

## Quadratic polynomials, period polynomials, and Hecke operators

by

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**1. Introduction and statement of results.** For positive non-square  $D \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{4}$  and positive even integer  $k$ , define a function  $F_k(D; x)$  as follows: for  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , consider the set of polynomials  $aX^2 + bX + c$  with integer coefficients and discriminant  $D$  such that  $a < 0 < ax^2 + bx + c$ . For each such polynomial, compute  $(ax^2 + bx + c)^{k-1}$  and then add the resulting values. That is, set

$$F_k(D; x) := \sum_{\substack{a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}, a < 0, \\ b^2 - 4ac = D}} \max(0, (ax^2 + bx + c)^{k-1})$$

(and note that  $F_k(D; x)$  can be defined similarly for square  $D$  using Bernoulli polynomials, although we will not consider such  $D$  here). This function has been studied thoroughly, and much is known about it. For example, as noted in [8], one can show that if  $x$  is rational, then the sum defining  $F_k(D; x)$  is a finite sum. Conversely, it is known [2, 8] that the sum has infinitely many terms if  $x$  is not rational. Also, Zagier [8] proved that if  $k = 2$  or  $4$  and  $D$  is fixed, then  $F_k(D; x)$  is constant in  $x$ . Here, we will present additional identities which give information about relationships between values of  $F_k(D; x)$  for various related values of  $x$ .

Let us begin with an example. We define an auxiliary function  $F_k(D, 2; x)$  by

$$\begin{aligned} F_k(D, 2; x) := & -2^{10} F_k\left(D; \frac{x}{2}\right) + x^{10} F_k\left(D; \frac{2}{x}\right) - 2^{10} F_k\left(D; \frac{x+1}{2}\right) \\ & + (x+1)^{10} F_k\left(D; \frac{2}{x+1}\right) - F_k(D; 2x) + (2x)^{10} F_k\left(D; \frac{1}{2x}\right) \\ & - (x+1)^{10} F_k\left(D; \frac{2x}{x+1}\right) + (2x)^{10} F_k\left(D; \frac{x+1}{2x}\right). \end{aligned}$$

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Since  $F_k(D; x)$  is constant for  $k = 2, 4$ , we will now choose  $k = 6$ , and also set  $D = 5$ .

One can compute that for  $x = 3$ , we have  $F_6(5; 3) = 2$ , since the two polynomials  $[a, b, c]$  of interest here are

$$[-1, 5, -5] \quad \text{and} \quad [-1, 7, -11].$$

One also sees  $F_6(5; 1/3) = 18242/6561$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} F_6(5, 2; 3) &:= -2^{10}F_6(5; 3/2) + 3^{10}F_6(5; 2/3) - 2^{10}F_6(5; 2) + 4^{10}F_6(5; 1/2) \\ &\quad - F_6(5; 6) + 6^{10}F_6(5; 1/6) - 4^{10}F_6(5; 3/2) + 6^{10}F_6(5; 2/3) \\ &= 304644624. \end{aligned}$$

Thus altogether we have

$$\frac{\frac{1742}{691}(2^{11} + 1)(3^{10} - 1) - F_6(5, 2; 3)}{\frac{1742}{691}(3^{10} - 1) + F_6(5; 3) - 3^{10}F_6(5; 1/3)} = \frac{254016000/691}{-10584000/691} = -24.$$

We now go through the same computation using a different value of  $x$ . If we choose  $x = 2/7$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} F_6(5; 2/7) &= \frac{743556578}{282475249}, \\ F_6(5; 7/2) &= \frac{391}{128}, \\ F_6(5, 2; 2/7) &= -\frac{1458365017050}{282475249} \end{aligned}$$

and thus

$$\frac{\frac{1742}{691}(2^{11} + 1)((2/7)^{10} - 1) - F_6(5, 2; 2/7)}{\frac{1742}{691}((2/7)^{10} - 1) + F_6(5; 2/7) - (2/7)^{10}F_6(5; 7/2)} = -24.$$

From these two examples, one might wonder if

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1742}{691}(2^{11} + 1)(x^{10} - 1) - F_6(5, 2; x) \\ &= -24 \left[ \frac{1742}{691}(x^{10} - 1) + F_6(5; x) - x^{10}F_6(5; 1/x) \right] \end{aligned}$$

for all real numbers  $x$ . In fact, this is true, and more generally we have

$$\begin{aligned} (1.1) \quad &\frac{1742}{691}\sigma_{11}(n)(x^{10} - 1) - F_6(5, n; x) \\ &= \tau(n) \left[ \frac{1742}{691}(x^{10} - 1) + F_6(5; x) - x^{10}F_6(5; 1/x) \right] \end{aligned}$$

for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $n > 1$ . Here,  $F_k(D, n; x)$  is defined in Section 2.3 (and is similar in shape to  $F_k(D, 2; x)$  defined above),  $\sigma_{11}(n) = \sum_{d|n} d^{11}$ , and  $\tau(n)$  is a value of Ramanujan's tau-function. A similar statement holds true for other values of  $D$  as well.

