ON SPECIAL ELEMENTS
IN HIGHER ALGEBRAIC $K$-THEORY
AND THE LICHTENBAUM-GROSS CONJECTURE

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ABSTRACT. We conjecture the existence of special elements in odd degree higher algebraic $K$-groups of number fields that are related in a precise way to the values at strictly negative integers of the derivatives of Artin $L$-functions of finite dimensional complex representations. We prove this conjecture in certain important cases and also provide other evidence (both theoretical and numerical) in its support.

INTRODUCTION

An important conjecture of Gross asserts, roughly speaking, that the leading term at any strictly negative integer of the Artin $L$-function of a finite dimensional complex representation should be equal, to within an undetermined algebraic factor, to a regulator constructed from elements of the appropriate odd degree higher algebraic $K$-group. (Gross’s Conjecture was first formulated in the late 1970s as a natural analogue of the seminal conjecture of Stark concerning the leading terms at zero of Artin $L$-functions but was only recently published in [22] and can by now be seen as a special case of the natural equivariant refinement of Beilinson’s general conjectures on the leading terms of $L$-functions.) It is well known that providing an explicit upper bound on the (absolute norm of the) denominator of the undetermined algebraic factor in Gross’s Conjecture would make it much easier to obtain numerical evidence for the conjecture - see, for example, the discussion of Dummit in [18, §14] regarding problems that arise when conducting numerical investigations of Stark’s Conjecture. Perhaps more importantly, it is also likely that such a bound could be used to give some much needed insight into arithmetic properties of any possible non-abelian analogues of the cyclotomic and elliptic elements in higher algebraic $K$-theory that have been constructed by Beilinson, Deligne and Soulé. However, apart from an important, but rather inexplicit, modification of the related Lichtenbaum-Gross Conjecture that was formulated by Chinburg, Kolster, Pappas and Snaith in [14], and a similarly inexplicit refinement of the Lichtenbaum-Gross Conjecture that we recently learnt has been formulated by Nickel in [27], the present authors are not aware of any other predictions, let alone results, concerning this problem.

In the current article we make a first step in this direction by investigating the possible existence of elements in odd degree higher algebraic $K$-groups of number fields that are related in a very explicit way to the values at strictly negative integers of the first derivatives of Artin $L$-functions. By developing a suggestion of the first

2000 Mathematics Subject Classification. Primary: 11R70, 19F27; secondary: 11R42.
Key words and phrases. number field, algebraic $K$-theory, regulator, Artin $L$-function.
Throughout this article we use the following general notation.

We fix an algebraic closure $Q^c$ of $Q$ and for any Galois extension of fields $F/E$ we set $G_{F/E} := \text{Gal}(F/E)$. For each non-zero integer $a$ and number field $F$ we write $\mu_a(F)$ for the finite module $H^0(G_{Q^c/F}, Q/Z(a))$ where $Q/Z(a)$ denotes the group $Q/Z$ regarded as a $G_{Q^c/Q}$-module by setting $g(x) := \chi_{cyc}(g)^a x$ for all $g \in G_{Q^c/Q}$ and $x \in Q/Z$ where $\chi_{cyc}$ is the cyclotomic character. We also set $w_a(F) := |\mu_a(F)|$ and $R(a) := (2\pi)^a R$.

For any abelian group $A$ we write $A_{tor}$ for its torsion subgroup. Unadorned tensor products are to be regarded as taken in the category of abelian groups.

1.2. To state our conjecture we fix a finite Galois extension of number fields $F/k$ and a finite set of places $S$ of $k$ containing the set $S_\infty$ of all archimedean places. We also fix an irreducible finite dimensional complex character $\chi$ of $G := G_{F/k}$ and a subfield $E$ of $C$ that is both Galois and of finite degree over $Q$ and over which $\chi$ can be realised. We write $\check{\chi}$ for the contragredient of $\chi$ and $\epsilon_x$ for the primitive central idempotent $\chi(1)|G|^{-1} \sum_{g \in G} \check{\chi}(g)g$ of $E[G]$. We set $\Gamma := G_{E/Q}$ and write $O$ for the ring of integers in $E$. For any $G$-module $M$ we write the natural semi-linear action of $\Gamma$ on $E \otimes M$ as $(\gamma, x) \mapsto x^{\gamma}$ (so $x^{\gamma} = \gamma(e) \otimes m$ if $x = e \otimes m$ with $e \in E$ and $m \in M$).

We fix a strictly negative integer $r$ and for any field $L$ we write the higher algebraic $K$-group $K_{1-2r}(L)$ additively. We consider the composite homomorphism

$$\text{reg}_{1-r} : K_{1-2r}(C) \to H^1_D(\text{Spec}(C), \mathbb{R}(1-r)) = \mathbb{C}/R(1-r) \cong \mathbb{R}(-r)$$
where the first arrow is the Beilinson regulator map and the second is the isomorphism induced by the decomposition \( \mathbb{C} = \mathbb{R}(1 - r) \oplus \mathbb{R}(1 - r) \). We let \( \tau \) be the non-trivial element in \( G_{\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}} \) and use the same symbol to denote the induced involution on \( K_{1,2}(\mathbb{C}) \). We recall that \( \text{reg}_{1, r} \circ \tau = (-1)^r \text{reg}_{1, r} \). We note that the index \( 1 - r \) corresponds to the only Adams weight in algebraic \( K \)-theory on which \( \text{reg}_{1, r} \) is non-trivial. In particular \( \text{reg}_{1, r} \) is trivial on the image in \( K_{1,2}(\mathbb{C}) \) of the Milnor \( K \)-group \( K_{1,2}^M(\mathbb{C}) \) since this has weight \( 1 - 2r \).

We regard the set \( \Sigma_F \) of embeddings \( F \to \mathbb{C} \) as a left \( G \times G_{\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}} \)-module by setting \( (g \times \omega) (\sigma) = \omega \circ \sigma \circ g^{-1} \) for each \( g \in G, \omega \in G_{\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}} \) and \( \sigma \in \Sigma_F \). For each \( \sigma \in \Sigma_F \) we write \( \text{reg}_{1, r, \sigma} : \mathcal{O} \otimes K_{1,2}(F) \to \mathbb{C} \) for the \( \mathcal{O} \)-linear map sending each \( e \otimes x \) with \( e \in \mathcal{O} \) and \( x \in K_{1,2}(F) \) to \( e \cdot \text{reg}_{1, r, \sigma}(x) \). This is true because both \( \text{reg}_{1, r, \sigma} \) and any fixed \( \gamma \) are independent of the choice of \( \gamma \).

We can now state the central conjecture of this article.

