$, it transforms like a modular form of weight k for ρ_L , and it is an eigenform of the Laplace operator Δ_k with eigenvalue $s(1-s) + (k^2 - 2k)/4$. For $k = 0$ the Maass Poincaré series is also called a Niebur Poincaré series [33]. It has a meromorphic continuation

in s to \mathbb{C} which is obtained from its Fourier expansion and which is holomorphic at $s = 1$. For all $k \leq 0$ the special value

$$F_{\beta,m}(\tau) = F_{\beta,m} \left(\tau, 1 - \frac{k}{2} \right)$$

defines a harmonic Maass form in $H_{k,L}^{\text{cusp}}$ whose Fourier expansion starts with

$$F_{\beta,m}(\tau) = q^{-m}(\mathfrak{e}_\beta + \mathfrak{e}_{-\beta}) + O(1).$$

In particular, for $k \leq 0$ every harmonic Maass form $f \in H_{k,L}^{\text{cusp}}$ with Fourier expansion as in (2.1) can be written as a linear combination

$$f(\tau) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\beta \in L'/L} \sum_{m>0} a_f^+(\beta, -m) F_{\beta,m}(\tau) + \mathfrak{c} \tag{2.2}$$

of Maass Poincaré series and a constant $\mathfrak{c} \in \mathbb{C}[L'/L]$, which may be non-zero only if $k = 0$.

2.5 Siegel theta functions and special points

As before, we let L be an even lattice of signature (p, q) . Let $\text{Gr}(L)$ be the Grassmannian of positive definite p -dimensional subspaces of $V = L \otimes \mathbb{R}$. The Siegel theta function associated to L is defined by

$$\Theta_L(\tau, z) = v^{q/2} \sum_{\lambda \in L'} e(Q(\lambda_z)\tau + Q(\lambda_{z^\perp})\bar{\tau}) \mathfrak{e}_{\lambda+L},$$

where $\tau = u + iv \in \mathbb{H}$ and $z \in \text{Gr}(L)$, and λ_z denotes the orthogonal projection of λ to z . The Siegel theta function transforms like a modular form of weight $\frac{p-q}{2}$ for ρ_L in τ (see [4, Theorem 4.1]) and is invariant in z under the subgroup of $O(L)$ fixing L'/L .

Definition 2.1 We call $w \in \text{Gr}(L)$ a *special point* if it is defined over \mathbb{Q} , that is, if it is of the form $w_0 \otimes \mathbb{R}$ for a subspace $w_0 \subset L \otimes \mathbb{Q}$.

For a special point $w \in \text{Gr}(L)$ its orthogonal complement w^\perp in V is also defined over \mathbb{Q} and we obtain the positive and negative definite lattices

$$P = L \cap w, \quad N = L \cap w^\perp.$$

Note that $P \oplus N$ is a sublattice of L of finite index. The Siegel theta functions associated to L and $P \oplus N$ are related by

$$\Theta_L = (\Theta_{P \oplus N})^L, \tag{2.3}$$

with the trace operator defined in Sect. 2.2. Moreover, at the special point w the Siegel theta function associated to $P \oplus N$ splits as a tensor product

$$\Theta_{P \oplus N}(\tau, w) = \Theta_P(\tau) \otimes \Theta_N(\tau), \tag{2.4}$$

where we identified $\mathbb{C}[(P \oplus N)' / (P \oplus N)]$ with $\mathbb{C}[P'/P] \otimes \mathbb{C}[N'/N]$. These two observations can be proved by direct calculations using the definition of the Siegel theta function.

2.6 Unary theta series and Atkin–Lehner operators

For $d \in \mathbb{N}$ the one-dimensional positive definite lattice $\mathbb{Z}(d) = (\mathbb{Z}, dx^2)$ has level $4d$ and its discriminant group is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}/2d\mathbb{Z}$ with the \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z} -valued quadratic form $x \mapsto x^2/4d$. The unary theta series

$$\theta_{1/2,d}(\tau) = \sum_{r(2d)} \sum_{\substack{n \in \mathbb{Z} \\ n \equiv r(2d)}} q^{n^2/4d} \mathbf{e}_r, \quad \theta_{3/2,d}(\tau) = \sum_{r(2d)} \sum_{\substack{n \in \mathbb{Z} \\ n \equiv r(2d)}} nq^{n^2/4d} \mathbf{e}_r,$$

are holomorphic modular forms for the Weil representation associated to $\mathbb{Z}(d)$ of weight $1/2$ and $3/2$, respectively.

For an exact divisor $c \parallel d$ the Atkin–Lehner involution σ_c on $\mathbb{Z}/2d\mathbb{Z}$ is the map defined by the equations $\sigma_c(x) \equiv -x(2c)$ and $\sigma_c(x) \equiv x(2d/c)$. The Atkin–Lehner involutions act on vector-valued modular forms for the Weil representation associated to $\mathbb{Z}(d)$ by

$$\left(\sum_{r(2d)} f_r(\tau) \mathbf{e}_r \right)^{\sigma_c} = \sum_{r(2d)} f_{\sigma_c(r)}(\tau) \mathbf{e}_r.$$

2.7 The upper half-space model of $\text{Gr}(L)$

Let L be a lattice of signature $(1, n)$ with $n \geq 1$. In this case, the Grassmannian $\text{Gr}(L)$ can be identified with hyperbolic n -space, as we now explain. For simplicity, we assume that L contains two primitive isotropic vectors ℓ and ℓ' with $(\ell, \ell') = 1$, that is, L splits a hyperbolic plane over \mathbb{Z} . We consider the negative definite lattice

$$K = L \cap \ell^\perp \cap \ell'^\perp.$$

Note that $L'/L \cong K'/K$. We can identify $\text{Gr}(L)$ with one of the two connected components of the set of norm 1 vectors in $V = L \otimes \mathbb{R}$. We choose the component

$$V_1 = \{v_1 \in V : (v_1, v_1) = 1, (v_1, \ell) > 0\}$$

and identify V_1 with the Grassmannian by mapping $z \in \text{Gr}(L)$ to

$$v_1 = \frac{\ell_z}{|\ell_z|} \in V_1.$$

This is called the *hyperboloid model* of hyperbolic space. Furthermore, we can identify V_1 with the *upper half-space model*

$$\mathbb{H}^n = (K \otimes \mathbb{R}) \times \mathbb{R}_{>0} = \{(x, y) : x \in K \otimes \mathbb{R}, y > 0\}$$

by mapping $(x, y) \in \mathbb{H}^n$ to the norm 1 vector

$$v_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}y}x + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}y}\ell' + \left(\frac{y}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{Q(x)}{\sqrt{2}y} \right) \ell \in V_1.$$

Note that we can write $\lambda \in V$ as $\lambda = b + a\ell' + c\ell$ with $b \in K \otimes \mathbb{R}$ and $a, c \in \mathbb{R}$. Then $Q(\lambda) = Q(b) + ac$. In the hyperboloid model and the upper half-space model the quantity $Q(\lambda_z)$ is given by

$$Q(\lambda_z) = \frac{1}{2}(\lambda, v_1)^2 = \frac{1}{4y^2}(a(y^2 - Q(x))) + (b, x) + c)^2. \tag{2.5}$$

This can be used to translate the formulas from Theorems 3.1 and 3.3 into the corresponding statements in the introduction.

3 The regularized theta lift

Let L be a Lorentzian lattice, that is, an even lattice of signature $(1, n)$ with $n \geq 1$. Throughout, we let $k = (1 - n)/2$ and we let $f \in H_{k,L}^{\text{cusp}}$ be a harmonic Maass form with Fourier expansion as in (2.1). Following Borcherds [4], for $z \in \text{Gr}(L)$ we define the regularized theta lift

$$\Phi(f, z) = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathcal{F}_T} \langle f(\tau), \Theta_L(\tau, z) \rangle v^k \frac{dudv}{v^2}, \tag{3.1}$$

where \mathcal{F}_T denotes the standard fundamental domain for $\text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$, cut off at height $v = T$. By the results of [4, Section 10], and [9, Chapter 3], the theta lift is real-analytic up to singularities along the union of the sets

$$H(\beta, m) = \bigcup_{\substack{\lambda \in L + \beta \\ Q(\lambda) = -m}} \lambda^\perp$$

for those $\beta \in L'/L$ and $m > 0$ with $a_f^+(\beta, -m) \neq 0$. Here λ^\perp denotes the set of all $z \in \text{Gr}(L)$ perpendicular to λ . However, $\Phi(f, z)$ is continuous on all of $\text{Gr}(L)$.

