

RÉDACTION N° 171TER

COTE : NBR 074

TITRE : THÉORIE DES SÉRIES L

ASSOCIATION DES COLLABORATEURS DE NICOLAS BOURBAKI

NOMBRE DE PAGES : 75

NOMBRE DE FEUILLES : 75

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

171 ter

Princeton - New-Jersey

K. IWASAWA.- Théorie des Séries L. -April 1952

Let k be a finite algebraic number field, J the idele group of k , topologized as in a recent paper of Weil. J is a locally compact abelian group containing the principal idèle group $|P$ as a discrete subgroup. We denote by J_0 the subgroup of J consisting of idèles $\alpha = (a_p)$ such that $a_p = 1$ for all infinite (i.e. archimedean) primes P . We call J_0 the finite part of J and define the infinite part J_∞ similarly, so that we have

$$J = J_0 \times J_\infty, \quad \alpha = \alpha_0 \alpha_\infty, \quad \alpha_0 \in J_0, \quad \alpha_\infty \in J_\infty.$$

We also denote by U the compact subgroup of J consisting of ideles $\alpha = (a_p)$ such that the absolute value $|a_p|_p = 1$ for every prime P . $U_0 = U \cap J_0$ is then an open, compact subgroup of J_0 and J_0/U_0 is canonically isomorphic to the ideal group I of k . According to Artin-Whaples, we can choose the absolute values $|a_p|_p$ so that the volume function $V(\alpha) = \prod_p |a_p|_p$ ($\alpha = (a_p)$) has the value 1 at every principal idèle $\alpha \in |P$ (the product formula) and that $V(\alpha_0)^{-1}$ is equal to the absolute norm $N(\tilde{\alpha}_0)$ of the ideal $\tilde{\alpha}_0$, which corresponds to α_0 by the above isomorphism between J_0/U_0 and I .

We now define a function $\varphi(\alpha)$ by

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(\alpha) &= \varphi(\alpha_0) \varphi(\alpha_\infty), & \alpha &= \alpha_0 \alpha_\infty, \\ \varphi(\alpha_0) &= \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } \tilde{\alpha}_0 \text{ is an integral ideal,} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

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$$\varphi(\alpha_\infty) = \exp \left(- \frac{\pi}{\sqrt{n\Delta}} \sum_{i=1}^r e_i |a_{p_{\infty,i}}|^2 \right),$$

where n is the absolute degree of k , Δ is the discriminant of k , $a_{p_{\infty,i}}$ are the components of α at the infinite primes $p_{\infty,i}$ and $e_i = 1$ or 2 according as $p_{\infty,i}$ is real or complex. Since U_0 is open in J_0 , $\varphi(\alpha)$ is a continuous function on J and we define a function $\xi(s)$ by

$$(1) \quad \xi(s) = \int_J \varphi(\alpha) V(\alpha)^s d\mu(\alpha), \quad \text{for } s > 1.$$

Here $\mu(\alpha)$ denotes a Haar measure of the locally compact group J .

We shall calculate this integral in two different ways.

First, using $J = J_0 \times J_\infty$, $\varphi(\alpha) = \varphi(\alpha_0)\varphi(\alpha_\infty)$ and $V(\alpha) = V(\alpha_0)V(\alpha_\infty)$, we have

$$\xi(s) = \int_{J_0} \varphi(\alpha_0) V(\alpha_0)^s d\mu(\alpha_0) \int_{J_\infty} \varphi(\alpha_\infty) V(\alpha_\infty)^s d\mu(\alpha_\infty).$$

If we note that U_0 is an open, compact subgroup of J_0 and $J_0/U_0 \cong I$, we see immediately that the first integral on the right-hand side is equal to (up to a positive constant) the zeta-function $\xi(s) = \sum N(\tilde{\alpha})^{-s}$ ($\tilde{\alpha}$ = integral ideal) of k . On the other hand, J_∞ being the direct product of r copies of the multiplicative group K^* of the real or complex number-field K , the second integral is the product of integrals of the form

$$\int_{K^*} \exp \left(- \frac{\pi}{\sqrt{\Delta}} e |t|^2 \right) |t|^s d\mu_K(t), \quad e = 1 \text{ or } 2,$$

which can be easily calculated to be equal to

$$\Delta^{\frac{s}{2}} \pi^{-\frac{s}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{s}{2}\right) \text{ or } \Delta^{\frac{s}{2}} 2^{-s} \pi^{-s} \Gamma(s),$$

according as K is real or complex. We have therefore

$$(2) \quad \xi(s) = \text{const. } 2^{-r_2 s} \Delta^{\frac{s}{2}} \pi^{-\frac{r_1+s}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{s}{2}\right)^{r_1} \Gamma(s)^{r_2} \xi(s).$$

The above calculation also shows that the integral (1) actually converges for $s > 1$.

