

L -Functions of Hypergeometric Motives

Henri Cohen

MSRI and Institut de Mathématiques de Bordeaux

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Hypergeometry I

Joint with Fernando Rodriguez-Villegas.

Hypergeometric data :

$$\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r), \quad \beta = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_r),$$

Pochhammer symbol $(a)_m = a(a+1)\cdots(a+m-1)$, (generalized)
hypergeometric function :

$$F(\alpha, \beta; t) = \sum_{m \geq 0} \frac{\prod_{1 \leq j \leq r} (\alpha_j)_m}{\prod_{1 \leq j \leq r} (\beta_j)_m} t^m$$

(classical case $\beta_r = 1$, so $(\beta_r)_m = m!$).

Hypergeometry II

Satisfies a linear differential equation with regular singular points at 0 , 1 , and ∞ .

Monodromy at 1 is a complex reflection. Characteristic polynomials of the monodromy at 0 and ∞ :

$$P_0(T) = \prod_j (T - e^{2i\pi\beta_j}), \quad P_\infty(T) = \prod_j (T - e^{2i\pi\alpha_j}).$$

Hypergeometry III

Hypergeometric Assumption : we will assume that these characteristic polynomials are products of **coprime** and **cyclotomic** polynomials. Several equivalent formulations. The simplest is :

$$P_{\infty}(T)/P_0(T) = \prod_{\nu \geq 1} (T^{\nu} - 1)^{\gamma_{\nu}}$$

for some $\gamma_{\nu} \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $\sum_{\nu} \nu \gamma_{\nu} = 0$. We set $\gamma(T) = \sum_{\nu} \gamma_{\nu} T^{\nu}$.

More complicated but more concrete equivalent statement : for any integer A , let $R(A)$ be the set of $\phi(A)$ rational numbers a/A such that $(a, A) = 1$ and $0 \leq a < A$. The assumption means that there exist integers A_i and B_i such that $\alpha = \bigcup_j R(A_j)$ and $\beta = \bigcup_j R(B_j)$ (concatenation and not union since the A_i or B_i are not necessarily distinct). It is clear that we may assume that the A_i are distinct from the B_i , and that $r = \sum_i \phi(A_i) = \sum_i \phi(B_i)$.

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Examples :

For $r = 1$, only possibility $\alpha = (1/2)$, $\beta = (0)$. For $r = 2$ exactly 13 possibilities (enumeration given below), for instance $\alpha = (1/3, 2/3)$, $\beta = (0, 0)$.

Examples for $r = 4$:

$$\alpha = (1/2, 1/2, 1/3, 2/3) , \quad \beta = (1/6, 1/6, 5/6, 5/6) ,$$

or

$$\alpha = (1/5, 2/5, 3/5, 4/5) , \quad \beta = (0, 0, 0, 0) .$$

In this example,

$$P_0(T) = (T - 1)^4 , \quad P_\infty(T) = T^4 + T^3 + T^2 + T + 1 ,$$

$$P_\infty(T)/P_0(T) = (T^5 - 1)/(T - 1)^5, \text{ hence } \gamma(T) = T^5 - 5T.$$

Associated Motives I

Theorem (essentially N. Katz) : If (α, β) is hypergeometric data satisfying the fundamental hypergeometric assumption above, for each $t \in \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q}) \setminus \{0, 1, \infty\}$ there exists a **motive** $H(\alpha, \beta; t)$, which is defined over \mathbb{Q} , of rank r , and pure with a certain weight w , explicitly given in terms of data.

Conjecture : there must therefore exist a global L -function $\Lambda(s)$, holomorphic sur \mathbb{C} , with functional equation $\Lambda(w + 1 - s) = \pm \Lambda(s)$, and with an Euler product

$$\Lambda(s) = N^{s/2} L_\infty(s) L(s) \quad \text{with} \quad L(s) = \prod_p L_p(p^{-s}) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{a(n)}{n^s}, \quad \text{where}$$

$$L_p(T) = \prod_{j=1}^r (1 - \xi_j T)^{-1}, \quad \text{with} \quad |\xi_j| = p^{w/2}$$

for almost all p .