In this section we evaluate the regularized theta lift of $f \in H_{k,L}^{\text{cusp}}$ in three ways. For simplicity, we assume throughout that the constant c in (2.2) vanishes also in the case $n = 1$.

- (1) We write f as a linear combination of Maass Poincaré series $F_{\beta,m}$ as in (2.2) and use the unfolding argument to compute $\Phi(F_{\beta,m}, z)$. This yields an invariant representation of $\Phi(f, z)$ as an infinite series.
- (2) By unfolding against the theta function and using the shape of the singularities of the theta lift, one can compute the Fourier expansion of $\Phi(f, z)$ on all of $\text{Gr}(L)$.
- (3) At special points $w \in \text{Gr}(L)$ we can compute $\Phi(f, w)$ by using the splitting (2.4) of the Siegel theta function and applying Stokes' theorem. We obtain a formula for $\Phi(f, w)$ involving the coefficients of a mock theta function of weight $3/2$.

3.1 An invariant representation of the theta lift

Let $k = (1 - n)/2$ as before. We have the following representation of $\Phi(f, z)$ as an infinite series.

Theorem 3.1 *For $f \in H_{k,L}^{\text{cusp}}$ and $z \in \text{Gr}(L)$ we have*

$$\Phi(f, z) = \frac{2\sqrt{\pi}\Gamma(\frac{n}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{n+3}{2})} \sum_{\substack{\lambda \in L' \\ Q(\lambda) < 0}} a_f^+(\lambda, Q(\lambda)) \frac{|Q(\lambda)|^{\frac{n+1}{2}}}{|Q(\lambda_{z^\perp})|^{\frac{n}{2}}} {}_2F_1\left(\frac{n}{2}, 1, \frac{n+3}{2}; \frac{Q(\lambda)}{Q(\lambda_{z^\perp})}\right),$$

where ${}_2F_1(a, b, c; x)$ denotes Gauss' hypergeometric function. The series on the right-hand side converges absolutely.

Remark 3.2 The hypergeometric function appearing in Theorem 3.1 can be evaluated in terms of more elementary functions for small values of n . For example, for $n = 1$ and $f \in H_{0,L}^{\text{cusp}}$

we find

$$\Phi(f, z) = 4\pi \sum_{\substack{\lambda \in L' \\ Q(\lambda) < 0}} a_f^+(\lambda, Q(\lambda)) \left(\sqrt{|Q(\lambda_{z^\perp})|} - \sqrt{|Q(\lambda_z)|} \right), \tag{3.2}$$

and for $n = 2$ and $f \in H_{-1/2, L}^{\text{cusp}}$ we obtain

$$\Phi(f, z) = 8 \sum_{\substack{\lambda \in L' \\ Q(\lambda) < 0}} a_f^+(\lambda, Q(\lambda)) \left(\sqrt{|Q(\lambda)|} - \sqrt{Q(\lambda_z)} \arcsin \left(\sqrt{\frac{Q(\lambda)}{Q(\lambda_{z^\perp})}} \right) \right). \tag{3.3}$$

Using $Q(\lambda_{z^\perp}) = Q(\lambda) - Q(\lambda_z)$ together with (2.5) one can translate the above series representation of $\Phi(f, z)$ into the upper half-space model, which yields Theorem 1.1.

Proof of Theorem 3.1 Write f as a linear combination of Maass Poincaré series $F_{\beta, m}$ as in (2.2). Recall that we assume $\mathfrak{c} = 0$ also in the case $n = 1$. We have

$$\Phi(F_{\beta, m}, z) = [\Phi(F_{\beta, m}(\cdot, s), z)]_{s=1-\frac{k}{2}}.$$

As in [9, Theorem 2.13], we can compute $\Phi(F_{\beta, m}(\cdot, s), z)$ by unfolding against $F_{\beta, m}(\tau, s)$ and get

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(F_{\beta, m}(\cdot, s), z) &= 2(4\pi m)^{s-\frac{k}{2}} \frac{\Gamma(s + \frac{n-3}{4})}{\Gamma(2s)} \\ &\times \sum_{\substack{\lambda \in L+\beta \\ Q(\lambda)=-m}} (4\pi |Q(\lambda_{z^\perp})|)^{\frac{3-n}{4}-s} {}_2F_1 \left(s + \frac{n-3}{4}, s - \frac{n-1}{4}, 2s; \frac{m}{|Q(\lambda_{z^\perp})|} \right). \end{aligned}$$

We plug in $s = 1 - k/2 = (3 + n)/4$ to obtain the stated formula.

For $k < 0$ the absolute convergence of the series on the right-hand side of the theorem is contained in [9, Theorem 2.13], and for $k = 0$, that is, signature $(1, 1)$, it follows from the more explicit formulas for the series given in Theorem 4.1 and Theorem 4.5 (together with Remark 4.6) below. □

3.2 The Fourier expansion of the theta lift

In order to state the Fourier expansion of the theta lift we need to assume that L contains a primitive isotropic vector ℓ . Moreover, to simplify the exposition, we further assume in this section that L contains another primitive isotropic vector ℓ' with $(\ell, \ell') = 1$ and a negative definite sublattice K of rank $n - 1$ such that

$$L = (\mathbb{Z}\ell \oplus \mathbb{Z}\ell') \oplus^\perp K$$

as an orthogonal direct sum. In other words, we assume that L splits a hyperbolic plane over \mathbb{Z} . Note that in this case we have $L'/L \cong K'/K$.

It is convenient now to use the upper half-space model of $\text{Gr}(L)$, compare Sect. 2.7. The theta lift $\Phi(f, (x, y))$, viewed as a function on the upper half-space \mathbb{H}^n , has the following Fourier expansion.

Theorem 3.3 For $f \in H_{k,L}^{\text{cusp}}$ and $(x, y) \in \mathbb{H}^n$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(f, (x, y)) &= \frac{8\pi y}{(n-1)} \sum_{b \in K'} a_f^+(b, Q(b)) |Q(b)| + \frac{2\pi}{y} \sum_{b \in K'} a_f^+(b, Q(b)) \mathbb{B}_2((b, x)) \\ &+ \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{(\sqrt{2\pi}y)^{-k}} \sum_{b \in K' \setminus \{0\}} a_f^-(b, Q(b)) |b|^{1-k} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e(n(b, x))}{n^{k+1}} K_{1-k}(2\sqrt{2\pi}y|b|) \\ &- \frac{8\pi}{y} \sum_{\substack{a, c \in \mathbb{Z}, b \in K' \\ Q(b) + ac < 0 \\ a(y^2 - Q(x)) + (b, x) + c > 0 > a}} a_f^+(b, Q(b) + ac) (a(y^2 - Q(x)) + (b, x) + c), \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathbb{B}_2(x)$ is the one-periodic function which agrees with the Bernoulli polynomial $B_2(x) = x^2 - x + 1/6$ for $0 \leq x < 1$ and $K_{1-k}(x)$ denotes the K -Bessel function.

Remark 3.4 (1) If $f \in M_{k,L}^!$ is weakly holomorphic, then the second line in the theorem vanishes. All remaining sums are finite, so the above expansion gives a finite expression for $\Phi(f, (x, y))$ for weakly holomorphic f .

(2) If we write $\lambda \in V$ with $Q(\lambda) < 0$ as $\lambda = b + a\ell' + c\ell$ with $b \in K \otimes \mathbb{R}$ and $a, c \in \mathbb{R}$, then the set λ^\perp (consisting of all $z \in \text{Gr}(L)$ orthogonal to λ) is in the upper half-space model given by

$$\lambda^\perp = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{H}^n : a(y^2 - Q(x)) + (b, x) + c = 0\}.$$

The third line in the above Fourier expansion reproduces the singularities of $\Phi(f, (x, y))$ along those λ^\perp with $a \neq 0$, while the sum involving the function $\mathbb{B}_2(x)$ in the first line gives the singularities along those λ^\perp with $a = 0$.