**Conjecture 1.2.** Assume that \( L(r, \tilde{\chi}) = 0 \). For each \( \sigma \) in \( \Sigma_F \) there exists an element \( \epsilon_\sigma(\chi, S) \) of \( \mathcal{O} \otimes K_{1,2}(F) \) with the following property: for all \( \sigma' \in \Sigma_F \) and all \( \gamma \in \Gamma \) one has

\[
(2\pi i)^r \text{reg}_{1, r, \sigma}(\epsilon_\sigma(\chi, S)^\gamma) = w_r(\chi) \gamma(c_{\sigma', \sigma}^\chi) L_s'(r, \tilde{\chi}^\gamma)
\]

with

\[
c_{\sigma', \sigma}^\chi := \begin{cases} 
\tilde{\chi}(g) + (-1)^r \tilde{\chi}(g \tau) & \text{if } \sigma(k) \subset \mathbb{R} \text{ and } \sigma' = g(\sigma) \text{ for some } g \in G, \\
\tilde{\chi}(g) & \text{if } \sigma(k) \not\subset \mathbb{R} \text{ and } \sigma' = g(\sigma) \text{ for some } g \in G, \\
(-1)^r \tilde{\chi}(g) & \text{if } \sigma(k) \not\subset \mathbb{R} \text{ and } \sigma' = \tau \circ g(\sigma) \text{ for some } g \in G, \\
0 & \text{otherwise.}
\end{cases}
\]

1.3. We make several straightforward remarks about Conjecture 1.2

**Remark 1.4.**

(i) If Conjecture 1.2 holds for \( \sigma \) and \( \chi \), then it holds for \( \sigma \) and \( \chi^\delta \) for any \( \delta \) in \( \Gamma \) with \( \epsilon_\sigma(\chi^\delta, S) = \epsilon_\sigma(\chi, S)^\delta \).

(ii) If Conjecture 1.2 holds for \( \sigma \) and \( \chi \), then it holds for \( \tau \circ \sigma \) and \( \chi^\sigma \) with \( \epsilon_{\tau \circ \sigma}(\chi, S) = (-1)^r \epsilon_{\sigma}(\chi, S) \).

(iii) If Conjecture 1.2 holds for \( \sigma \) and \( \chi \), and \( h \) is in \( G \), then it holds for \( h(\sigma) \) and \( \chi \) with \( \epsilon_{h(\sigma)}(\chi, S) = h(\epsilon_{\sigma}(\chi, S)) \). This is true because both \( \text{reg}_{1, r, \sigma}(h(\epsilon_{\sigma}(\chi, S))) = \text{reg}_{1, r, h^{-1}(\sigma)}(\epsilon_{\sigma}(\chi, S)) \) and \( c_{\sigma, h(\sigma)}^\chi = c_{\sigma', h(\sigma)}^\chi \) (since \( \tau h(\sigma) = h\tau h^{-1} \) if \( \sigma(k) \subset \mathbb{R} \) and \( h \) is a class function on \( G \)).

(iv) Any element \( \epsilon_\sigma(\chi, S) \) that satisfies 1.3 for all \( \sigma' \) and any fixed \( \gamma \) is necessarily unique modulo \( \mathcal{O} \otimes K_{1,2}(F)_{\text{tor}} \) (see the proof of Proposition 2.21 iv)(a) below.

**Remark 1.5.** If \( L'(r, \tilde{\chi}) = 0 \), then \( L'(r, \tilde{\chi}^\gamma) = 0 \) for all \( \gamma \in \Gamma \) and so Conjecture 1.2 is interesting only if \( L(r, \tilde{\chi}) = 0 \neq L'(r, \tilde{\chi}) \). By computing orders of vanishing via an explicit analysis of the Gamma factors and functional equation of \( L(s, \tilde{\chi}) \) (as
in [26, Chap. VII, §12]), one finds that this is the case in precisely the following situations:

(i) \( k \) has exactly one complex place, \( \chi(1) = 1 \) and \( \chi(1) + (-1)^r \chi(\tau) = 0 \) for all \( \sigma \in \Sigma_F \) with \( \sigma'(k) \subset \mathbb{R} \);
(ii) \( k \) is totally real, \( \chi(1) + (-1)^r \chi(\tau) = 2 \) for some \( \sigma \in \Sigma_F \) and \( \chi(1) + (-1)^r \chi(\tau') = 0 \) for all \( \sigma' \in \Sigma_F \setminus \{ g(\sigma) : g \in G \} \).

In both of these situations \( \chi \) is also realisable over its character field \( \mathbb{Q}(\chi) \). Indeed, this is obvious in case (i) and in case (ii) can be shown as follows. For any \( \sigma \in \Sigma_F \) and any \( \chi \), we let \( e_{\sigma, \chi} \) in \( \mathbb{Q}(\chi)[G] \) denote the idempotent \( \frac{1}{2} \chi(1 + (-1)\tau) e_{\chi} \) if \( \sigma(k) \subset \mathbb{R} \) and the central idempotent \( e_{\chi} \) otherwise. In case (ii) above we consider \( e_{\sigma, \chi} \) for the given \( \sigma \). Then the character of the \( \mathbb{Q}(\chi)[G] \)-module \( V := \mathbb{Q}(\chi)[G] e_{\sigma, \chi} \) is equal to \( m \chi \) for some natural number \( m \) and we must show \( m = 1 \). But in \( \mathbb{C}[G] e_{\sigma, \chi} \cong M_{\chi(1)}(\mathbb{C}) \) the idempotent \( e_{\sigma, \chi} \) identifies with a matrix of rank one (since \( \chi(1) + (-1)^r \chi(\tau) = 2 \)) and so \( \chi(1) = \dim_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathbb{C}[G] e_{\sigma, \chi}) = \dim_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathbb{C}[\otimes_{Q(\chi)} V]) = m \chi(1) \), as required.

There are a small number of cases in which the elements predicted by Conjecture \([1,2]\) can be explained theoretically.

If \( k = \mathbb{Q} \) then Remark \([1,5]\)(ii) implies that \( L(r, \bar{x}) = 0 \neq L'(r, \bar{x}) \) if and only if \( \chi(\tau) = (-1)^r (2 - \chi(1)) \) for all \( \sigma \in \Sigma_F \), which certainly holds if \( \chi(1) = 1 \) and \( \chi(\tau) = (-1)^r \) for all \( \sigma \). In this case Proposition \([2,1]\)(ii) below also allows us to assume that \( F \) is an Abelian extension of \( \mathbb{Q} \) and so one can explicitly construct elements \( \varepsilon_{\sigma}(\chi, S) \) as in Conjecture \([1,2]\) by using the cyclotomic elements in algebraic \( K \)-theory of Deligne et al. (see also the proof of Corollary \([5,2]\) below).