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Associated Motives II

Katz's theorem gives precise recipes for the weight w , the archimedean factor L_∞ , and the factors L_p for the **good** primes p . On the other hand, not for the conductor N (of course divisible only by the bad primes), nor for the L_p for bad primes, nor for the sign \pm of the f.e. Goal of our work : numerical check of the conjecture, and deduce conjectures for the unknown quantities (N , L_p for p bad, and \pm).

We have treated hundreds of examples, in degree $r = 2$, $r = 4$, and $r = 6$. One of the best-known is the case

$$\alpha = (1/5, 2/5, 3/5, 4/5), \quad \beta = (0, 0, 0, 0),$$

which in fact corresponds to the theory of **mirror symmetry** on the **Calabi–Yau quintic** threefold

$$x_1^5 + x_2^5 + x_3^5 + x_4^5 + x_5^5 - 5tx_1x_2x_3x_4x_5.$$

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Details on the Motive : The function $\mathcal{L}(x)$ I

Recall that if P_0 and P_∞ are the characteristic polynomials of the monodromies at 0 and ∞ of the hypergeometric diff. eq. we set

$$P_\infty(T)/P_0(T) = \prod_{\nu \geq 1} (T^\nu - 1)^{\gamma_\nu}$$

for some $\gamma_\nu \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $\sum_\nu \nu \gamma_\nu = 0$, and $\gamma(T) = \sum_\nu \gamma_\nu T^\nu$.

We define

$$\mathcal{L}(x) := \sum_{\nu \geq 1} \gamma_\nu (\{ \nu x \} - 1/2),$$

where $\{z\}$ is the fractional part of z . Then \mathcal{L} is locally constant, right continuous, periodic of period 1, and such that

$$\mathcal{L}^+(-x) = -\mathcal{L}^-(x) \quad \text{where} \quad \mathcal{L}^\pm(x) := \lim_{y \rightarrow x^\pm} \mathcal{L}(y).$$

Note that by right continuity we have $\mathcal{L}^+(x) = \mathcal{L}(x)$.

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The function $\mathcal{L}(x)$ II

We define the **weight** w of the motive as

$$w = \max_{x \in [0,1[} \mathcal{L}(x) - \min_{x \in [0,1[} \mathcal{L}(x) - 1 .$$

It is a nonnegative integer,

$$\max_{x \in [0,1[} \mathcal{L}(x) = - \min_{x \in [0,1[} \mathcal{L}(x) = \frac{w + 1}{2} ,$$

so that $\mathcal{L}^\pm(x) + (w + 1)/2$ is **integral-valued**.

Since

$$\mathcal{L}^-(1) = \sum_{\nu \geq 1} \gamma_\nu (\nu - 1/2) = -(1/2) \sum_{\nu \geq 1} \gamma_\nu$$

and $\mathcal{L}^-(x) + (w + 1)/2$ is integral valued, it follows that

$$w + 1 \equiv \sum_{\nu \geq 1} \gamma_\nu \pmod{2} .$$

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The Hodge Polynomial I

Set

$$\ell(x) := \mathcal{L}^+(x) - \mathcal{L}^-(x),$$

which measures the jumps at discontinuities. It is integral valued and in fact

$$\ell(x) = |\{i \mid \alpha_i = x\}| - |\{j \mid \beta_j = x\}|.$$

We also have $\ell(-x) = \ell(x)$.

We define the **Hodge polynomial** $h(T)$ as

$$h(T) := \sum_{\ell(x) > 0} T^{\mathcal{L}^-(x) + (w+1)/2} [\ell(x)],$$

where

$$[\ell] := 1 + T + \dots + T^{\ell-1}.$$

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The Hodge Polynomial II

Easy to show that :

① h is reciprocal of degree w ($T^w h(1/T) = h(T)$) and has nonnegative integer coefficients.