Proof of Theorem 3.3 We first show that the sum in the last line of the theorem is finite for fixed $(x, y) \in \mathbb{H}^n$, and vanishes for all y big enough, independently of x . We can split the sum into a finite sum over those $m < 0$ with $a_f^+(b, m) \neq 0$ for some $b \in K'$, and a sum over $a, c \in \mathbb{Z}, b \in K'$ with $Q(b) + ac = m$ and $a(y^2 - Q(x)) + (b, x) + c > 0 > a$. For $a, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $b \in K'$ with $a < 0$ and $Q(b) + ac = m$, we have

$$-aQ(x) + (b, x) + c \leq -aQ(x) + 2\sqrt{|Q(b)|}\sqrt{|Q(x)|} + c \leq \frac{m}{a}$$

for all $x \in K \otimes \mathbb{R}$, where we used the Cauchy–Schwarz inequality in the first step. In particular, for fixed $(x, y) \in \mathbb{H}^n$ we have

$$a(y^2 - Q(x)) + (b, x) + c \leq ay^2 + \frac{m}{a},$$

which is positive only for finitely many $a \in \mathbb{Z}, a < 0$. Furthermore, this shows that $a(y^2 - Q(x)) + (b, x) + c > 0 > a$ implies $y \leq \sqrt{|m|}$, so each summand in the third line of the theorem vanishes for $y > \sqrt{|m|}$. Fix one of the finitely many $a < 0$ for which $ay^2 + \frac{m}{a}$ is positive. Then we can write

$$a(y^2 - Q(x)) + (b, x) + c = a(y^2 - Q(x)) + (b, x) + \frac{m - Q(b)}{a}.$$

Since $(b, x) - \frac{Q(b)}{a}$ is positive only for finitely many $b \in K'$, we see that the sum in the third line of the theorem is finite for fixed $(x, y) \in \mathbb{H}^n$.

We now write f as a linear combination of Maass Poincaré series $F_{\beta,m}$ in order to apply results from [9]. First, equation (3.11) in [9] gives an expression for the Fourier expansion

of $\Phi(F_{\beta,m}, v_1)$ for $v_1 \in V_1$ (the hyperboloid model of $\text{Gr}(L)$, see Sect. 2.7) with (ℓ, v_1) small enough. The constant $\Phi_{\beta,m}^K$ appearing in this formula can be evaluated using [9, Theorem 2.13]. We obtain for (ℓ, v_1) small enough the expansion

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(f, v_1) &= \frac{8\pi}{\sqrt{2}(n-1)(\ell, v_1)} \sum_{\lambda \in K'} a_f^+(\lambda, Q(\lambda)) |Q(\lambda)| \\ &\quad + 2\sqrt{2}\pi(\ell, v_1) \sum_{\lambda \in K'} a_f^+(\lambda, Q(\lambda)) \mathbb{B}_2\left(\frac{(\lambda, v_1)}{(\ell, v_1)}\right) \\ &\quad + 2\sqrt{2} \left(\frac{\pi}{(\ell, v_1)}\right)^{-k} \sum_{\lambda \in K' \setminus \{0\}} a_f^-(\lambda, Q(\lambda)) |\lambda|^{1-k} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e\left(n\frac{(\lambda, v_1)}{(\ell, v_1)}\right)}{n^{k+1}} K_{1-k}\left(\frac{2\pi n|\lambda|}{(\ell, v_1)}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Recall that we can write $\lambda \in V$ as $\lambda = b + a\ell' + c\ell$ with $b \in K \otimes \mathbb{R}$ and $a, c \in \mathbb{R}$. In the upper half-space model we have

$$(\ell, v_1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}y}, \quad (\lambda, v_1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}y} (a(y^2 - Q(x)) + (b, x) + c).$$

Hence, in the coordinates of \mathbb{H}^n , we find for y big enough the expansion

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(f, (x, y)) &= \frac{8\pi y}{(n-1)} \sum_{b \in K'} a_f^+(b, Q(b)) |Q(b)| + \frac{2\pi}{y} \sum_{b \in K'} a_f^+(b, Q(b)) \mathbb{B}_2((b, x)) \\ &\quad + 2\sqrt{2} \left(\sqrt{2}\pi y\right)^{-k} \sum_{b \in K' \setminus \{0\}} a_f^-(b, Q(b)) |b|^{1-k} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{e(n(b, x))}{n^{k+1}} K_{1-k}\left(2\sqrt{2}\pi n y |b|\right). \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, by [9, Theorem 2.11], the theta lift $\Phi(f, (x, y))$ has a singularity of type

$$-\frac{2\pi}{y} \sum_{\substack{a, c \in \mathbb{Z}, b \in K' \\ Q(b) + ac < 0 \\ a(y_0^2 - Q(x_0)) + (b, x_0) + c = 0}} a_f^+(b, Q(b) + ac) (a(y^2 - Q(x)) + (b, x) + c) \tag{3.4}$$

at a point $(x_0, y_0) \in \mathbb{H}^n$. Recall that this means that there exists a neighbourhood U of (x_0, y_0) such that $\Phi(f, (x, y))$ and the expression in (3.4) are defined on a dense subset of U and such that their difference extends to a real-analytic function on all of U . It is not hard to see that the expression on the right-hand side in the theorem has the same singularities as $\Phi(f, (x, y))$ on \mathbb{H}^n and agrees with $\Phi(f, (x, y))$ for y big enough. In other words, the difference between $\Phi(f, (x, y))$ and the expression on the right-hand side of the theorem extends to a real-analytic function on all of \mathbb{H}^n and vanishes for y big enough, and hence has to vanish identically on all of \mathbb{H}^n . This finishes the proof. \square

3.3 Evaluation of the theta lift at special points

Let $w \in \text{Gr}(L)$ be a special point and let $P = L \cap w$ and $N = L \cap w^\perp$ be the positive and negative definite sublattices corresponding to w as in Sect. 2.5. Recall that $k = (1 - n)/2$.

Theorem 3.5 For $f \in H_{k,L}^{\text{cusp}}$ and a special point $w \in \text{Gr}(L)$ we have the evaluation

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(f, w) &= \text{CT} \left(\left\langle f_{P \oplus N}^+, \overline{\tilde{\Theta}_P^+ \otimes \Theta_{N^-}} \right\rangle \right) \\ &\quad - \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathcal{F}_T} \langle \tilde{\Theta}_P(\tau) \otimes \Theta_N(\tau), \xi_k f_{P \oplus N}(\tau) \rangle v^{2-k} \frac{dudv}{v^2}, \end{aligned}$$

where CT denotes the constant coefficient of a Fourier series, $f_{P \oplus N}$ denotes the image of f under the restriction map defined in Sect. 2.2, and $\tilde{\Theta}_P \in H_{3/2, P^-}^{\text{hol}}$ is a $\xi_{3/2}$ -preimage of Θ_P .

Remark 3.6 By plugging in the Fourier expansions of f and $\tilde{\Theta}_P^+$, the constant term on the right-hand side of Theorem 3.5 can be evaluated more explicitly as

$$\text{CT} \left(\left\langle f_{P \oplus N}^+, \overline{\tilde{\Theta}_P^+ \otimes \Theta_{N^-}} \right\rangle \right) = \sum_{\substack{\alpha \in P'/P \\ \beta \in N'/N \\ \alpha + \beta \in L'}} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z} - Q(\alpha + \beta)} a_f^+(\alpha + \beta, -n) \sum_{\lambda \in N + \beta} a_{\tilde{\Theta}_P}^+(\alpha, n + Q(\lambda)).$$

Note that all sums on the right-hand side are finite. Theorem 1.4 in the introduction can easily be derived from this expression.