For other values of  $k$ , we are not always so lucky. For example, let us consider the case where  $k = 12$ . For  $D = 5$  and  $n = 2$ , one might hope that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1590572822}{236364091}(2^{23} + 1)(x^{22} - 1) - F_{12}(5, 2; x) \\ &= C \left[ \frac{1590572822}{236364091}(x^{22} - 1) + F_{12}(5; x) - x^{22}F_{12}(5; 1/x) \right] \end{aligned}$$

for some constant  $C$  which does not depend on  $x$ . Unfortunately, this is not the case, but we do have

$$\frac{1590572822}{236364091}(2^{23} + 1)(x^{22} - 1) - F_{12}(5, 2; x) \equiv 0 \pmod{72}.$$

In order to explain these identities (and many others), we make use of the connection between  $F_k(D; x)$  and the theory of modular forms. It is known that

$$\frac{\zeta_D(1 - k)}{2\zeta(1 - 2k)}(x^{2k-2} - 1) + F_k(D; x) - x^{2k-2}F_k(D; 1/x)$$

is the “even” part of the period polynomial of a cusp form  $f_k(D; z)$  of weight  $2k$  (see Section 2.3). We make use of this fact to give the following theorem, which implies the above claims for  $k = 6$ , since  $S_{12}$  has dimension 1 and is spanned by the eigenform

$$\Delta(z) = q \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^n)^{24} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \tau(n)q^n.$$

**THEOREM 1.1.** *Suppose that  $k$  is a positive even integer,  $0 < D \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{4}$  is not a square, and  $n > 1$  is an integer such that  $f_k(D; z)$  is an eigenform of the Hecke operator with eigenvalue  $\lambda_n$ . Then*

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\zeta_D(1 - k)}{2\zeta(1 - 2k)}\sigma_{2k-1}(n)(x^{2k-2} - 1) - F_k(D, n; x) \\ &= \lambda_n \left[ \frac{\zeta_D(1 - k)}{2\zeta(1 - 2k)}(x^{2k-2} - 1) + F_k(D; x) - x^{2k-2}F_k\left(D; \frac{1}{x}\right) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

While unfortunately  $f_k(D; z)$  is not an eigenform in general, we can use congruences to give results analogous to Theorem 1.1, as in the above example with  $k = 12$ . The following theorems are derived from congruence results of Serre and Tate from the theory of modular forms. They correspond to the case where the appropriate Hecke eigenvalues vanish modulo some value  $M$  (which simplifies the resulting formulae considerably). Note here that one cannot ever expect these Hecke eigenvalues to be equal to 0, but Theorem 1.3 asserts that they are *almost always* 0 modulo  $M$ .

**THEOREM 1.2.** *Suppose that  $k$  is a positive even integer and  $0 < D \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{4}$  is not a square. Let  $K$  and  $\alpha$  be as described in Section 3.2, and let*

$\lambda$  be a prime of  $K$  lying above 2. Set  $e \geq 0$  such that  $\lambda^e \parallel \alpha$ . Then there is a non-negative integer  $c$  such that for every  $t \geq 1$  we have

$$F_k(D, n; x) \equiv \frac{\zeta_D(1-k)}{2\zeta(1-2k)} \sigma_{2k-1}(n)(x^{2k-2} - 1) \pmod{\lambda^{t-e}}$$

for all real numbers  $x$  and positive integers  $n$  with at least  $c+t$  distinct odd prime factors.

**THEOREM 1.3.** *Suppose that  $k$  is a positive even integer, let  $K$  and  $\alpha$  be as described in Section 3.2, and let  $\mathfrak{m} \subset \mathcal{O}_K$  be an ideal of norm  $M$  which is relatively prime to  $\alpha$ . Then a positive proportion of the primes  $p \equiv -1 \pmod{M}$  have the property that*

$$F_k(D, p; x) \equiv \frac{\zeta_D(1-k)}{2\zeta(1-2k)} \sigma_{2k-1}(p)(x^{2k-2} - 1) \pmod{M}$$

for all real numbers  $x$  and non-square  $0 < D \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{4}$ . Furthermore, for almost all positive integers  $n$ , we have

$$F_k(D, n; x) \equiv \frac{\zeta_D(1-k)}{2\zeta(1-2k)} \sigma_{2k-1}(n)(x^{2k-2} - 1) \pmod{M}$$

for all real numbers  $x$  and non-square  $0 < D \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{4}$ .