②

$$h(T) = \sum_{\ell(x) < 0} T^{\mathcal{L}^+(x) + (w+1)/2} [-\ell(x)] .$$

Conjecture (Corti–Golyshév) : The Hodge numbers of the motive $H(\alpha, \beta; t)$ are the coefficients of $h(T)$:

$$h(T) = \sum_{p+q=w} h^{p,q} T^p .$$

As already mentioned this gives the gamma factors of $\Lambda(s)$ at least when w is odd (otherwise must look at action of complex conjugation on $(w/2, w/2)$ piece) :

$$L_\infty(s) = \prod_{p < q} \Gamma_{\mathbb{C}}(s - p)^{h_{p,q}} .$$

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Recipe for the L_p for good primes p I

We will define below the trace of Frobenius $a_q(t) = \text{Tr}(\text{Frob}_q)$, and we will then set as usual

$$L_p(T) = \exp\left(\sum_{f \geq 1} \frac{a_{p^f}(t)}{f} T^f\right).$$

The fundamental quantity which occurs in the definition of $a_q(t)$ is the following : for any multiplicative character χ of \mathbb{F}_q^* we set

$$Q(\chi) = \prod_{\nu} g(\chi^{\nu})^{\gamma_{\nu}},$$

where γ_{ν} is as above and $g(\chi^{\nu})$ is the corresponding **Gauss sum**. Using Möbius inversion and elementary formulas for Gauss sums, for suitable easily computed integers a and b we also have

$$Q(\chi) = (-1)^a q^b \frac{\prod_i \prod_{d|A_i} g(\chi^{-d})^{\mu(A_i/d)}}{\prod_i \prod_{d|B_i} g(\chi^{-d})^{\mu(B_i/d)}},$$

where the A_i and B_i are as above.

Recipe for the L_p for good primes $p \nmid l$

The **hypergeometric assumptions** imply that $Q(\chi)$ can be expressed only in terms of **Jacobi** sums (which belong to a smaller number field), see below.

Finally, for $t \neq 0, 1$, or ∞ we set

$$a_q(t) = \frac{q^d}{1-q} \left(1 + \sum_{\chi \neq \chi_0} \chi(Mt) Q(\chi) \right),$$

where χ ranges over all nontrivial characters of \mathbb{F}_q , for certain constants d and M which I do not define here (of course M is only a normalizing factor, could change Mt into t , but less clean). By Galois theory this is in \mathbb{Q} , and it is easy to show that it is in fact in \mathbb{Z} , as it should if it is indeed a trace.

Recipe for the L_p for good primes $p \parallel$

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Computation of the L_p for good primes $p \mid$

In the case $(\alpha, \beta) = (1/5, 2/5, 3/5, 4/5), (0, 0, 0, 0)$ mentioned above, we have the precise formula :

$$a_q(t) = \frac{1}{1-q} \left(1 + \sum_{\chi \neq \chi_0} \chi(5^5 t) J(\chi, \chi, \chi, \chi) \right),$$

where $q = p^f$ and J is the generalized **Jacobi sum** :

$$J(\chi_1, \dots, \chi_r) = \sum_{x_1 + \dots + x_r = 1} \chi_1(x_1) \cdots \chi_r(x_r).$$

Elementary idea 1 : the local factors L_p have degree 4 and are Weil-symmetrical. Therefore only need to compute a_p and a_{p^2} .

Elementary idea 2 : To obtain B terms of the Dirichlet series, need of course a_p for $p \leq B$, but a_{p^2} only for $p \leq B^{1/2}$.

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Computation of the L_p for good primes p II

Main computational task is the computation of the Jacobi sums.

(1) : Direct method.

By elementary properties of Jacobi sums, an order r Jacobi sum as above can be expressed as a product of $r - 1$ usual Jacobi sums of order 2, of the form :

$$J(\chi_1, \chi_2) = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q} \chi_1(x) \chi_2(1 - x).$$

The direct computation of these sums requires essentially $O(q)$ operations, neglecting the computation of the χ_i values, and since we need $q - 2$ Jacobi sums, the total cost of the computation of $a_q(t)$ is of the order of $O((r - 1)q^2)$.

(2). The use of Gauss sums.