If \( k \) is imaginary quadratic, then Remark \([1,5]\)(i) implies that \( L(r, \bar{x}) = 0 \neq L'(r, \bar{x}) \) if and only if \( \chi(1) = 1 \) and in any such case Deninger has proved Gross’s Conjecture (in \([4,7]\), Th. 3.1)). It seems likely that Deninger’s methods can be used to directly construct the corresponding elements \( \varepsilon_{\sigma}(\chi, S) \) in Conjecture \([1,2]\) both for any such \( \chi \) and, when \( F \) is Galois over \( \mathbb{Q} \), also for the character \( \text{Ind}_{G/F}^{G}(\chi) \) if this is irreducible. For example, interesting work in this direction (which does not however bound the denominators of the elements that arise) is described by Levin in [25].

In general, however, we are not aware of any theoretical constructions that can account for the existence of the elements \( \varepsilon_{\sigma}(\chi, S) \) in Conjecture \([1,2]\) for other classes of characters \( \chi \). In \([3,8]\) we will also see that, for certain sets \( S \), these mysterious elements should encode information about the explicit module structure of even degree algebraic \( K \)-groups in a manner that is strikingly parallel to the way in which cyclotomic units encode structural information about ideal class groups (see Remark \([3,3]\)).

## 2. Reductions and Reformulations

### 2.1. Conjecture \([1,2]\)

Conjecture \([1,2]\) admits several useful reformulations that we shall describe below. We begin by recording some of its properties. Here we write \( \tau_{\sigma}(\chi, S) \) for the image in \( E \otimes K_{1-2r}(F) \) of the conjectural element \( \varepsilon_{\sigma}(\chi, S) \).

**Proposition 2.1.**

(i) It is enough to verify Conjecture \([1,2]\) with \( S = S_{\infty} \).
(ii) It is enough to verify Conjecture \([1,2]\) after replacing \( F \) by \( F^{\ker(\chi)} \).
(iii) It is enough to verify Conjecture \([1,2]\) when \( L'(r, \bar{x}) \neq 0 \) and with \( E = \mathbb{Q}(\chi) \).
(iv) Assume that Conjecture \([1,2]\) is valid for \( \sigma \) in \( \Sigma_F \).
(a) $\tau_\sigma(\chi, S)$ is uniquely specified by the formulas in Conjecture 1.2.

(b) $\tau_\sigma(\chi, S) = c_\sigma(\chi, S)$; if $\sigma(k) \subset \mathbb{R}$, then $\tau_\sigma(\tau_\sigma(\chi, S)) = (-1)^\tau \tau_\sigma(\chi, S)$.

Proof. If Conjecture 1.2 is valid as stated, then for any $v \notin S$ it is validated with $S$ replaced by $S' = S \cup \{v\}$ by setting $\epsilon_\sigma(\chi, S') := \det_{C}(1 - \sigma_w Nv^{-r} \mid V_{\chi}^{\text{reg}})\epsilon_\sigma(\chi, S)$ where $w$ is any place of $F$ above $v$, $G_w$ and $I_w$ are the decomposition and inertia subgroups of $w$ in $G$, $\sigma_w$ the Frobenius automorphism in $G_w/I_w$ and $V_\chi$ a $\mathbb{C}[G]$-module of character $\chi$. (Here we use the fact that, since $r < 0$, the element $\det_{C}(1 - \sigma_w Nv^{-r} \mid V_{\chi}^{\text{reg}})$ belongs to $\mathcal{O}$.) This proves claim (i).

Claim (ii) is easily checked and the first assertion of (iii) is obvious since if $L'(r, \chi) = 0$, then $L'(r, \chi') = 0$ for all $\gamma \in \Gamma$ and so Conjecture 1.2 is validated by setting $\epsilon_\sigma(\chi, S) := 0$. Finally, it is clear that if Conjecture 1.2 is valid for a given field $E$, then it is valid for any larger such field and so the second claim of (iii) is true because $L'(r, \chi) \neq 0$ implies that $\chi$ can be realised over $\mathbb{Q}(\chi)$ by Remark 1.3.

To prove claim (iv) we set $\tau_\sigma := \tau_\sigma(\chi, S)$. We extend $\text{reg}_{\gamma-1, \gamma}$ to a homomorphism of $E$-modules $E \otimes K_{1-2r}(F) \to \mathbb{C}$ in the natural way, write $\text{reg}_{\gamma-1}$ for $(2\pi i)^{\gamma-1} \text{reg}_{\gamma-1, \gamma}$ and recall that $\prod_{\gamma \in \Gamma} (\text{reg}_{\gamma})$ vanishes (by Borel [5]). It is thus clear that $\tau_\sigma$ is uniquely specified by (1.3) for all $\sigma'$ and with $\gamma$ equal to the trivial element, proving (iv)(a). For the same reason, to prove (iv)(b) it suffices to show that $\text{reg}_{\gamma-1, \gamma}(c_\gamma \tau_\sigma) = \text{reg}_{\gamma-1, \gamma}(\tau_\sigma)$ and, if $\sigma(k) \subset \mathbb{R}$, that $\text{reg}_{\gamma-1, \gamma}(\tau_\sigma(\tau_\sigma)) = (-1)^\gamma \text{reg}_{\gamma-1, \gamma}(\tau_\sigma)$, for all $\sigma'$. But $\text{reg}_{\gamma-1, \gamma}(c_\gamma \tau_\sigma) = \chi(1)|G|^{-1} \sum_{h \in G} \hat{\chi}(h) \text{reg}_{\gamma-1, \gamma}(\tau_\sigma) = \text{reg}_{\gamma-1, \gamma}(\tau_\sigma)$ where the last equality follows by combining the conjectural equality (1.3) (with $\gamma$ trivial) with the fact that $\chi(1)|G|^{-1} \sum_{h \in G} \hat{\chi}(h) \hat{\chi}(h^{-1}g) = \hat{\chi}(g)$ for all $g \in G$, so that $\chi(1)|G|^{-1} \sum_{h \in G} \hat{\chi}(h) c_{\gamma-1, \gamma}(\sigma') = c_{\gamma-1, \gamma}(\sigma')$. Moreover, if $\sigma(k) \subset \mathbb{R}$ then one easily checks that $c_{\gamma-1, \gamma}(\sigma') = (-1)^{\gamma} c_{\gamma} \gamma(\sigma')$ and combining this with (1.3) (with $\gamma$ trivial) we find that $\text{reg}_{\gamma-1, \gamma}(\tau_\sigma(\tau_\sigma)) = \text{reg}_{\gamma-1, \gamma}(\tau_\sigma) = (-1)^{\gamma} \text{reg}_{\gamma-1, \gamma}(\tau_\sigma)$.