Proof of Theorem 3.5 The proof is similar to the proof of [20, Theorem 3.5], so we omit some details for brevity. We first compute for arbitrary $z \in \text{Gr}(L)$

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(f, z) &= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathcal{F}_T} \langle f(\tau), \Theta_L(\tau, z) \rangle v^k \frac{dudv}{v^2} \\ &= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathcal{F}_T} \langle f(\tau), (\Theta_{P \oplus N})^L(\tau, z) \rangle v^k \frac{dudv}{v^2} \\ &= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathcal{F}_T} \langle f_{P \oplus N}(\tau), \Theta_{P \oplus N}(\tau, z) \rangle v^k \frac{dudv}{v^2}, \end{aligned}$$

where we used the relation (2.3) and the fact that the trace and restriction operators from Sect. 2.2 are adjoint to each other. Now we plug in $z = w$ and use the splitting (2.4) to obtain

$$\Phi(f, w) = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathcal{F}_T} \langle f_{P \oplus N}(\tau), \Theta_P(\tau) \otimes \Theta_N(\tau) \rangle v^k \frac{dudv}{v^2}.$$

Let $\tilde{\Theta}_P \in H_{3/2, P^-}^{\text{hol}}$ be a harmonic Maass form of weight $3/2$ for ρ_{P^-} such that $\xi_{3/2} \tilde{\Theta}_P = \Theta_P$. Then we can write

$$\Phi(f, w) = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathcal{F}_T} \left\langle f_{P \oplus N}(\tau), (\xi_{3/2} \tilde{\Theta}_P(\tau)) \otimes \overline{\Theta_{N^-}(\tau)} \right\rangle v^{1/2} \frac{dudv}{v^2}.$$

Now applying Stokes' theorem we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(f, w) &= \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \int_{i_T}^{1+iT} \left\langle f_{P \oplus N}(\tau), \overline{\tilde{\Theta}_P(\tau) \otimes \Theta_{N^-}(\tau)} \right\rangle d\tau \\ &\quad - \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathcal{F}_T} \langle \tilde{\Theta}_P(\tau) \otimes \Theta_N(\tau), \xi_k f_{P \oplus N}(\tau) \rangle v^{2-k} \frac{dudv}{v^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Here we used that Θ_{N^-} is holomorphic. Note that the integral in the first line picks out the Fourier coefficient of index 0 of the integrand. If we split $f_{P \oplus N}$ and $\tilde{\Theta}_P$ into their holomorphic and non-holomorphic parts, and use that the non-holomorphic parts vanish as $v \rightarrow \infty$, we obtain the stated formula. □

4 Recurrences for the coefficients of mock theta functions

As an application of the different evaluations of the regularized theta lift we derive recurrences for the coefficients of some mock theta functions. We obtain relations for Hurwitz class numbers, Andrews’ spt-function and some of Ramanujan’s mock theta functions. We only consider lattices of signature (1, 1) such that every harmonic Maass form in $H_{0,L}^{\text{cusp}}$ is actually weakly holomorphic, that is, we have $H_{0,L}^{\text{cusp}} = M_{0,L}^!$.

4.1 Isotropic lattices in signature (1, 1)

We consider the rational quadratic space \mathbb{Q}^2 with the quadratic form $Q(a, b) = ab$. Let L be an even lattice in \mathbb{Q}^2 . Then L has signature (1, 1) and is isotropic.

Let $w \in \text{Gr}(L)$ be a special point and let $y = (y_1, y_2) \in L$ be its primitive generator with $y_1, y_2 > 0$. Furthermore, let $y^\perp \in L$ be the primitive generator of w^\perp whose second coordinate is positive. Then y^\perp is a positive multiple of $(-y_1, y_2)$. We let $d_P = y_1 y_2$ and $d_N = y_1^\perp y_2^\perp$. Then $P \cong (\mathbb{Z}, d_P x^2)$ and $N \cong (\mathbb{Z}, -d_N x^2)$. In particular, we may identify

$$\Theta_P = \theta_{1/2, d_P}, \quad \Theta_{N^\perp} = \theta_{1/2, d_N},$$

with the unary theta function $\theta_{1/2, d}$ defined in Sect. 2.6. Combining Theorems 3.1 and 3.5 we obtain the following evaluations of the theta lift for isotropic lattices at special points.

Theorem 4.1 *Suppose that L is as above. Then the evaluation of the regularized theta lift $\Phi(f, w)$ of $f \in M_{0,L}^!$ at a special point $w = \mathbb{R}(y_1, y_2) \in \text{Gr}(L)$ is given by*

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(f, w) &= \frac{4\pi}{\sqrt{y_1 y_2}} \sum_{\substack{\lambda=(\lambda_1, \lambda_2) \in L' \\ \lambda_1 \lambda_2 < 0}} a_f(\lambda, \lambda_1 \lambda_2) \min(|\lambda_1 y_2|, |\lambda_2 y_1|) \\ &= \sum_{\substack{\alpha_P(2d_P) \\ \alpha_N(2d_N) \\ \gamma_P + \gamma_N \in L'}} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z} - \frac{\alpha_P^2}{4d_P} + \frac{\alpha_N^2}{4d_N}} a_f(\gamma_P + \gamma_N, -n) \sum_{\substack{r \in \mathbb{Z} \\ r \equiv \alpha_N(2d_N)}} a_{\tilde{\theta}_{1/2, d_P}}^\pm(\alpha_P, n - r^2/4d_N), \end{aligned}$$

where we wrote $\gamma_P = \frac{\alpha_P}{2d_P} y \in P'$ and $\gamma_N = \frac{\alpha_N}{2d_N} y^\perp \in N'$, and $\tilde{\theta}_{1/2, d_P}$ is a $\xi_{3/2}$ -preimage of the unary theta function $\theta_{1/2, d_P}$. The sum in the first line is finite.

Proof We simplify the formula from Theorem 3.1 (or rather its specialization to $n = 1$ given in equation (3.2) in Remark 3.2). For $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \lambda_2) \in \mathbb{Q}^2$ with $Q(\lambda) = \lambda_1 \lambda_2$ we have

$$Q(\lambda_w) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{(\lambda, y)^2}{|y|^2}, \quad |Q(\lambda_{w^\perp})| = -Q(\lambda) + Q(\lambda_w) = -\lambda_1 \lambda_2 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{(\lambda, y)^2}{|y|^2}.$$

Further, we have the explicit formulas

$$(\lambda, y) = \lambda_1 y_2 + \lambda_2 y_1, \quad -2\lambda_1 \lambda_2 |y|^2 + (\lambda, y)^2 = (\lambda_1 y_2 - \lambda_2 y_1)^2,$$

so we obtain

$$\sqrt{|Q(\lambda_{w^\perp})|} - \sqrt{|Q(\lambda_w)|} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{y_1 y_2}} (|\lambda_1 y_2 - \lambda_2 y_1| - |\lambda_1 y_2 + \lambda_2 y_1|).$$

Also note that

$$|\lambda_1 y_2 - \lambda_2 y_1| - |\lambda_1 y_2 + \lambda_2 y_1| = 2 \min(|\lambda_1 y_2|, |\lambda_2 y_1|)$$

since $\lambda_1\lambda_2 < 0$ and $y_1, y_2 > 0$. When combined with (3.2), this yields the formula in the first line in the theorem.

The right-hand side of the formula in the theorem can be obtained from Theorem 3.5 and Remark 3.6. □

By comparing the two finite formulas on the right-hand side of Theorem 4.1 we obtain non-trivial recurrence relations for the coefficients of the mock theta function $\tilde{\theta}_{1/2,d}^+$. We illustrate this in some examples.

Example 4.2 Let L be the lattice spanned by the vectors $(1, 0)$ and $(0, 1)$, that is, a hyperbolic plane. Note that L is unimodular, so vector-valued modular forms for ρ_L are just scalar-valued modular forms for $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$. By [33, Theorem 1], for $m \in \mathbb{N}$ the Maass (or Niebur) Poincaré series $F_{\beta,m} \in M_{0,L}^1$ is given by the weakly holomorphic modular form $2j_m + 48\sigma_1(m)$, where j_m denotes the unique modular function for $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ whose Fourier expansion starts $q^{-m} + O(q)$.