Recall that

$$g(\chi) = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q^*} \chi(x) \exp(2i\pi \operatorname{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p}(x)/p) .$$

It is well-known that

$$J(\chi_1, \dots, \chi_r) = \frac{\prod_j g(\chi_j)}{g(\prod_j \chi_j)}$$

when all the characters are nontrivial (and simpler formulas otherwise). A priori, why use Gauss sums, more complicated than Jacobi sums, and belong to a larger number field than Jacobi sums? A posteriori, they are in fact useful.

Computation of the L_p for good primes p IV

Let ω be a generator of the cyclic group $\widehat{\mathbb{F}}_q^*$. Taking our favorite example, we thus have

$$a_q(t) = \frac{1}{1-q} \left(1 + \sum_{1 \leq r \leq q-2} \omega^r(5^5 t) J(\omega^r, \omega^r, \omega^r, \omega^r) \right).$$

If we compute once and for all the $g(\omega^r)$ for $1 \leq r \leq q-2$, the above computation requires time $O(q)$, for a total time of $O(q^2)$, hence gain of a factor $r-1$.

(3). Use of Θ functions.

Idea of S. Louboutin : when $q = p$ is prime (by far the largest part of the computation), Gauss sums are directly linked to the **root numbers** in the functional equation of L -functions, but even better, of Θ -functions, associated to the characters. These can be computed in time $O(q^{1/2+\epsilon})$, so a considerable gain : combined with the preceding ideal, total cost $O(q^{3/2+\epsilon})$.

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(4). Use of p -adic methods.

The marvelous formula of **Gross–Koblitz** allows us to express Gauss sums (for all q , not only for $q = p$) in terms of the **Morita p -adic gamma function** Γ_p . There exist efficient methods to compute this function, time $O(p^{1+\epsilon})$, so in principle no more efficient, even less than using theta functions.

The main interest of the method is that we only need to compute values modulo p or p^2 , since we know that $a_q(t)$ is an **integer** and that we have Weil–Deligne bounds. Although this is a $O(q^2)$ method, it is the best available when $q = p^2$, and even when $q = p$, since we can work mod p and the implicit constant of $O()$ is **very small**, it is quite competitive in practice ($p \leq 10^4$ for instance).

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Verification of the Functional Equation I

(Also Implemented in several computer packages such as **T. Dokschitser** and `lcalc` of **M. Rubinstein**).

Even assuming that we know N and L_p for p bad, to check the functional equation $\Lambda(w+1-s) = \pm \Lambda(s)$ need to compute $\Lambda(s)$. For this, efficient general recipes :

Let $K(x)$ be the inverse Mellin transform of $L_\infty(s)$, i.e.,

$$\int_0^\infty t^{s-1} K(t) dt = L_\infty(s) ,$$

and set

$$\gamma(s, x) = \int_x^\infty t^{s-1} K(t) dt .$$

For any $t_0 > 0$ we have

$$L_\infty(s)L(s) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{a(n)}{n^s} \gamma(s, nt_0/N^{1/2}) \pm \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{a(n)}{n^{w+1-s}} \gamma(w+1-s, n/(t_0 N^{1/2})) .$$

This series converges **exponentially fast**, but slows down if N is large.

Verification of the Functional Equation II

The “method” is thus as follows : we guess values for N and the bad Euler factors L_p (a lot of information is known about them), and we test if the above expression is independent of t_0 , by choosing for instance $t_0 = 1$ and $t_0 = 1.1$.

Verification of the Functional Equation III

In the above computation, must do **three** costly computations. First, compute the inverse Mellin transform $K(x)$ (see below). Second, compute the partial Mellin transforms $\int_x^\infty t^{s-1} K(t) dt$. Finally, the third consists in computing the two series of the form.

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} (a(n)/n^s) \gamma(s, nt_0/N^{1/2}).$$

Elementary idea 3 : to check the functional equation, there is no need to come back to the Dirichlet series by computing $\int_x^\infty t^{s-1} K(t)$. Indeed, we can write

$$\Lambda(s) = \int_0^\infty t^{s-1} F(N^{1/2}t) dt ,$$

so the f.eq. is in our case equivalent to

$$F(1/t) = \pm t^{w+1} F(t) .$$

Thus we only check this, and so only need to compute $K(x)$ and series sums.