We now transform the same integral (1) in another way. Namely, we first integrate the function $f(\alpha) = \varphi(\alpha)V(\alpha)^s$ on the subgroup IP and then on the factor group $\overline{J} = J/IP = \{\overline{\alpha}\}$;

$$\int_J f(\alpha) d\mu(\alpha) = \int_{\overline{J}} \left\{ \int_{IP} f(\alpha\alpha) d\mu(\alpha) \right\} d\mu(\overline{\alpha}).$$

However, since P is discrete and $V(\alpha\alpha) = V(\alpha)V(\alpha) = V(\alpha) = V(\overline{\alpha})$, we have

$$\int_{IP} f(\alpha\alpha) d\mu(\alpha) = \left(\sum_{\alpha \in P} \varphi(\alpha\alpha) \right) V(\overline{\alpha})^s,$$

and if we put

$$\overline{\varphi}(\overline{\alpha}) = \sum_{\alpha \in P} \varphi(\alpha\alpha),$$

$$\textcircled{H}(\overline{\alpha}) = 1 + \overline{\varphi}(\overline{\alpha}) = \sum_{\alpha \in \mathbb{K}} \varphi(\alpha\alpha),$$

the theta-formula

$$\textcircled{H}(\overline{\alpha}) = V(\overline{\alpha})^{-1} \textcircled{H}(\overline{\mathfrak{J}}\overline{\alpha}^{-1}) \text{ or } \overline{\varphi}(\overline{\alpha}) = V(\overline{\alpha})^{-1} \overline{\varphi}(\overline{\mathfrak{J}}\overline{\alpha}^{-1}) + V(\overline{\alpha})^{-1} - 1$$

holds, where \mathfrak{J} is an idèle of volume 1 such that $\overline{\mathfrak{J}}$ is the different of k and its infinite components are all equal to $\sqrt[n]{\Delta}$. We have now

$$\xi(s) = \int_{\overline{J}} \overline{\varphi}(\overline{\alpha}) V(\overline{\alpha})^s d\mu(\overline{\alpha}) = \int_{V(\overline{\alpha}) \geq 1} + \int_{V(\overline{\alpha}) \leq 1},$$

and here the first integral on the right-hand side

$$\psi(s) = \int_{V(\overline{\alpha}) \geq 1} \overline{\varphi}(\overline{\alpha}) V(\overline{\alpha})^s d\mu(\overline{\alpha})$$

gives an integral function of s , for this integral converges absolutely for every complex value s , because of the convergence of (1) for $s > 1$ and because of $V(\overline{\alpha}) \geq 1$. Using the theta-formula and the invariance of Haar measures, we can transform the second integral as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{V(\overline{\alpha}) \leq 1} &= \int_{V(\overline{\alpha}) \leq 1} (V(\overline{\alpha})^{-1} \overline{\varphi}(\overline{\mathfrak{J}}\overline{\alpha}^{-1}) + V(\overline{\alpha})^{-1} - 1) V(\overline{\alpha})^s d\mu(\overline{\alpha}) \\ &= \int_{V(\overline{\alpha}) \geq 1} (\overline{\varphi}(\overline{\mathfrak{J}}\overline{\alpha}) V(\overline{\alpha})^{1-s} + V(\overline{\alpha})^{1-s} - V(\overline{\alpha})^{-s}) d\mu(\overline{\alpha}) \quad (\text{by } \overline{\alpha} \rightarrow \overline{\alpha}^{-1}) \\ &= \int_{V(\overline{\alpha}) \geq 1} \overline{\varphi}(\overline{\mathfrak{J}}\overline{\alpha}) V(\overline{\alpha})^{1-s} d\mu(\overline{\alpha}) + \int_{V(\overline{\alpha}) \geq 1} (V(\overline{\alpha})^{1-s} - V(\overline{\alpha})^{-s}) d\mu(\overline{\alpha}) \\ &= \int_{V(\overline{\alpha}) \geq 1} \overline{\varphi}(\overline{\alpha}) V(\overline{\alpha})^{1-s} d\mu(\overline{\alpha}) + \int_{V(\overline{\alpha}) \geq 1} (V(\overline{\alpha})^{1-s} - V(\overline{\alpha})^{-s}) d\mu(\overline{\alpha}) \\ &\quad (\text{by } \overline{\alpha} \rightarrow \overline{\mathfrak{J}}^{-1}\overline{\alpha} \text{ and } V(\overline{\mathfrak{J}}) = 1) \\ &= \psi(1-s) + \int_{V(\overline{\alpha}) \geq 1} (V(\overline{\alpha})^{1-s} - V(\overline{\alpha})^{-s}) d\mu(\overline{\alpha}). \end{aligned}$$