In the next result we reformulate Conjecture 1.2 in a style reminiscent of the refinement of (a special case of) Stark’s conjecture that is stated by Chinburg in [13]. Here we write $D_E$ for the different of $E/Q$.

Proposition 2.2. Let $\sigma$ be in $\Sigma_F$.

(i) If Conjecture 1.2 holds for $\sigma$, then for each $d$ in $D^{-1}_{E}$ the element

$$\text{Tr}_d(\epsilon_\sigma(\chi, S)) := \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \gamma(d) \epsilon_\sigma(\chi, S)^{\gamma}$$

belongs to $K_{1-2r}(F)$ and for all $\sigma' \in \Sigma_F$ satisfies

$$(2\pi i)^{\gamma} \text{reg}_{\gamma-1, \gamma}(\text{Tr}_d(\epsilon_\sigma(\chi, S))) = w_r(\chi) \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \gamma(d) \gamma(c_{\gamma}^{\text{reg}}(\sigma')) L_S^{(r, \chi')}(\gamma(\sigma')) .$$

(ii) If for each $d$ in $D^{-1}_{E}$ there exists an element $\alpha_{d, \sigma}(\chi, S)$ of $K_{1-2r}(F)$ such that (2.3) holds with $\alpha_{d, \sigma}(\chi, S)$ in place of $\text{Tr}_d(\epsilon_\sigma(\chi, S))$, then Conjecture 1.2 holds for $\sigma$.

Proof. To prove (i) we note Conjecture 1.2 implies that for every $\gamma$ in $\Gamma$ one has $\gamma(d) \epsilon_\sigma(\chi, S)^{\gamma} \in D^{-1}_{E} \otimes K_{1-2r}(F)$ and also $(2\pi i)^{\gamma} \text{reg}_{\gamma-1, \gamma}(\gamma(d) \epsilon_\sigma(\chi, S)^{\gamma}) = w_r(\chi) \gamma(d) \gamma(c_{\gamma}^{\text{reg}}(\sigma')) L_S^{(r, \chi')}(\gamma(\sigma'))$. It is thus clear that $\text{Tr}_d(\epsilon_\sigma(\chi, S))$ satisfies (2.3). In addition one has $\text{Tr}_{E/Q}(D^{-1}_{E}) \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$ and so

$$\text{Tr}_d(\epsilon_\sigma(\chi, S)) = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} (d \epsilon_\sigma(\chi, S)^{\gamma}) \in \text{Tr}_{E/Q}(D^{-1}_{E}) \otimes K_{1-2r}(F) \subseteq K_{1-2r}(F),$$

where
as required. For claim (ii), let \( \{d_j\}_j \) be a \( \mathbb{Z} \)-basis of \( D_{E_1}^{-1} \), \( \{e_j\}_j \) the dual \( \mathbb{Z} \)-basis of \( \mathcal{O} \) with respect to the trace pairing, and set \( \epsilon_{\sigma}(\chi, S) := \sum_j e_j \otimes \alpha_{d_j, \sigma}(\chi, S) \). If \( \gamma \) is in \( \Gamma \), then

\[
(2\pi i)^r \text{reg}_{1-r, \sigma'}(\epsilon_{\sigma}(\chi, S)^{\gamma}) = w_r(\chi) \sum_{\gamma' \in \Gamma} \gamma(e_j) \gamma'(d_j) \gamma'(c_{\sigma', \sigma}) L'_S(r, \chi^{\gamma'})
= w_r(\chi) \gamma(c_{\sigma', \sigma}) L'_S(r, \chi^{\gamma})
\]

because if \( \Gamma = \{\gamma_j\}_j \), then \( (\gamma_j(d_i))(\gamma_i(e_j)) \) is the identity matrix, and the same holds for \((\gamma_i(e_j))(\gamma_j(d_i))\).

\[\square\]

2.2. In this subsection we give (in Proposition 2.4(ii)) a more concise reformulation of Conjecture 1.2 that requires some preliminaries. This reformulation will be particularly useful in Section 5 when we numerically verify Conjecture 1.2 in the case that \( S = S_\infty \) and \( L'_S(r, \chi) \neq 0 \).

Claim (iii) of Proposition 2.4 implies that one only needs to consider the case that \( L_S(r, \chi) = 0 \neq L'_S(r, \chi) \). Remark 1.5 specifies when this happens, and we let \( \Sigma^{r,\chi}_F \) denote the subset of \( \Sigma_F \) comprising the \( 2|\mathcal{G}| \) elements \( \sigma \) with \( \sigma(k) \not\in \mathbb{R} \) in case (i) of this remark, and comprising the \(|\mathcal{G}| \) elements \( \sigma \) with \( \chi(1) + (-1)^r \chi(\tau_\sigma) = 2 \) in case (ii). (Equivalently, one has \( \sigma \not\in \Sigma^{r,\chi}_F \) if and only if both \( \sigma(k) \subset \mathbb{R} \) and \( \tau_\sigma \) acts as multiplication by \( (-1)^{r+1} \) in the representation underlying \( \chi \).) Note that \( \Sigma^{r,\chi}_F = \Sigma^{r,\chi}_E \) for \( \gamma \) in \( \Gamma \). We recall that the idempotent \( e_{\sigma, \chi} \) was defined in Remark 1.5 for any \( \sigma \) in \( \Sigma_F \).

**Lemma 2.4.** Assume \( L'_S(r, \chi) = 0 \) and \( L'_S(r, \check{\chi}) \neq 0 \).

(i) If either \( \sigma \) or \( \sigma' \) is not in \( \Sigma^{r,\chi}_F \), then \( c_{\sigma', \sigma}^{\gamma} = 0 \).

(ii) For \( \sigma \) in \( \Sigma_F \), one has \( e_{\sigma, \chi} = 0 \) if and only if \( \sigma \not\in \Sigma^{r,\chi}_F \).

(iii) If \( g \in \mathcal{G} \) and \( \sigma \) in \( \Sigma_F \), then \( c_{\sigma, \sigma}^{\gamma} e_{\sigma, \chi} g^{-1} e_{\sigma, \chi} = c_{g(\sigma), \sigma}^{\gamma} e_{\sigma, \chi} \).