In Section 2, we will recall the necessary background material regarding period polynomials, Hecke operators, and the connection between  $F_k(D; x)$  and the theory of modular forms. In Section 3, we will prove Theorems 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3.

## 2. Preliminaries

### 2.1. Background on period polynomials and Hecke operators.

First we review the theory of periods, as described in [3]. Given a cusp form  $f(z) = \sum_{n \geq 0} a(n)q^n$  (where  $q := e^{2\pi iz}$ ) of weight  $2k$  on  $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ , we define the *period polynomial* of  $f$  by

$$r_f(x) := \int_0^{i\infty} f(z)(x-z)^{2k-2} dz$$

and also let  $r_f^+$  and  $r_f^-$  denote the even and odd parts of  $r_f$ , respectively. It is known that  $r_f(X)$  is a polynomial of degree at most  $2k-2$ , and that its coefficients are dictated by the critical values of the Hecke  $L$ -function associated to  $f$  (see the last section of [1], or [9]).

Let  $\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{V}_{2k-2}$  be the set of polynomials of degree at most  $2k-2$ , and define the slash operator by

$$P|\gamma = (cx+d)^{2k-2} P\left(\frac{ax+b}{cx+d}\right)$$

for  $\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$  and  $P \in \mathbf{V}$ . One can check that  $r_f(z) \in \mathbf{W}$ , where

$$\mathbf{W} = \mathbf{W}_{2k-2} := \{P \in \mathbf{V} : P|(1 + S) = P|(1 + U + U^2) = 0\}.$$

Here,  $S = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $U = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . We also set  $\mathbf{W}^+$  and  $\mathbf{W}^-$  to be the subspaces of even and odd polynomials. Finally, set  $\mathbf{W}_0^+$  to be the subspace of codimension 1 of  $\mathbf{W}^+$  which does not contain the polynomial  $x^{2k-2} - 1$ .

It is known (due to Eichler and Shimura) that the maps

$$r^+ : S_{2k} \rightarrow \mathbf{W}_0^+, \quad r^- : S_{2k} \rightarrow \mathbf{W}^-$$

are isomorphisms.

We now wish to establish a relationship between the theory of Hecke operators and period polynomials. We recall a result of Zagier, which generalizes a result of Manin and gives the action of Hecke operators on period polynomials in a way which respects the Eichler–Shimura isomorphisms. Zagier proved [9] that if  $f$  is a cusp form of weight  $2k$  on  $\text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$  and  $n$  is a positive integer, then

$$r_{f|T_n}(x) = \sum (cx + d)^{2k-2} r_f\left(\frac{ax + b}{cx + d}\right),$$

where the sum is over matrices  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$  of determinant  $n$  satisfying

$$(2.1) \quad \begin{aligned} a > |c|, \quad b = 0 &\Rightarrow -a/2 < c \leq a/2, \\ d > |b|, \quad c = 0 &\Rightarrow -d/2 < b \leq d/2, \\ bc &\leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we define the Hecke operator  $\tilde{T}_n$  for period polynomials by

$$r_f(x)|\tilde{T}_n := \sum (cx + d)^{2k-2} r_f\left(\frac{ax + b}{cx + d}\right) = \sum r_f|M$$

where the sum is over matrices  $M = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$  of determinant  $n$  which satisfy (2.1), and note that the result of Zagier may be written as  $r_{f|T_n} = r_f|\tilde{T}_n$  for all cusp forms  $f$ . One can also check that

$$(x^{2k-2} - 1)|\tilde{T}_n = \sigma_{2k-1}(n)(x^{2k-2} - 1).$$

**2.2. Congruence results from the theory of modular forms.**

When considering cusp forms  $f \in S_k$ , one might be interested in forms which are eigenforms of the Hecke operator, i.e., which satisfy  $f|T_n = \lambda_n f$  for some constant  $\lambda_n$ . While this is not always the case, it is known that analogous statements can be made in many situations using congruences.