Let $y = (y_1, y_2) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ with $y_1, y_2 > 0$ coprime. Then $y^\perp = (-y_1, y_2)$ and $d := d_P = d_N = y_1y_2$. After some simplification, Theorem 4.1 applied to $f = 2j_m + 48\sigma_1(m)$ gives the formula

$$\frac{16\pi}{\sqrt{y_1y_2}} \sum_{\substack{\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathbb{N} \\ \lambda_1\lambda_2=m}} \min(\lambda_1y_2, \lambda_2y_1) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} a_m(-n) \sum_{r \in \mathbb{Z}} a_{\tilde{\theta}_{1/2,d}^+}(\sigma_{y_1}(r), n - r^2/4d), \tag{4.1}$$

where σ_c for $c \parallel d$ is the Atkin–Lehner involution on $\mathbb{Z}/2d\mathbb{Z}$ defined in Sect. 2.6 and $a_m(-n)$ denotes the $(-n)$ -th coefficient of $2j_m + 48\sigma_1(m)$.

Zagier [38] showed that the $\mathbb{C}[\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}]$ -valued generating series

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} H(n)q^{n/4} \epsilon_n, \quad H(0) = -\frac{1}{12},$$

of Hurwitz class numbers $H(n)$ is the holomorphic part of a harmonic Maass form of weight $3/2$ for the dual Weil representation associated to the lattice (\mathbb{Z}, x^2) which maps to $(-1/8\pi)\theta_{1/2,1}$ under $\xi_{3/2}$. Applying formula (4.1) with the special point $y = (1, 1)$ with $d = 1$, we recover the classical Hurwitz–Kronecker class number relation

$$\sum_{r \in \mathbb{Z}} H(4m - r^2) = 2\sigma_1(m) - \sum_{\substack{a,b \in \mathbb{N} \\ ab=m}} \min(a, b) \tag{4.2}$$

for $m \in \mathbb{N}$.

More generally, for a square-free positive integer N we consider the $\mathbb{C}[\mathbb{Z}/2N\mathbb{Z}]$ -valued generating series

$$\sum_{r \in (2N)} \sum_{\substack{n \geq 0 \\ r^2 \equiv -n(4N)}} H_r(n)q^{n/4N} \epsilon_r$$

with the level N Hurwitz class numbers

$$H_0(0) = -\frac{1}{12}\sigma_1(N), \quad H_r(n) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{Q \in \mathcal{Q}_{N,-n,r}/\Gamma_0(N)} \frac{1}{|\overline{\Gamma_0(N)}_Q|} \quad (n > 0),$$

where

$$\mathcal{Q}_{N,-n,r} = \{[a, b, c] : a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}, b^2 - 4ac = -n, N \mid a, b \equiv r(2N)\}.$$

It was shown in [23] that it is a mock modular form of weight $3/2$ for the dual Weil representation associated to the lattice (\mathbb{Z}, Nx^2) whose shadow is given by

$$-\frac{\sqrt{N}}{8\pi} \sum_{d|N} \theta_{1/2,N}^{\sigma_d}.$$

We sum up formula (4.1) for all special points of discriminant $2N$, which are precisely the points $y = (d, N/d)$ for $d | N$, to obtain the relation

$$\sum_{r \in \mathbb{Z}} H_r(4Nm - r^2) = 2\sigma_1(N)\sigma_1(m) - \sum_{d|N} \sum_{\substack{a,b \in \mathbb{N} \\ ab=m}} \min(ad, \frac{N}{d}b). \tag{4.3}$$

We remark that there is a vast literature on recurrences for Hurwitz class numbers, see for example [6,8,18,21,30–32,36,37].

Example 4.3 We consider the lattice $L = \mathbb{Z}y + \mathbb{Z}y^\perp$ with $y = (1, 1)$ and $y^\perp = (-1, 1)$. In this case we have $L' = \mathbb{Z}y/2 + \mathbb{Z}y^\perp/2$. In particular, L'/L is isomorphic to $(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2$, so we can write the elements of L'/L in the form $\beta = (\beta_1, \beta_2)$ with $\beta_1, \beta_2 \in \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$. We apply Theorem 4.1 to $f = F_{\beta,m}$ with $\beta = (0, 0)$ and $\beta = (1, 1)$, respectively. As a ξ -preimage of the unary theta function $\theta_{1/2,1}$ we again choose the generating series of Hurwitz class numbers from the last example. The formula in Theorem 4.1 involves the constant coefficients $a_{F_{\beta,m}}(\gamma, 0)$ of $F_{\beta,m}$, for isotropic $\gamma \in L'/L$. It follows from the residue theorem that this coefficient is given by the negative of the (β, m) -th coefficient of the vector-valued Eisenstein series E_γ studied in [13], and hence can be computed in terms of divisor sums using the explicit formulas given there. Altogether, we obtain the formulas

$$\sum_{r \equiv 0(2)} H(4m - r^2) = \frac{4}{3}\sigma_1(m) - 2\sigma_1(m/2) + \frac{8}{3}\sigma_1(m/4) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{a,b \in \mathbb{Z} \\ b^2 - a^2 = m}} \min(|a + b|, |a - b|) \tag{4.4}$$

and

$$\sum_{r \equiv 1(2)} H(4m - r^2) = \frac{2}{3}\sigma_1(m) + 2\sigma_1(m/2) - \frac{8}{3}\sigma_1(m/4) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{a,b \in \mathbb{Z} \\ b^2 + b - a^2 - a = m}} \min(|a + b + 1|, |a - b|) \tag{4.5}$$

for $m \in \mathbb{N}$, where $\sigma_1(x) = 0$ if x is not integral. We leave the details of the simplification to the reader. This generalizes some of the formulas found by Brown et al. [8], where the authors studied restricted class number sums for $m = p$ being an odd prime. We also refer to [6,36,37] for similar formulas involving restricted class number sums.

Example 4.4 The smallest parts function $\text{spt}(n)$, introduced by Andrews in [3], counts the total number of smallest parts in the partitions of n (with $\text{spt}(0) = 0$). For $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ we let

$$s(n) = \text{spt}(n) + \frac{1}{12}(24n - 1)p(n),$$

with the partition function $p(n)$. In particular, $s(0) = -1/12$. We consider the function

$$F(\tau) = q^{-\frac{1}{24}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} s(n)q^n + \frac{\sqrt{3i}}{2\pi} \int_{-\bar{\tau}}^{i\infty} \frac{\eta(w)}{(\tau + w)^{\frac{3}{2}}} dw.$$

Bringmann [5] showed that $F(24\tau)$ is a harmonic Maass form of weight $\frac{3}{2}$ for $\Gamma_0(576)$ with character $(\frac{12}{\cdot})$. Moreover, we have $\xi_{3/2}F = (-\sqrt{6}/4\pi)\eta$. From this one can infer that the function

$$\sum_{r(12)} \left(\frac{12}{r}\right) F(\tau) \epsilon_r = F(\tau)(\epsilon_1 - \epsilon_5 - \epsilon_7 + \epsilon_{11})$$

is a harmonic Maass form of weight $3/2$ for the Weil representation associated to $(\mathbb{Z}, 6x^2)$ which maps to

$$-\frac{\sqrt{6}}{4\pi} (\theta_{1/2,6} - \theta_{1/2,6}^{\sigma_2})$$

under $\xi_{3/2}$ (compare [2, Section 3]).

We choose the special points $y = (1, 6)$ and $y = (2, 3)$ in (4.1) and subtract the resulting equations. We obtain after some simplification the formula

$$\sum_{r \in \mathbb{Z}} \left(\frac{12}{r}\right) s \left(m - \frac{r^2}{24} + \frac{1}{24}\right) = 4\sigma_1(m) - 2 \sum_{d|m} (\min(6d, m/d) - \min(3d, 2m/d)) \tag{4.6}$$

for all $m \in \mathbb{N}$.

4.2 Anisotropic lattices in signature (1, 1)

Let $F = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{D})$ with a fundamental discriminant $D > 1$. It is a rational quadratic space with the quadratic form given by the norm

$$Q(v) = N_{F/\mathbb{Q}}(v) = vv'$$

The associated bilinear form is given by the trace

$$(v, \mu) = \text{tr}_{F/\mathbb{Q}}(v\mu') = v\mu' + v'\mu.$$

Let $L \subset F$ be an even lattice. Then L has signature $(1, 1)$ and is anisotropic.