**Proof.** For claim (i) we note that \( c_{\sigma', \sigma}^{\gamma} \neq 0 \) implies that both \( \sigma \) and \( \sigma' \) are in \( \Sigma^{r,\chi}_F \) or neither are. If \( \sigma \not\in \Sigma^{r,\chi}_F \) then \( \sigma(k) \subset \mathbb{R} \), and \( c_{\sigma', \sigma}^{\gamma} = 0 \) because of the definitions. For claim (ii) we note that \( e_{\sigma, \chi} = 0 \) from the definitions if \( \sigma \not\in \Sigma^{r,\chi}_F \), and that \( e_{\sigma, \chi} \neq 0 \) if \( \sigma \in \Sigma^{r,\chi}_F \): when \( \sigma(k) \not\subset \mathbb{R} \) this is obvious, and if \( \sigma(k) \subset \mathbb{R} \) then it follows by choosing an isomorphism \( \mathbb{Q}(\chi)|\mathcal{G}|e_{\chi} \approx M_1(\mathbb{R}(\chi)) \) such that \((1 + (-1)^r \tau_\sigma) \) corresponds to the diagonal matrix with entries \( 2, 0, \ldots, 0 \) on the diagonal. Claim (iii) for \( \sigma \) in \( \Sigma^{r,\chi}_F \) follows from similar considerations using that \( e_{\sigma, \chi}^\gamma \) is equal to either 1 or 2, and for other \( \sigma \) is obvious from (ii).

\[\square\]

**Remark 2.5.** Lemma 2.4(i) refines Proposition 2.4 as it implies that Conjecture 1.2 holds (with \( \epsilon_{\sigma}(\chi, S) = 0 \)) when \( L'_S(r, \chi) \neq 0 \) and \( \sigma \not\in \Sigma^{r,\chi}_F \). Considering also the first three parts of Remark 1.4 we see that verifying Conjecture 1.2 for a given \( \chi \) and any given embedding \( \sigma \) in \( \Sigma^{r,\chi}_F \) does so for all characters in the \( \Gamma \)-orbit \( \{\chi^\gamma : \gamma \in \Gamma\} \) and for all embeddings \( \sigma \) in \( \Sigma_F \).

In the next result let \( K_{1-2r}(F)_{1\text{f}} \) denote the image of \( K_{1-2r}(F) \) in \( \mathbb{Q} \otimes K_{1-2r}(F) \). Then \( \text{reg}_{1-r, \sigma'} \) factorizes through the map \( \mathcal{O} \otimes K_{1-2r}(F) \rightarrow \mathcal{O} \otimes K_{1-2r}(F)_{1\text{f}} \) and we use the same notation for the resulting map.

**Proposition 2.6.** Let \( \sigma \) be in \( \Sigma_F \). Then the following statements are equivalent.

(i) Conjecture 1.2 holds for \( \sigma \).
(ii) There exists $\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)$ in $\mathcal{O} \otimes K_{1-2r}(F)$ if $\subseteq E \otimes K_{1-2r}(F)$ that satisfies $e_{\sigma,\chi}\beta_\sigma(\chi,S) = \beta_\sigma(\chi,S)$ and, for all $\gamma$ in $\Gamma$, also
\[(2\pi i)^{\gamma}\text{reg}_{1-r,\sigma}(\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)\gamma) = w_\tau(\chi)c_{\sigma,\gamma}^{\chi}\cdot L_S^{\gamma}(r,\hat{\chi}).\]

Proof. That (i) implies (ii) can be seen from Proposition 2.1(iv)(b): we may simply set $\beta_\sigma(\chi,S) := \tau_\sigma(\chi,S)$. For the converse, we note that Conjecture 1.2 always holds if $L_S'(r,\hat{\chi}) = 0$, or if $L_S'(r,\hat{\chi}) \neq 0$ and $\sigma \notin \Sigma_F^\chi$, so we assume that both $L_S'(r,\hat{\chi}) \neq 0$ and $\sigma \in \Sigma_F^\chi$. Then $c_{\sigma,\gamma}$ is equal to either 1 or 2 and so it will suffice to show that
\[(2.7) \quad c_{\sigma,\gamma}^{\chi}\text{reg}_{1-r,\sigma}(\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)\gamma) = \gamma(e_{\sigma,\gamma}^{\chi})\text{reg}_{1-r,\sigma}(\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)\gamma)\]
for all $\sigma' \in \Sigma_F$ and all $\gamma$ in $\Gamma$, because then (1.3) holds for any lift $\gamma$ of $\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)$ to $\mathcal{O} \otimes K_{1-2r}(F)$.

If $\sigma' \notin \Sigma_F^\chi$, then $c_{\sigma',\gamma}^{\chi} = 0$ by Lemma 2.4(i). On the other hand, for $\gamma$ in $\Gamma$ we have $\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)\gamma = e_\chi\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)\gamma$, because $\beta_\sigma(\chi,S) = e_\chi\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)$, and
\[\text{reg}_{1-r,\sigma}(\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)\gamma) = \text{reg}_{1-r,\sigma}(\frac{1+(-1)^{r,\gamma}}{2}e_\chi\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)\gamma) = \text{reg}_{1-r,\sigma}(e_{\sigma,\chi}\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)^{\gamma})\]
which is trivial by Lemma 2.4(ii) because $\Sigma_F^\chi = \Sigma_F$ thus establishing (2.7) for such $\sigma'$.

If now $\sigma' \in \Sigma_F^\chi$, then we distinguish three cases: (a) $\sigma(k) \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ and $\sigma' = g(\sigma)$ for some $g$ in $G$; (b) $\sigma(k) \not\subseteq \mathbb{R}$ and $\sigma' = \tau \circ g(\sigma)$ for some $g$ in $G$; (c) $\sigma(k) \subset \mathbb{R}$ and $\sigma' = g(\sigma)$ for some $g$ in $G$. In case (a) $e_{\sigma,\chi}$ is equal to the central idempotent $e_\chi$, $c_{\sigma,\gamma} = \chi(1) = 1$, and for $\gamma$ in $\Gamma$ we have $g^{-1}\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)\gamma = e_\chi g^{-1}e_\chi\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)\gamma = (e_\chi\gamma)\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)^\gamma$ by Lemma 2.4(iii). Now (2.7) follows because $\text{reg}_{\gamma-\sigma,\gamma}(\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)^\gamma) = \text{reg}_{1-r,\sigma}(g^{-1}\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)\gamma)$. Case (b) is dealt with similarly using the equalities $\text{reg}_{1-r,\sigma}(\tau(\gamma)\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)^\gamma) = \text{reg}_{1-r,\sigma}(\gamma(-1)\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)^\gamma)$ and $c_{\sigma,\gamma} = (-1)\gamma e_{\sigma,\gamma}(\gamma)\gamma$. In case (c) one has $c_{\sigma,\gamma} = 2$ and the left hand side of (2.7) is equal to
\[2\text{reg}_{1-r,\sigma}(g^{-1}\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)^\gamma) = \text{reg}_{1-r,\sigma}(1-(e_\chi g^{-1})\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)^\gamma).\]
Using that $g^{-1}\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)^\gamma = g^{-1}e_{\sigma,\chi}g^{-1}\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)^\gamma = e_\chi g^{-1}e_{\sigma,\chi}g^{-1}\beta_\sigma(\chi,S)^\gamma$ for the central idempotent $e_\chi$ we see from Lemma 2.4(iii) that (2.7) again holds.