Now, the set of all ideles α such that $V(\alpha)=1$ forms a closed subgroup J_1 of J and it can be seen easily that J is the direct product of $\bar{J}_1 = J_1/P$ and a subgroup S which is canonically isomorphic to the multiplicative group $T = \{t = V(\alpha)\}$ of positive real numbers. Hence we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{V(\alpha) \geq 1} (V(\alpha))^{1-s} - V(\alpha)^{-s} d\mu(\alpha) &= \int_{\bar{J}_1} \times \int_{S, V(\alpha) \geq 1} \\ &= \mu(\bar{J}_1) \int_{t \geq 1} (t^{1-s} - t^{-s}) \frac{dt}{t} \\ &= \mu(\bar{J}_1) \left(\frac{1}{s-1} - \frac{1}{s} \right). \end{aligned}$$

We have, therefore, the formula

$$(3) \quad \zeta(s) = \psi(s) + \psi(1-s) + \mu(\bar{J}_1) \left(\frac{1}{s-1} - \frac{1}{s} \right), \quad (s > 1).$$

It then follows immediately that $\zeta(s)$ is a regular analytic function of s on the whole s -plane except for simple poles at $s=0, 1$ and it satisfies the equation

$$\zeta(s) = \zeta(1-s),$$

which is nothing but the functional equation of the zeta-function $\zeta(s)$ (cf. (2)).

The formula (3) also shows that the measure $\mu(\bar{J}_1)$ of \bar{J}_1 is finite. Since \bar{J}_1 is a locally compact group, this means that \bar{J}_1 is compact. Now, we put $H = (U_0 \times J_\infty) \cap J_1$ and consider the sequence of groups

$$J_1 \supset HP \supset UP \supset P.$$

Since U is compact UP is closed in J_1 , and, since $U_0 \times J_\infty$ is open in J , H and HP are open subgroups of J_1 . It then follows from the compactness of $\bar{J}_1 = J_1/P$ that J_1/HP and HP/UP are both compact groups. But, as HP is open and J_1/HP is discrete, J_1/HP must be finite. Consequently, the group $J/(U_0 \times J_\infty)P$, which is easily seen to be isomorphic to J_1/HP , is a finite group and this proves the finiteness

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of the ideal classes of k . Now, H/U is isomorphic to $(J_1 \cap J_\infty) / (U \cap J_\infty)$ and hence is an $(r-1)$ -dimensional vector group. On the other hand, we see from the isomorphisms

$$HP/UP = H/U(H \cap P), \quad U(H \cap P)/U = H \cap P/U \cap P,$$

that $H/U(H \cap P)$ is compact and $U(H \cap P)/U$ is discrete. Since H/U is a vector group, this implies that $U(H \cap P)/U$ is an $(r-1)$ -dimensional lattice in H/U and, consequently, that $H \cap P/U \cap P$ is a free abelian group with $r-1$ generators. However, as is readily seen, $H \cap P$ and $U \cap P$ are the unit group and the group of roots of unity in k . Hence the classical Dirichlet's unit theorem has been proved.

The above method of proving the functional equation can be also applied to Hecke's L-functions with "Grossencharakteren", for such a character χ is a continuous character of \bar{J} which is trivial on S . The integrand of (1) must be then replaced by

$$\chi(\alpha) \varphi(\alpha, \chi) V(\alpha)^s,$$

where $\varphi(\alpha, \chi)$ is a similar function to $\varphi(\alpha)$, depending on χ .

The zeta-function (or L-functions) of a division algebra over a finite algebraic number-field can also be treated in a similar way, though here integrations over linear groups appear and calculations are more complicated.

For the above proof of the functional equation of $\zeta(s)$, two group-theoretical facts seem to be essential. One is the topological structure of the group J , that of its subgroups and factor groups, together with the invariance of Haar measures on them, and the other is the theta-formula, which is an analytical expression for the self-duality of the additive group of the ring R of valuation vectors (= additive idèles) of k . J being exactly the multiplicative group of R , here the additive and multiplicative properties of R are subtly mixed up and it seems to me likely that something essential to the arithmetic of k is still hidden in this connection, though I only know that the usual topology of J coincides with the one which is obtained by considering J as a group of automorphisms of the additive group of R in the sense of Braconnier.