Verification of the Functional Equation III

In the above computation, must do **three** costly computations. First, compute the inverse Mellin transform $K(x)$ (see below). Second, compute the partial Mellin transforms $\int_x^\infty t^{s-1} K(t) dt$. Finally, the third consists in computing the two series of the form.

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} (a(n)/n^s) \gamma(s, nt_0/N^{1/2}).$$

Elementary idea 3 : to check the functional equation, there is no need to come back to the Dirichlet series by computing $\int_x^\infty t^{s-1} K(t)$. Indeed, we can write

$$\Lambda(s) = \int_0^\infty t^{s-1} F(N^{1/2}t) dt ,$$

so the f.eq. is in our case equivalent to

$$F(1/t) = \pm t^{w+1} F(t) .$$

Thus we only check this, and so only need to compute $K(x)$ and series sums.

Verification of the Functional Equation IV

The archimedean factor $L_\infty(s)$ is up to exponential factors Q^s , of the form $\Gamma(s)$, $\Gamma(s)\Gamma(s-1)$, $\Gamma(s)\Gamma(s-1)\Gamma(s-2)$ for instance (can of course also have $\Gamma(s/2)$, etc...) The precise recipe for this factor in a very general context is due to Serre around 1970. It depends on the **Hodge numbers** $h^{p,q}$ of the motive, which can easily be computed from the hypergeometric data, as can the weight w . More precisely : if as usual $\Gamma_{\mathbb{C}}(s) = (2\pi)^{-s}\Gamma(s)$ and $\Gamma_{\mathbb{R}}(s) = \pi^{-s/2}\Gamma(s/2)$ then

$$L_\infty(s) = N^{s/2} \prod_{\substack{p < q \\ p+q=w}} \Gamma_{\mathbb{C}}(s-p)^{h_{p,q}} \prod_{p=q=w/2} \Gamma_{\mathbb{R}}(s-p)^{h_{p,p}^+},$$

where the second product of course occurs only in even weight and $h_{p,p}^+$ is the dimension of the $+$ -eigenspace of complex conjugation on $H^{p,p}$ of the motive.

Verification of the Functional Equation V

The computation of the inverse Mellin transform of the archimedean factor is a fundamental problem for which many solutions exist, and of course have been implemented.

Recall that the inverse Mellin transform is given by

$$K(x) = \frac{1}{2i\pi} \int_{\sigma-i\infty}^{\sigma+i\infty} \gamma(s)x^{-s} ds,$$

for σ sufficiently large. We move the line of integration to the left until $-\infty$, and we catch all the residues along the way. This allows us to express $K(x)$ as a power series, together with finitely many logarithmic terms or negative powers of x .

Verification of the Functional Equation VI

It is easy to show that these series converge like the series

$$\sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n \frac{x^n}{(n!)^{r/2}},$$

where r is the degree of the motive, in other words the number of α or of β , or equivalently the number of $\Gamma(s/2)$ factors, recalling that $\Gamma(s-p)$ counts for 2.

In the case $r = 2$, the factor is $\Gamma(s)$ whose inverse Mellin transform is e^{-x} , nothing to add. For $r = 4$, the inverse Mellin transform is essentially the well-known K -Bessel function $K_1(x)$. For $r = 6$ the convergence is in $1/n!^3$.

Although some cancellation exists, it is no problem to use the above series even when x is large, for $r \geq 2$, and even better for $r \geq 4$. Otherwise, there exist asymptotic expansions for $x \rightarrow \infty$.

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Conjectures I

Three types of prime numbers :

- (1) **Wild** : those which divide the denominator of one of the α_j or β_j .
- (2) **Tame** : not wild, and such that either $v_p(t) > 0$, $v_p(1/t) > 0$, or $v_p(t-1) > 0$.
- (3) **Good** : all the other primes.

We have given the recipe for $L_p(T)$ when p is good, and in that case $p \nmid N$, the conductor. When p is tame, we have been able to obtain precise (but complicated) conjectures, both for $L_p(T)$ and for $v_p(N)$. They should not be too difficult to prove.