2.3. We conclude this section with some more results of independent interest, which will also be used in the sequel.

Lemma 2.8. If the irreducible character $\chi$ is realisable over $E$, then the multiplicity of the corresponding representation in $E \otimes K_{1-2r}(F)$ is equal to the order of vanishing of $L(s,\hat{\chi})$ at $s = r$.

Proof. For each integer $m$ we define a $(G \times G_{\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}})^m$-module $B_m := \bigoplus_{\Sigma_F}(2\pi i)^{-m} \mathbb{Z}$, where $G$ acts on $\Sigma_F$ in the way specified just before Conjecture 1.2 and $G_{\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}}$ acts diagonally (on both $\Sigma_F$ and $(2\pi i)^{-m} \mathbb{Z}$). Then, according to Borel’s theorem [5], the $G$-invariant pairing
\[(2.9) \quad \mathbb{Q} \otimes B_m^{G_{\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}}} \times \mathbb{Q} \otimes K_{1-2r}(F) \to \mathbb{R}\]
that is induced by mapping each element $((2\pi i)^{\gamma}(\sigma,\alpha) \to (2\pi i)^{\gamma}\text{reg}_{1-r,\sigma}(\pi(\alpha))$ is non-degenerate.

If we now extend coefficients to $E$, then the non-degeneracy of (2.9) implies that for any idempotent $\pi$ in $E[G]$ one has $\dim_E(\pi(E \otimes K_{1-2r}(F))) = \dim_E(\pi(E \otimes B_m))$, where $\hat{\pi}$ is the image of $\pi$ under the $E$-linear anti-involution of $E[G]$ that inverts
elements of $G$. Finally we note that if $\pi = e_\chi$, so $\hat{\pi} = e_{\hat{\chi}}$, then the description of the Gamma factors and functional equation of $L(s, \hat{\chi})$ (as in [20 Chap. VII, §12]) implies that $\chi(1)^{-1}\dim_E(\hat{\pi}(E \otimes B_r))$ is equal to the vanishing order of $L(s, \hat{\chi})$ at $s = r$.

\textbf{Remark 2.10.} There are several ways in which the observations made above are useful when making numerical investigations of Conjecture [12]

(i) If $L_S(r, \hat{\chi}) = 0 = L'_S(r, \hat{\chi})$, then by Proposition [2.1 iv(b), $\tau_{\sigma}(\chi, S)$ belongs to the $\mathcal{O}$-sublattice $e_{\sigma,\chi}(\mathcal{O} \otimes K_{1-2r}(F))$ of $E \otimes K_{1-2r}(F)$. If $\sigma$ is in $\Sigma_F^1$ then this $\mathcal{O}$-lattice has rank one by Lemma [2.8 and the proof of Lemma [2.4 ii], and this provides a very strong restriction on where one searches to find $\tau_{\sigma}(\chi, S)$. This also applies to $\beta_{\sigma}(\chi, S)$ in Proposition [2.6 and implies that $\beta_{\sigma}(\chi, S)$ is unique in this case.

(ii) If $r$ is even, then Proposition [2.1(ii) and (the second part of) (iv)(b) combine to imply that the element $e[K_{1-2r} (F_{\ker(\chi)})]_{\text{tor}} \epsilon_{\sigma}(\chi, S, d)$ belongs to the image of $K_{1-2r} (F_{\ker(\chi) \mathcal{D}_\sigma})$ in $K_{1-2r}(F)$, where $\epsilon \in \{1, 2\}$ is the exponent of the Tate cohomology group $\check{H}^0(\ker(\chi) \mathcal{D}_\sigma / \ker(\chi), K_{1-2r}(F_{\ker(\chi)}))$. This observation is useful because it can be computationally much easier to search for elements in $K_{1-2r}(F')$ for proper subfields $F'$ of $F$ rather than in $K_{1-2r}(F)$ itself.

(iii) The first observation made in the proof of Lemma [2.8 implies that if $F$ has signature $[r_1, r_2]$, then the rank of $K_{1-2r}(F)$ is equal to $r_1 + r_2$ if $r$ is even and to $r_2$ if $r$ is odd. This explicit (and well-known) formula will be useful in the sequel.

\textbf{Remark 2.11.} It is clear that any commutator in $G_{\mathbb{Q}^s/\mathbb{Q}}$ acts trivially on $\mu_a(F) = H^0(G_{\mathbb{Q}^s/F}, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}(a))$. Hence one has $\mu_a(F) = \mu_a(F \cap \mathbb{Q}^{ab})$, where $\mathbb{Q}^{ab}$ is the maximal Abelian extension of $\mathbb{Q}$. If $a$ is even, then one sees similarly that $\mathbb{Q}^{ab}$ may be replaced by its maximal totally real subfield.

3. Theoretical evidence

In this section we describe the connection between Conjecture [12] and the modified Lichtenbaum-Gross Conjecture of Chinburg et al. [14] and thereby deduce the validity of Conjecture [12] in some important special cases. We also show that the elements predicted by Conjecture [12] should encode information about the structure (as Galois modules) of certain even degree higher algebraic $K$-groups.

3.1. We first state the main result of this section (which will be proved in §3.3).

\textbf{Theorem 3.1.} We assume that $S$ contains $S_\infty$ and all places that ramify in $F/k$. We also assume that the modified Lichtenbaum-Gross Conjecture (see Conjecture [3.3 below) is valid for $\chi$.

(i) Then Conjecture [12] is valid.

(ii) Further, the element $\text{Tr}_1(\epsilon_{\sigma}(\chi, S)) := \sum_{\gamma \in G} \epsilon_{\sigma}(\chi, S)^\gamma$ belongs to $K_{1-2r}(F)$ and for all $\phi$ in $\text{Hom}_G(K_{1-2r}(F), \mathbb{Z}[G])$ one has

$$\frac{|G|^2}{\chi(1)} \phi(\text{Tr}_1(\epsilon_{\sigma}(\chi, S))) \in \text{Ann}_{\mathbb{Z}[G]} \bigoplus_{p \neq 2} H^2_{\text{et}}(\text{Spec}(\mathcal{O}_{F, S}, \mathbb{Z}/p), \mathbb{Z}/p(1-r)).$$

\textbf{Corollary 3.2.} Fix $k = \mathbb{Q}$ and assume that $\chi(1) = 1$.