For example, it is known [5, 7] that the action of Hecke algebras on spaces of modular forms modulo 2 is locally nilpotent, as stated in the following lemma.

LEMMA 2.1. *Suppose that  $f(z) \in M_k \cap \mathbb{Z}[[q]]$ . Then there exists a positive integer  $i$  such that*

$$f(z)|T_{p_1}| \cdots |T_{p_i} \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$$

for every collection of odd primes  $p_1, \dots, p_i$ .

Thus for a modular form  $f(z) \in M_k \cap \mathbb{Z}[[q]]$  which is not congruent to 0 modulo 2, we may define its *degree of nilpotency* to be the smallest such  $i$ , i.e., there exist odd primes  $\ell_1, \dots, \ell_{i-1}$  for which

$$f(z)|T_{\ell_1}| \cdots |T_{\ell_{i-1}} \not\equiv 0 \pmod{2},$$

and for every collection of odd primes  $p_1, \dots, p_i$ , we have

$$f(z)|T_{p_1}| \cdots |T_{p_i} \equiv 0 \pmod{2}.$$

More generally, one might ask about modular forms which do not have integral coefficients (e.g., in the next section, we will consider modular forms with coefficients in the ring of integers of a number field). We have the following result, which also follows from the work of Tate [7].

LEMMA 2.2. *Let  $k$  be a positive even integer and suppose that  $K$  is a number field containing the coefficients of all the weight  $k$  normalized eigenforms in  $S_k$ . Let  $\lambda$  be a prime of  $K$  lying above 2. Then there is an integer  $c \geq 0$  such that for every  $f(z) \in S_k$  with coefficients in  $\mathcal{O}_{K,\lambda}$  and every  $t \geq 1$  we have*

$$f(z)|T_{p_1}| \cdots |T_{p_{c+t}} \equiv 0 \pmod{\lambda^t}$$

for all odd primes  $p_1, \dots, p_{c+t}$ .

One might next ask whether one can give results with a different modulus. In order to do so, we state the following lemma of Serre [6], which he proved in more generality using the theory of Galois representations and the Chebotarev density theorem.

LEMMA 2.3. *Let  $A$  denote the subset of integer weight modular forms in  $M_k$  whose Fourier coefficients are in  $\mathcal{O}_K$ , the ring of algebraic integers in a number field  $K$ . If  $\mathfrak{m} \subset \mathcal{O}_K$  is an ideal of norm  $M$ , then a positive proportion of the primes  $p \equiv -1 \pmod{M}$  have the property*

$$f(z)|T_p \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathfrak{m}}$$

for every  $f(z) \in A$ .

Serre also proved the following amazing fact.

LEMMA 2.4. *Assume the notation in Lemma 2.3. If  $f(z) \in A$  has Fourier expansion  $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a(n)q^n$ , then there is a constant  $\alpha > 0$  such that*

$$\#\{n \leq X : a(n) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{\mathfrak{m}}\} = O(X/(\log X)^\alpha).$$

If the modular form  $f$  in Lemma 2.4 is a Hecke eigenform, then this implies that almost all of its Hecke eigenvalues are 0 modulo  $\mathfrak{m}$ .

**2.3. Zagier’s  $F_k(D; x)$  and its connection to the theory of modular forms.** As before, for non-square  $D \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{4}$ , and positive even integer  $k$ , we define

$$F_k(D; x) := \sum_{\substack{a,b,c \in \mathbb{Z}, a < 0 \\ b^2 - 4ac = D}} \max(0, (ax^2 + bx + c)^{k-1}).$$

This function is related to cusp forms of weight  $2k$  in the following way, as described by Zagier in [8]: define the polynomial

$$P_k(D; x) := \sum_{\substack{b^2 - 4ac = D \\ a > 0 > c}} (ax^2 + bx + c)^{k-1}.$$

Then one can easily see that

$$x^{2k-2} F_k(D; 1/x) - F_k(D; x) = P_k(D; x).$$

For  $k > 2$ , we may also consider

$$f_k(D; z) := C_k D^{k-1/2} \sum_{b^2 - 4ac = D} \frac{1}{(az^2 + bz + c)^k}$$

(where  $C_k$  is a constant which is not important here), and it is easy to see that  $f_k(D; z)$  is a cusp form of weight  $2k$  on  $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ . In [3], it was shown that its even period function is given by

$$r_{f_k, D}^+(x) = \frac{\zeta_D(1-k)}{2\zeta(1-2k)} (x^{2k-2} - 1) - P_k(D; x).$$

This gives

$$F_k(D; x) = \frac{\zeta_D(1-k)}{2\zeta(1-2k)} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_{k,D}(n)}{n^{2k-1}} \cos(2\pi nx),$$

where we write  $f_k(D; z) = \sum_{n \geq 1} a_{k,D}(n) q^n$ . Additionally, we define

$$F_k(D, n; x) := \sum [F_k(D; x) | J - F_k(D; x) | M = P_k(D; x) | \tilde{T}_n,$$

where the sum is over matrices  $M = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$  of determinant  $n$  which satisfy (2.1), and  $J := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .

**2.4. Examples for small  $k$ .** In order to show that the above discussion can be made explicit, and to give some easy (known) consequences of the relationship between  $F_k(D; z)$  and the theory of modular forms, we consider the cases where  $k = 2, 4$ , and  $6$ . First consider the case where  $k = 2$  or  $4$ , which is considered extensively in [8]. Since there are no cusp forms of weight  $4$  or  $8$ , we have

$$0 = r_{f_k, D}^+(x) = \frac{\zeta_D(1-k)}{2\zeta(1-2k)} (x^{2k-2} - 1) - P_k(D; x),$$

so

$$P_k(D; x) = \frac{\zeta_D(1-k)}{2\zeta(1-2k)}(x^{2k-2} - 1) = x^{2k-2}F_k(D; 1/x) - F_k(D; x).$$

It follows that the function  $F_k^0(D; x) := F_k(D; x) - \frac{\zeta_D(1-k)}{2\zeta(1-2k)}$  satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} x^{2k-2}F_k^0(D; 1/x) &= F_k^0(D; x), \\ F_k^0(D; x+1) &= F_k^0(D; x), \\ F_k^0(D; 0) &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

and consequently  $F_k^0(D; x) = 0$  for all rational  $x$  (and thus, by continuity, for all  $x$ ). That is, for  $k \in \{2, 4\}$ , we see that  $F_k(D; x)$  is the constant function

$$F_k(D; x) = \frac{\zeta_D(1-k)}{2\zeta(1-2k)}.$$

We now consider  $F_k(D; x)$  where  $k = 6$ . Since the space of cusp forms of weight 12 and level 1 is non-empty,  $F_6(D; x)$  is no longer a constant function. For example, when  $D = 5$ , one can compute that

$$\begin{aligned} P_6(5; x) &= 2x^{10} + 10x^8 - 30x^6 + 30x^4 - 10x^2 - 2, \\ r_{f_{6,5}}^+(x) &= \frac{360}{691}x^{10} - 10x^8 + 30x^6 - 30x^4 + 10x^2 - \frac{360}{691}. \end{aligned}$$

Note here that since the relevant space of cusp forms  $S_{2k}$  is one-dimensional (and spanned by  $\Delta(z)$ ) it follows that  $f_6(D; z)$  is a multiple of  $\Delta(z)$ , and is an eigenform of the Hecke operator  $T_n$  for all  $n$ ; therefore Theorem 1.1 applies whenever  $k = 6$ .

### 3. Proofs

**3.1. Proof of Theorem 1.1.** Since  $f_k(D, z)$  is an eigenform of the Hecke operator, we see that  $f_k(D; z)|T_n = \lambda_n f_k(D; z)$ . Thus we have

$$r_{f_{k,D}|T_n}^+(x) = r_{\lambda_n f_{k,D}}^+(x), \quad r_{f_{k,D}}^+(x)|\tilde{T}_n = \lambda_n r_{f_{k,D}}^+(x),$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{\zeta_D(1-k)}{2\zeta(1-2k)}\sigma_{2k-1}(n)(x^{2k-2} - 1) - F_k(D, n; x) \\ &= \lambda_n \left[ \frac{\zeta_D(1-k)}{2\zeta(1-2k)}(x^{2k-2} - 1) + F_k(D; x) - x^{2k-2}F_k\left(D; \frac{1}{x}\right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

as desired.

**3.2. Congruences for period polynomials of modular forms.** One must be a bit careful when applying the congruence results of Section 2.2; they do not necessarily apply to the cusp forms  $f_k(D; z)$ . Here we consider a basis of eigenforms for  $S_{2k}$  in order to circumvent this issue.