We let $w \in \text{Gr}(L)$ be a special point and we let $y \in L$ be the primitive generator of w with $y, y' > 0$. Furthermore, we let y^\perp be the primitive generator of w^\perp with $y^\perp < 0$ and $y^{\perp'} > 0$. Let $d_P = yy'$ and $d_N = y^\perp y^{\perp'}$. Then $P \cong (\mathbb{Z}, d_P x^2)$ and $N \cong (\mathbb{Z}, -d_N x^2)$.

Using similar arguments as in the proof of Theorem 4.1 we obtain the following formula.

Theorem 4.5 *Suppose that L is as above. Then the evaluation of the regularized theta lift $\Phi(f, w)$ of $f \in M_{0,L}^!$ at a special point $w = \mathbb{R}y \in \text{Gr}(L)$ is given by*

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(f, w) &= \frac{4\pi}{\sqrt{yy'}} \sum_{\substack{\lambda \in L' \\ \lambda\lambda' < 0}} a_f(\lambda, \lambda\lambda') \min(|\lambda y'|, |\lambda' y|) \\ &= \sum_{\substack{\alpha_P(2d_P) \\ \alpha_N(2d_N) \\ \gamma_P + \gamma_N \in L'}} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z} - \frac{\alpha_P^2}{4d_P} + \frac{\alpha_N^2}{4d_N}} a_f(\gamma_P + \gamma_N, -n) \sum_{\substack{r \in \mathbb{Z} \\ r \equiv \alpha_N(2d_N)}} a_{\theta_{1/2,d_P}^+}(\alpha_P, n - r^2/4d_N), \end{aligned}$$

where we wrote $\gamma_P = \frac{\alpha_P}{2d_P}y \in P'$ and $\gamma_N = \frac{\alpha_N}{2d_N}y^\perp \in N'$, and $\tilde{\theta}_{1/2,d_P}$ is a $\xi_{3/2}$ -preimage of the unary theta function $\theta_{1/2,d_P}$.

Remark 4.6 Note that the sum in the first line of the theorem is not finite due to the existence of units. However, according to the discussion after Theorem 9 in Section 4 of [11], it can be rewritten as a finite sum as follows. First, we can split the sum as

$$\sum_{\substack{\lambda \in L' \\ \lambda\lambda' < 0}} a_f(\lambda, \lambda\lambda') \min(|\lambda y'|, |\lambda' y|) = \sum_{\beta \in L'/L} \sum_{m < 0} a_f(\beta, m) \sum_{\substack{\lambda \in L + \beta \\ \lambda\lambda' = m}} \min(|\lambda y'|, |\lambda' y|),$$

where the first two sums are finite. The group of units of norm one acting on $L \pm \beta = (L + \beta) \cup (L - \beta)$ is of the form $\{\pm 1\} \times \{\varepsilon_\beta^n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ for some unit $\varepsilon_\beta > 1$. Further, the set

$$R(m) = \{\lambda \in L \pm \beta : \lambda > 0, \lambda\lambda' = m, (\lambda, y) < 0, (\lambda\varepsilon_\beta, y) \geq 0\}$$

is finite, and by Dirichlet’s unit theorem the set of all $\lambda \in L \pm \beta$ with $\lambda > 0$ and $\lambda\lambda' = m$ is given by

$$\{\pm \lambda \varepsilon_\beta^n : \lambda \in R(m), n \in \mathbb{Z}\}.$$

For $\lambda \in R(m)$ and $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ we have

$$\min(|\lambda \varepsilon_\beta^n y'|, |\lambda' \varepsilon_\beta^{-n} y|) = \begin{cases} \lambda \varepsilon_\beta^n y', & \text{if } n \leq 0, \\ -\lambda' \varepsilon_\beta^{-n} y, & \text{if } n > 0. \end{cases}$$

Thus we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\substack{\lambda \in L \pm \beta \\ \lambda > 0 \\ \lambda\lambda' = m}} \min(|\lambda y'|, |\lambda' y|) &= 2 \sum_{\lambda \in R(m)} \left(\lambda y' \sum_{n \leq 0} \varepsilon_\beta^n - \lambda' y \sum_{n > 0} \varepsilon_\beta^{-n} \right) \\ &= 2 \sum_{\lambda \in R(m)} \left(\frac{\lambda y'}{1 - \varepsilon'_\beta} + \frac{\lambda' y}{1 - \varepsilon_\beta} \right) = 2 \sum_{\lambda \in R(m)} \operatorname{tr}_{F/\mathbb{Q}} \left(\frac{\lambda y'}{1 - \varepsilon'_\beta} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Example 4.7 Let $L = \mathcal{O}_F$ be the ring of integers of $F = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{D})$. The dual lattice of L is given by the inverse different $\mathfrak{d}^{-1} = (1/\sqrt{D})\mathcal{O}_F$ and the discriminant group of L has level D .

Let $\beta = 0$ for simplicity. Then ε_0 is the smallest unit > 1 of norm 1 (which is either the fundamental unit of F or its square). The coefficient of index $(0, 0)$ of the Niebur Poincaré series $F_{0,m}$ is given by the negative of the coefficient of index $(0, m)$ of the weight 2 Eisenstein series $E = 2 \varepsilon_0 + O(q)$ for the dual Weil representation, compare [9, Proposition 1.14]. By results of Zhang [39], holomorphic vector-valued modular forms of weight k for the Weil representation associated with \mathcal{O}_F can be identified with a certain space $M_k^\varepsilon(D, \chi_D)$ of scalar-valued modular forms for $\Gamma_0(D)$ with character $\chi_D = \left(\frac{D}{\cdot}\right)$. In particular, by [39, Section 4], the coefficient of index $(0, m)$ of the vector-valued Eisenstein series E is equal to the Dm -th coefficient of the scalar-valued weight 2 Eisenstein series

$$E_2^{(D)}(\tau) = 2 + \frac{4}{L(-1, \chi_D)} \sum_{n=1}^\infty \sigma_1^{(D)}(n) q^n \in M_2^\varepsilon(D, \chi_D),$$

with the usual Dirichlet L -function $L(s, \chi_D)$ and the twisted divisor sum

$$\sigma_1^{(D)}(n) = \sum_{d|n} \sum_{m||D} \chi_m(n/d) \chi'_m(d) d,$$

where χ_m denotes the m -part of χ_D and we write $\chi_D = \chi_m \chi'_m$.

We choose the special point $y = \varepsilon_0$, such that $d_P = yy' = 1$. Its orthogonal complement is spanned by $y^\perp = \sqrt{D}\varepsilon_0$. Thus $d_N = y^\perp y'^\perp = D$. The space of cusp forms of weight 2 for ρ_{L^-} is trivial for a fundamental discriminant D if and only if $D \leq 21$ (see Lemma 2 in [37]). This implies that the Maass-Poincaré series $F_{0,m}$ is weakly holomorphic for every m . We apply Theorem 4.5 for $f = F_{0,m}$ with the generating series of Hurwitz class numbers and obtain after some simplification the formula

$$\sum_{r \in \mathbb{Z}} H(4m - Dr^2) = -\frac{1}{6L(-1, \chi_D)} \sigma_1^{(D)}(Dm) - \sum_{\lambda \in R(m)} \text{tr}_{F/\mathbb{Q}} \left(\frac{\lambda}{\varepsilon_0 - 1} \right) \tag{4.7}$$

for $D = 5, 8, 12, 13, 17, 21$. Note that $L(-1, \chi_D)$ is a rational number. These relations were first discovered by Williams [37] by comparing the Fourier coefficients of vector-valued Hirzebruch–Zagier series and Eisenstein series for the Weil representation.