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Conjectures II

On the other hand, when p is **wild**, we have a lot of experimental data and conjectures, but very little precise conjectures. Sample phenomenon, only partly understood : if p is wild and $v_p(t)$ tends to $-\infty$, then $v_p(N)$ has a behavior of the form (almost random numbers) :

12, 8, 9, 6, 5, 6, 4, 3, 0, 2, 2, 0, 2, 2, 0, 2, 2, 0

for $t = -1, -2, -3, \dots$. In other words it starts to “decrease”, with possible local increases, then **it reaches 0** for a certain **critical value** of $v_p(t)$, and then it is periodic with small amplitude. We have a precise conjecture for the critical value.

Example in dimension 0 : the **Belyi polynomials** which occur for suitable hypergeometric data : let $a \geq 2$ and $b \geq 2$ be coprime (not absolutely necessary) and let

$$P_t(X) = X^a(1 - X)^b - \frac{a^a b^b}{(a + b)^{a+b}} t.$$

Then the **discriminant** N of the number field generated by P_t has similar behavior for $p \mid ab(a + b)$ (i.e. wild).

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Examples

We give examples for $r = 2$. As mentioned, there are exactly 13 pairs (α, β) of possible hypergeometric data. Three have motivic weight 0 (hence functional equation $s \mapsto 1 - s$), corresponding to three families of number fields. The other ten have motivic weight 1 (func. eq. $s \mapsto 2 - s$), and correspond to families of elliptic curves, hence by Wiles to families of modular cusp forms of weight 2.

Even though very explicit and general, we do **not** know how to prove modularity of these ten families without Wiles, and a dream is that perhaps it could be possible, since the data is purely of a combinatorial (as opposed to geometric) nature.

Case (1)

$$\alpha = \{1/2, 1/2\}, \quad \beta = (0, 0).$$

$$a_p(t) = \frac{1}{1-p} \left(1 + \sum_{1 \leq r \leq p-2} J(r, r)^2 \omega^r(16t) \right).$$

If $v_p(t) = 0$:

$$a_p(t) = p - 3 - N_p(t),$$

$N_p(t)$ number of **affine** \mathbb{F}_p -points on $x(x-1)y(y-1) = a$, with $a = 1/(16t)$.

$$a_p(t) = p + 1 - M_p(t),$$

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$$Y^2 + XY = X(X-a)^2.$$

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$$\alpha = \{1/4, 3/4\}, \quad \beta = (0, 0).$$

$$a_p(t) = \frac{1}{1-p} \left(1 + \left(\frac{-t}{p}\right)p + \sum_{1 \leq r \leq p-2} J(r, r, 2r)\omega^r(64t) \right).$$

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If $v_p(t) = 0$:

$$pa_p(t) = p(p^2 + 6p - 12) - \left(\left(\frac{-3t}{p} \right) + \left(\frac{t}{p} \right)_3 J(\rho_3, \rho_3)^2 + \left(\frac{t}{p} \right)_3^{-1} J(\rho_3^{-1}, \rho_3^{-1})^2 \right) -$$

$N_p(t)$ number of affine \mathbb{F}_p -points on the threefold :
 $x^3 y^2 (1 - x - y) = z(1 - z)w(1 - w)/a$, with $a = 27/t$.

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If $v_p(t) = 0$:

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If $v_p(t) = 0$:

$$a_p(t) = p - \left(\frac{t}{p}\right) + \left(\frac{4t}{p}\right)_3 J(\rho_3, \rho_3) + \left(\frac{4t}{p}\right)_3^{-1} J(\rho_3^{-1}, \rho_3^{-1}) - N_p(t),$$

$N_p(t)$ number of affine \mathbb{F}_p -points on the genus 2 curve :
 $y^3(1-y)^3 = x(1-x)/a$, with $a = 16/t$.

$$a_p(t) = p + 1 - M_p(t),$$

$M_p(t)$ number of projective points on

$$Y^2 = X^3 - 3aX + 4a + a^2/4.$$

Case (12)

$$\alpha = \{1/3, 2/3\}, \quad \beta = (1/6, 5/6).$$

If $v_p(t) = 0$:

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$$\alpha = \{1/4, 3/4\}, \quad \beta = (1/6, 5/6) .$$

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