(i) Then Conjecture [12] is valid for any set $S$ as in Theorem 3.1.

(ii) The assertion of Theorem 3.1(ii) is also valid for any such set $S$. 

Proof. In view of Theorem 3.1, Proposition 2.1(ii) and Remark 3.1(iii) below it is enough to recall that if $F$ is an Abelian extension of $\mathbb{Q}$, then the equivariant Tamagawa number conjecture of [11, Conj. 4(iv)] is valid for the pair $(h^0(\text{Spec}(F))(r), \mathbb{Z}[G])$. Indeed, this case of the equivariant Tamagawa number conjecture is proved by Flach and the first author in [12, Cor. 1.2] (with corrections to the 2-primary part of the argument of loc. cit. recently provided by Flach in [20]).

Remark 3.3. We write $O_{F,S}$ for the subring of $F$ comprising elements that are integral at all places that do not lie above a place in $S$. Then it is conjectured by Quillen and Lichtenbaum that for all odd primes $p$ the natural Chern class homomorphism $\mathbb{Z}_p \otimes K_{2r}(O_{F,S}) \to H^2_{et}(\text{Spec}(O_{F,S}(\frac{1}{p})), \mathbb{Z}_p(1-r))$ is bijective. In the case $r = -1$ this conjecture has been proved by Tate in [33]. (It is also known, by work of Suslin, that the Quillen-Lichtenbaum Conjecture is a consequence of a conjecture of Bloch and Kato relating Milnor $K$-theory to étale cohomology and it is widely believed that recent fundamental work of Voevodsky and Rost has led to a proof of this conjecture of Bloch and Kato.) Whenever the conjecture of Quillen and Lichtenbaum is valid the module $\bigoplus_{p \neq 2} H^2_{et}(\text{Spec}(O_{F,S}(\frac{1}{p})), \mathbb{Z}_p(1-r))$ can be replaced by $\mathbb{Z}[\frac{1}{2}] \otimes K_{-2r}(O_{F,S})$ in the statement of Theorem 3.1(ii). In the setting of Corollary 3.2 we thereby obtain a rather striking analogue of the result of Rubin in [30, Th. (2.2)] and the following Remark concerning the annihilation of ideal class groups in absolutely Abelian fields.

Remark 3.4. We recently learnt Nickel has shown that for each strictly negative integer $r$ the equivariant Tamagawa number conjecture for $(h^0(\text{Spec}(F))(r), \mathbb{Z}[G])$ implies (via the reinterpretation given in [8, Prop. 4.2.6]) that certain elements constructed from the leading term at $s = r$ of truncated Artin $L$-functions should belong to $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ and annihilate $\bigoplus_{p \neq 2} H^2_{et}(\text{Spec}(O_{F,S}(\frac{1}{p})), \mathbb{Z}_p(1-r))$ (cf. [27, Th. 4.1]). His prediction is however much less explicit than that given in Theorem 3.1(ii) above and it would be interesting to know if there is any direct link between them.

3.2. In this subsection we discuss some necessary algebraic preliminaries.

We fix $G$ and $\chi$ as in [1.2 and, following Proposition 2.1(iii), we set $E := \mathbb{Q}(\chi)$. We write $\sum_{j=1}^J f^j_\chi$ for a decomposition of $e_\chi$ as a sum of mutually orthogonal indecomposable idempotents in $E[G]$. We write $O$ for the ring of algebraic integers in $E$ and for each $j$ we choose a maximal $O$-order $\mathfrak{M}^j$ in $E[G]$ that contains $f^j_\chi$. For any character $\psi = \chi^\gamma$, with $\gamma \in \Gamma$, we set $e_\psi := \psi(1)|G|^{-1} \sum_{g \in G} \psi(g)g = (e_\chi)^\gamma$ and $f^j_\psi := (f^j_\chi)^\gamma$ and define an $O$-torsion-free right $O[G]$-module $T^j_\psi := f^j_\psi(\mathfrak{M}^j)^\gamma = (f^j_\chi(\mathfrak{M}^j))^\gamma$. The associated right $E[G]$-module $V^j_\psi := E \otimes O T^j_\psi$ has character $\psi$. For any (left) $G$-module $M$ we define a module $M^j[\psi] := T^j_\psi \otimes M$ upon which each $g$ in $G$ acts on the left by $t \otimes m \mapsto tg^{-1} \otimes g(m)$ for each $t$ in $T^j_\psi$ and $m$ in $M$. Then there is a natural isomorphism of (left) $O[G]$-modules

\begin{equation}
M^j[\psi] \cong \text{Hom}_O(T^j_\psi^*, O \otimes M)
\end{equation}

where $G$ acts in the usual (diagonal) manner on the Hom-set and the module $T^j_\psi^* := \text{Hom}_O(T^j_\psi, O)$ is endowed with the natural left $G$-action and hence spans a left $E[G]$-module of character $\psi$. 

For any subgroup $J$ of $G$ we write $M^J$, resp. $M_J$, for the maximal submodule, resp. quotient, of $M$ upon which $J$ acts trivially. In particular we obtain a left, resp. right, exact functor $M \mapsto M^{J,\psi}$, resp. $M \mapsto M_J^\psi$, from the category of left $G$-modules to the category of $\mathcal{O}$-modules by setting $M^{J,\psi} := M^J[\psi]^G$ and $M_J^\psi := M^J[\psi]_G \cong T^\psi \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}[G]} M$. By replacing $T^\psi$ by $\mathbb{Z}_p \otimes T^\psi$ we extend the notation $M^{J,\psi}$ and $M_J^\psi$ to $\mathbb{Z}_p[\mathcal{G}]$-modules $M$ in the obvious way. We will often use the fact that the action of $\sum_{\theta} \mathcal{V}$ on $\mathcal{V}$ induces a homomorphism of $\mathcal{O}$-modules $\iota(M,\psi) : M_J^\psi \to M^{J,\psi}$ that has finite kernel and finite cokernel.

The module $E[G] \otimes M$ has two commuting left actions of $G$: the first via left multiplication on $E[G]$ and the second such that each $g$ in $G$ sends $x \otimes m$ to $x g^{-1} \otimes g(m)$ for $x$ in $E[G]$ and $m$ in $M$. We write $(E[G] \otimes M)^{G,2}$ for the subset of $E[G] \otimes M$ comprising elements that are invariant under the second action of $G$ and use the first action of $G$ on $E[G] \otimes M$ to regard $(E[G] \otimes M)^{G,2}$ as an $E[G]$-module. If $M$ is finitely generated and torsion-free, then we always regard $M^{J,\psi}$ as an $\mathcal{O}$-submodule of $E[G] \otimes M$ by means of the identification described in the following result.