4.3 Ramanujan’s mock theta functions

By using a different theta function, the methods of this work can also be applied to obtain relations between the coefficients of $\xi_{1/2}$ -preimages of unary theta series of weight $3/2$, e.g., of the coefficients of the classical mock theta functions of Ramanujan. We indicate the necessary steps but omit some details. Let L be an even lattice of signature $(1, 1)$. We fix an isotropic vector $\ell \in V$ and define the modified theta function

$$\Theta_L^*(\tau, z) = v^{3/2} \sum_{\lambda \in L'} \left(\lambda, \frac{\ell_z}{|\ell_z|} \right) \left(\lambda, \frac{\ell_{z^\perp}}{|\ell_{z^\perp}|} \right) e(Q(\lambda_z)\tau + Q(\lambda_{z^\perp})\bar{\tau}) \mathbf{e}_{\lambda+L}.$$

It has weight 0 in τ for ρ_L , and at a special point $w \in \text{Gr}(L)$ it splits as a tensor product of unary theta functions of weight $3/2$, similarly as in (2.4). The corresponding theta lift $\Phi^*(f, z)$ is defined analogously to (3.1). Theorems 3.1 and 3.5 have similar looking analogs whose proofs require only minor modifications. In particular, if L is a hyperbolic plane, we obtain the formula

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{8}{\sqrt{y_1 y_2}} \sum_{\substack{\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathbb{N} \\ \lambda_1 \lambda_2 = m}} \text{sgn}(\lambda_2 y_1 - \lambda_1 y_2) \min(\lambda_1 y_2, \lambda_2 y_1) \\ &= \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} a_m(-n) \sum_{r \in \mathbb{Z}} r a_{\theta_{3/2, d_P}}^\pm(\sigma_{y_1}(r), n - r^2/4d), \end{aligned} \tag{4.8}$$

with the same notation as in (4.1).

For example, let $f(q)$ and $\omega(q)$ be Ramanujan’s mock theta functions of order 3. The fundamental work of Zwegers [40,41] showed that the $\mathbb{C}[\mathbb{Z}/12\mathbb{Z}]$ -valued function

$$\begin{aligned} F(\tau) &= q^{-1/24} f(q)(\mathbf{e}_1 - \mathbf{e}_5 + \mathbf{e}_7 - \mathbf{e}_{11}) \\ &\quad + 2q^{1/3}(\omega(q^{1/2}) - \omega(-q^{1/2}))(-\mathbf{e}_2 + \mathbf{e}_{10}) \\ &\quad + 2q^{1/3}(\omega(q^{1/2}) + \omega(-q^{1/2}))(-\mathbf{e}_4 + \mathbf{e}_8) \end{aligned}$$

can be completed to a harmonic Maass form of weight $1/2$ for the Weil representation of the lattice $(\mathbb{Z}, 6x^2)$ which maps to a linear combination of unary theta functions of weight $3/2$ under $\xi_{1/2}$ (compare [14], Section 8.2). We apply formula (4.8) with the special points

$y = (1, 6)$ and $y = (2, 3)$ and sum up the resulting equations. After some simplification we obtain the formula

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{\substack{r \in \mathbb{Z} \\ r^2 \equiv 1(24)}} \left(\frac{-12}{r}\right) r a_f \left(m - \frac{r^2}{24} + \frac{1}{24}\right) + 4 \sum_{\substack{r \in \mathbb{Z} \\ r^2 \equiv 4(12)}} e\left(\frac{r^2 - 4}{24}\right) \left(\frac{-3}{r}\right) r a_\omega \left(2m - \frac{r^2}{12} - \frac{2}{3}\right) \\ &= -48\sigma_1(m) + \sum_{d|m} \left(\operatorname{sgn}(d - 6\frac{m}{d}) \min(d, 6\frac{m}{d}) + \operatorname{sgn}(2d - 3\frac{m}{d}) \min(2d, 3\frac{m}{d})\right) \end{aligned} \tag{4.9}$$

for $m \in \mathbb{N}$. We remark that more refined relations for the coefficients of Ramanujan’s $f(q)$ and $w(q)$ were given by Imamoglu, Raum and Richter [27] and Chan, Mao and Osburn [17]. Their methods work for other mock theta functions, too. Klein and Kupka [28] explicitly worked out the completions to vector-valued harmonic Maass forms for the Weil representation for many of Ramanujan’s classical mock theta functions. Hence the methods of the present work can be used to derive recursions for their coefficients as well.

4.4 A lattice of signature (1, 2)

Here we discuss the example from the introduction. The lattice \mathbb{Z}^3 with the quadratic form $Q(a, b, c) = -b^2 + ac$ can also be realized as the set

$$L = \left\{ \lambda = \begin{pmatrix} b & c \\ -a & -b \end{pmatrix} : a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}$$

of traceless integral 2 by 2 matrices with the quadratic form $Q(\lambda) = \det(\lambda)$ and the associated bilinear form $(\lambda, \mu) = -\operatorname{tr}(\lambda\mu)$. Its dual lattice is given by

$$L' = \left\{ \lambda = \begin{pmatrix} b/2 & c \\ -a & -b/2 \end{pmatrix} : a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}.$$

In particular, L has level 4 and L'/L can be identified with $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$.

By the results of [22, Section 5], vector-valued modular forms of weight k for the Weil representation ρ_L can be identified with scalar-valued modular forms of weight k for $\Gamma_0(4)$ satisfying the Kohnen plus space condition via the map

$$f_0(\tau) \mathbf{e}_0 + f_1(\tau) \mathbf{e}_1 \mapsto f_0(4\tau) + f_1(4\tau).$$

In particular, we can use scalar-valued modular forms as inputs for the theta lift. Under the above map the vector-valued Maass Poincaré series $F_{\beta,m}$ of weight $-1/2$ corresponds to the scalar-valued weakly holomorphic modular form $2f_D$ with $D = 4m$, where $f_D = q^{-D} + O(1)$ is the modular form described in the introduction. Note that f_D is weakly holomorphic since the Kohnen plus space of cusp forms of weight $5/2$ for $\Gamma_0(4)$ is trivial, which in turn follows from the fact that it is isomorphic to the space of cusp forms of weight 6 for $\operatorname{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ under the Shimura correspondence.

The modular group $\Gamma = \operatorname{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ acts on L as isometries by $\gamma.X = \gamma X \gamma^{-1}$. Furthermore, the Grassmannian $\operatorname{Gr}(L)$ of positive lines in $V = L \otimes \mathbb{R}$ can be identified with the upper half-plane \mathbb{H} by mapping $z \in \mathbb{H}$ to the positive line generated by

$$\lambda(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}y} \begin{pmatrix} -x & x^2 + y^2 \\ -1 & x \end{pmatrix}.$$

Note that $(\lambda(z), \lambda(z)) = 1$. Under this identification the action of Γ on $\text{Gr}(L)$ corresponds to the action by fractional linear transformations on \mathbb{H} . A short computation shows that for $\lambda = \begin{pmatrix} b/2 & c \\ -a & -b/2 \end{pmatrix} \in L'$ and $z = x + iy \in \mathbb{H} \cong \text{Gr}(L)$ we have

$$Q(\lambda_z) = Q((\lambda, \lambda(z))\lambda(z)) = \frac{1}{2}(\lambda, \lambda(z))^2 = \frac{1}{4y^2}(a|z|^2 + bx + c)^2,$$

$$Q(\lambda_{z^\perp}) = Q(\lambda) - Q(\lambda_z) = -\frac{1}{4y^2}|az^2 + bz + c|^2.$$

We can now explain how the theorems in the introduction follow from the results from the body of the paper.

Proof of Theorem 1.1 Using the above evaluations of $Q(\lambda_z)$ and $Q(\lambda_{z^\perp})$, from Theorem 3.1 and Remark 3.2 we obtain the series representation

$$\Phi(f_D, z) = 4 \sum_{[a,b,c] \in \mathcal{Q}_D} \left(\sqrt{D} - \frac{1}{y}|a|z|^2 + bx + c \right) \arcsin \left(\frac{y\sqrt{D}}{|az^2 + bz + c|} \right),$$

which yields Theorem 1.1 in the introduction. □

Proof of Theorem 1.2 We consider the isotropic vectors

$$\ell = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \ell' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

in L with $(\ell, \ell') = 1$ and the one-dimensional negative definite lattice

$$K = L \cap \ell^\perp \cap \ell'^\perp = \left\{ \lambda = \begin{pmatrix} b & 0 \\ 0 & -b \end{pmatrix} : b \in \mathbb{Z} \right\} \cong (\mathbb{Z}, -b^2).$$

Clearly, we can identify hyperbolic 2-space \mathbb{H}^2 with the complex upper half-plane \mathbb{H} . Using Theorem 3.3 we now easily obtain Theorem 1.2 from the introduction.