Fix a positive even integer  $k$  and a positive non-square integer  $D \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{4}$ . Set  $d_k := \dim(S_{2k})$  and let  $f_1, \dots, f_{d_k}$  be a basis of eigenforms for  $S_{2k}$  which are normalized so that their corresponding even period polynomials

$$r_{f_1}^+(X), \dots, r_{f_{d_k}}^+(X)$$

have coefficients in a number field  $K$  (where  $K$  is defined to be the smallest number field which contains all of the coefficients of the weight  $2k$  normalized eigenforms of  $S_{2k}$ ). Note that such a choice exists by the Periods Theorem of Manin [4]. Since these eigenforms give a basis for  $S_{2k}$ , their even period polynomials give a basis for  $\mathbf{W}_0^+$ , so there exist constants  $c_1, \dots, c_{d_k}$  such that

$$r_{f_{k,D}}^+(X) = \sum_{i=1}^{d_k} c_i r_{f_i}^+(X).$$

Note that  $r_{f_{k,D}}^+(X) \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$ , and hence  $c_i \in K$  for all  $i$ .

Thus we may choose  $\alpha \in \mathcal{O}_K$  so that

$$\alpha(c_i \lambda_{i,n} r_{f_i}^+(X)) \in \mathcal{O}_K[X]$$

for all  $i$  and  $n > 1$  (where  $\lambda_{i,n}$  is the eigenvalue of  $f_i$  with respect to the Hecke operator  $T_n$ ). It follows that for  $\mathfrak{m}$  coprime to  $\alpha$ , and  $n > 1$  such that

$$r_{f_i}^+ | \tilde{T}_n \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathfrak{m}}$$

for all  $i$ , we have

$$r_{f_{k,D}}^+ | \tilde{T}_n = \sum_{i=1}^{d_k} c_i r_{f_i}^+ | \tilde{T}_n \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathfrak{m}}.$$

**3.3. Proof of Theorem 1.2.** Fix a positive integer  $t$  and choose a positive integer  $n$  with at least  $c + t$  distinct odd prime factors. Then by Lemma 2.2 we have

$$\alpha c_i r_{f_i}^+(X) | \tilde{T}_n = \alpha c_i r_{f_i}^+ | T_n(X) = \alpha c_i \lambda_{i,n} r_{f_i}^+(X) \equiv 0 \pmod{\lambda^t}$$

for all  $i$ , and thus  $\alpha r_{f_{k,D}}^+(X) | \tilde{T}_n \equiv 0 \pmod{\lambda^t}$ . Finally, this gives

$$\begin{aligned} r_{f_{k,D}}^+(X) | \tilde{T}_n &\equiv 0 \pmod{\lambda^{t-e}}, \\ \left( \frac{\zeta_D(1-k)}{2\zeta(1-2k)} (X^{2k-2} - 1) - P_k(D; X) \right) | \tilde{T}_n &\equiv 0 \pmod{\lambda^{t-e}}, \\ \sigma_{2k-1}(n) \frac{\zeta_D(1-k)}{2\zeta(1-2k)} (X^{2k-2} - 1) &\equiv F_k(D, n; X) \pmod{\lambda^{t-e}} \end{aligned}$$

as desired.

**3.4. Proof of Theorem 1.3.** Note that for a positive proportion of primes  $p \equiv -1 \pmod{M}$ , we have

$$\alpha c_i r_{f_i}^+(X) | \tilde{T}_p = \alpha c_i r_{f_i | T_p}^+(X) = \alpha c_i \lambda_{i,p} r_{f_i}^+(X) \equiv 0 \pmod{M}$$

for all  $i$  by Lemma 2.3, and thus  $\alpha r_{f_{k,D}}^+(X) | \tilde{T}_p \equiv 0 \pmod{M}$ . We deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} r_{f_{k,D}}^+(X) | \tilde{T}_p &\equiv 0 \pmod{M}, \\ \left( \frac{\zeta_D(1-k)}{2\zeta(1-2k)} (X^{2k-2} - 1) - P_k(D; X) \right) \Big| \tilde{T}_p &\equiv 0 \pmod{M}, \\ \sigma_{2k-1}(p) \frac{\zeta_D(1-k)}{2\zeta(1-2k)} (X^{2k-2} - 1) &\equiv F_k(D, p; X) \pmod{M}. \end{aligned}$$

This proves the first statement of Theorem 1.3. To see the second statement, note that Lemma 2.4 says that almost all positive integers  $n$  satisfy  $\lambda_{i,n}$  for all  $i$ . For such  $n$ , we have

$$\sigma_{2k-1}(n) \frac{\zeta_D(1-k)}{2\zeta(1-2k)} (X^{2k-2} - 1) \equiv F_k(D, n; X) \pmod{M}$$

by the same argument as above.

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