Proof of Theorem 1.4 The CM point $i \in \mathbb{H}$ corresponds to the special point $w \in \text{Gr}(L)$ generated by the matrix $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$. The corresponding positive and negative definite lattices are given by

$$P = L \cap w = \left\{ x \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} : x \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}, \quad N = L \cap w^\perp = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} b & -a \\ -a & -b \end{pmatrix} : a, b \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}.$$

In particular, we see that P is isomorphic to (\mathbb{Z}, x^2) and N is isomorphic to $(\mathbb{Z}^2, -a^2 - b^2)$. If we now apply Theorem 3.5 together with Remark 3.6 to Zagier’s $\mathbb{C}[\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}]$ -valued generating of Hurwitz class numbers discussed in Example 4.2, we obtain Theorem 1.4. □

Acknowledgements Open Access funding provided by Projekt DEAL.

Open Access This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons licence, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article’s Creative Commons licence, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article’s Creative Commons licence and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

References

1. Ahlgren, S., Andersen, N.: Euler-like recurrences for smallest parts functions. *Ramanujan J.* **36**, 237–248 (2015)
2. Ahlgren, S., Andersen, N.: Algebraic and transcendental formulas for the smallest parts function. *Adv. Math.* **289**, 411–437 (2016)
3. Andrews, G.E.: The number of smallest parts in the partitions of n . *J. Reine Angew. Math.* **624**, 133–142 (2008)
4. Borcherds, R.E.: Automorphic forms with singularities on Grassmannians. *Invent. Math.* **132**(3), 491–562 (1998)
5. Bringmann, K.: On the explicit construction of higher deformations of partition statistics. *Duke Math. J.* **144**, 195–233 (2008)
6. Bringmann, K., Kane, B.: Sums of class numbers and mixed mock modular forms. *Math. Proc. Camb. Philos. Soc.* **167**, 321–333 (2019)
7. Bringmann, K., Kane, B., Kohnen, W.: Locally harmonic Maass forms and the kernel of the Shintani lift. *Int. Math. Res. Not. IMRN* **3185–3224**, 2015 (2015)
8. Brown, B., Calkin, N.J., Flowers, T.B., James, K., Smith, E., Stout, A.: Elliptic curves, modular forms, and sums of Hurwitz class numbers. *J. Number Theory* **128**, 1847–1863 (2008)
9. Bruinier, J.H.: Borcherds products on $O(2, l)$ and Chern classes of Heegner divisors. *Lecture Notes in Mathematics*, vol. 1780. Springer, Berlin (2002)
10. Bruinier, J.H.: On the converse theorem for Borcherds products. *J. Algebra* **397**, 315–342 (2014)
11. Bruinier, J.H., Bundschuh, M.: On Borcherds products associated with lattices of prime discriminant. *Ramanujan J.* **7**, 49–61 (2003)
12. Bruinier, J.H., Funke, J.: On two geometric theta lifts. *Duke Math. J.* **125**(1), 45–90 (2004)
13. Bruinier, J.H., Kuss, M.: Eisenstein series attached to lattices and modular forms on orthogonal groups. *Manuscr. Math.* **106**(4), 443–459 (2001)
14. Bruinier, J.H., Ono, K.: Heegner divisors, L -functions and harmonic weak Maass forms. *Ann. Math. (2)* **172**(3), 2135–2181 (2010)
15. Bruinier, J.H., Yang, T.: Faltings heights of CM cycles and derivatives of L -functions. *Invent. Math.* **177**(3), 631–681 (2009)
16. Bruinier, J.H., Zemel, S.I.: Special cycles on toroidal compactifications of orthogonal Shimura varieties (**preprint**) (2019)
17. Chan, S.H., Mao, R., Osburn, R.: On recursions for coefficients of mock theta functions. *Res. Number Theory* **1**(29), 1–18 (2015)
18. Cohen, H.: Sums involving the values at negative integers of L -functions of quadratic characters. *Math. Ann.* **217**, 271–285 (1975)
19. Dabholkar, A., Murthy, S., Zagier, D.: Quantum black holes, wall crossing, and mock modular forms. *Cambridge Monographs in Mathematical Physics (to appear)* (2014)
20. Ehlen, S.: CM values of regularized theta lifts and harmonic Maass forms of weight one. *Duke Math. J.* **166**(13), 2447–2519 (2017)
21. Eichler, M.: On the class number of imaginary quadratic fields and the sums of divisors of natural numbers. *J. Indian Math. Soc.* **15**, 153–180 (1955)
22. Eichler, M., Zagier, D.: *The Theory of Jacobi Forms*, Progress in Mathematics, vol. 55. Birkhäuser, Boston (1985)
23. Funke, J.: Heegner divisors and nonholomorphic modular forms. *Compos. Math.* **133**(3), 289–321 (2002)
24. Gross, B.H., Zagier, D.: Heegner points and derivatives of L -series. *Invent. Math.* **84**(2), 225–320 (1986)
25. Hirzebruch, F., Zagier, D.: Intersection numbers of curves on Hilbert modular surfaces and modular forms of Nebentypus. *Invent. Math.* **36**, 57–113 (1976)
26. Hurwitz, A.: Über Relationen zwischen Klassenzahlen binärer quadratischer Formen von negativer Determinante. *Math. Ann.* **25**, 157–196 (1885)
27. Imamoglu, Ö., Raum, M., Richter, O.K.: Holomorphic projections and Ramanujan’s mock theta functions. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **111**(11), 3961–3967 (2014)
28. Klein, D., Kupka, J.: Completions and algebraic formulas for the coefficients of Ramanujan’s mock theta functions (**preprint**) (2019)
29. Kohnen, W., Zagier, D.: Values of L -series of modular forms at the center of the critical strip. *Invent. Math.* **64**(2), 175–198 (1981)
30. Kronecker, L.: Über die Anzahl der verschiedenen Klassen quadratischer Formen von negativer Determinante. *J. Reine Angew. Math.* **57**, 248–255 (1860)
31. Mertens, M.: Mock modular forms and class number relations. *Res. Math. Sci.* **1**(6), 1–16 (2014)

32. Mertens, M.: Eichler–Selberg type identities for mixed mock modular forms. *Adv. Math.* **301**, 359–382 (2016)
33. Niebur, D.: A class of nonanalytic automorphic functions. *Nagoya Math. J.* **52**, 133–145 (1973)
34. Scheithauer, N.: Some constructions of modular forms for the Weil representation of $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$. *Nagoya Math. J.* **220**, 1–43 (2015)
35. Schofer, J.: Borcherds forms and generalizations of singular moduli. *J. Reine Angew. Math.* **629**(629), 1–36 (2009)
36. Williams, B.: Overpartition $M2$ -rank differences, class number relations, and vector-valued mock Eisenstein series. *Acta Arith.* **189**(4), 347–365 (2019)
37. Williams, B.: Vector-valued Hirzebruch–Zagier series and class number sums. *Res. Math. Sci.* **5**(25), 1–13 (2019)
38. Zagier, D.: Nombres de classes et formes modulaires de poids $3/2$. *C.R. Acad. Sci. Paris (A)* 281 (1975)
39. Zhang, Y.: An isomorphism between scalar-valued modular forms and modular forms for Weil representations. *Ramanujan J.* **37**, 181–201 (2015)
40. Zwegers, S.P.: Mock ϑ -functions and real analytic modular forms. In: Berndt, B.C., Ono, K. (ed.) *q-Series with Applications to Combinatorics, Number Theory, and Physics*, *Contemp. Math.*, vol. 291, pp. 269–277 (2001)
41. Zwegers, S.P.: Mock theta functions. Utrecht PhD thesis (2002)

Publisher's Note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.