**Lemma 3.6.**

(i) The $E$-linear map $E[G] \otimes M \to E \otimes M$ that sends $g \otimes m$ to $g(m)$ for each $g$ in $G$ and $m$ in $M$ restricts to give an isomorphism of $E[G]$-modules $\iota : (E[G] \otimes M)^{G,2} \cong E \otimes M$.

(ii) Assume now that $M$ is finitely generated and torsion-free and for each character $\psi = \chi^\gamma$, with $\gamma \in \Gamma$, set $pr_\psi := \sum_{g \in G} \psi(g) g \in \mathcal{O}[G]$. Then one has $pr_\psi(\mathcal{O} \otimes M) \subseteq \psi(1)^{-1} \sum_{j=1}^n \iota(M^{J,\psi}) \subseteq \mathcal{O} \otimes M$.

**Proof.** Since $E[G] \otimes M$ is uniquely divisible it is cohomologically trivial with respect to any action of $G$. The submodule $(E[G] \otimes M)^{G,2}$ is thus equal to the $E$-linear span of elements of the form $(\sum_{g \in G} \psi(g) g \otimes m) = \sum_{g \in G} x g^{-1} \otimes g(m)$ with $x$ in $E[G]$ and $m$ in $M$. Using this fact it is straightforward to check that the map $\iota$ is an isomorphism of $E[G]$-modules, as required to prove claim (i).

We next set $n := \psi(1)$ and note that $pr_\psi = n^{-1} [G,e_\psi]$. Then the first inclusion in claim (ii) is true because for each $m$ in $M$ one has

$$n \cdot pr_\psi(1 \otimes m) = |G| e_\psi(1 \otimes m) = |G| \sum_{j=1}^n f_\psi^j(1 \otimes m)$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^n \iota(\sum_{g \in G} f_\psi^j(g^{-1} \otimes g(m))) \subseteq \sum_{j=1}^n \iota(M^{J,\psi}).$$

To prove the second claimed inclusion it suffices to show $\iota(M^{J,\psi}) \subseteq n(\mathcal{O} \otimes M)$ for each index $j$. To do this we set $N : = \mathcal{O} \otimes M$ and $N^* : = \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{O}[G]}(N, \mathcal{O}[G])$. Then, as $N$ is finitely generated and torsion-free, one has $N = \{ x \in E \otimes \mathcal{O} N : \theta(x) \in \mathcal{O}[G] \text{ for all } \theta \in N^* \}$. Thus it suffices to show that $\theta(M^{J,\psi}) \subseteq n\mathcal{O}[G]$ for all $\theta \in N^*$. But $\theta(M^{J,\psi}) \subseteq \mathbb{Z}[G]^{J,\psi}$ and, since $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ is cohomologically trivial and $\mathbb{Z}[G]^{J,\psi} = T^\psi$, one has $\mathbb{Z}[G]^{J,\psi} = \text{im}(\iota(\mathbb{Z}[G], \psi)) = [G,T^\psi] = [G[\psi]^{\mathcal{O}[G]}] \subseteq [G,e_\psi^{\mathcal{O}[G]}] \subseteq n\mathcal{O}[G]$, where the latter inclusion follows from Jacobiński’s description in [24] of the central conductor of $\mathcal{O}[G]$ (see also [15] Th. (27.13))).
For any $G$-module, resp. $O$-module, $M$ we write $M_{\text{tf}}$ for the image of $M$ in $\mathbb{Q} \otimes M$, resp. $E \otimes_{O} M$. We often identify $M_{\text{tf}}$ with the quotient $M/M_{\text{tor}}$ in the natural way. If $M$ is a $G$-module, then for each $m$ in $M$ we write $f_{\psi}^1(m)$ for the image of $f_{\psi}^1 \otimes \mathbb{Z}[G]$ $m \in M'_{\psi}$ in $M'_{\psi,\text{tf}}$.

3.3. In this subsection we recall the modified Lichtenbaum-Gross Conjecture of Chinburg, Kolster, Pappas and Snaith. Since we regard $F/k$ as fixed we set $C_r := K_{1-2r}(F)$ and also recall the $G \times G_{C/R}$-modules $B_m$ that are defined in the proof of Lemma 2.8. We note, in particular, that the non-degeneracy of the pairing $(2.9)$ combines with the natural isomorphism of $G \times G_{C/R}$-modules $\text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(B_{-r}, \mathbb{Z}) \cong B_r$ to imply that the map $\bigoplus_{\sigma \in \Sigma_F} \text{reg}_{1-r,\sigma}$ induces a canonical isomorphism of $\mathbb{R}[G]$-modules

$$\text{Reg}_r : \mathbb{R} \otimes C_r \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{R} \otimes B_r^{G_{C/R}}.$$

The bijectivity of $\text{Reg}_r$ then combines with Deuring’s Theorem (cf. [15 §6, Exer. 6]) to imply the existence of an (in general non-canonical) isomorphism of $\mathbb{Q}[G]$-modules $\phi : \mathbb{Q} \otimes B_r^{G_{C/R}} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{Q} \otimes C_r$. For any such $\phi$, any index $j$ and any character $\psi = \chi^\gamma$, with $\gamma \in \Gamma$, we set

$$R^j_{\psi}(\psi) := \det_{\mathbb{C}}((C \otimes R \text{Reg}_r) \circ (C \otimes \mathbb{Q} \phi) | (C \otimes E V^1_{\psi}) \otimes \mathbb{Z}[G]) B_r^{G_{C/R}} \in \mathbb{C}^\times.$$

(This element doesn’t depend on $j$ because each $E[G]$-module $V^1_{\psi}$ has the same character $\psi$.)

We now fix a finite set $S$ of places of $k$ that contains $S_{\infty}$ and all places that ramify in $F/k$. Then the ‘modified Lichtenbaum-Gross Conjecture’ predicts an explicit Euler characteristic formula for the $O$-module generated by $L^1_0(r, \psi)/R^j_{\psi}(\psi)$ where $L^1_0(r, \psi)$ is the leading non-zero coefficient in the Taylor expansion at $s = r$ of the function $L_{S}(s, \psi)$. Before stating this conjecture we must recall a useful auxiliary result. In this result we set $Z' := Z[1/2]$ and for each odd prime $\ell$ we write $\text{ch}_{1,1}^{1-1} : \mathbb{Z}_{\ell} \otimes K_{1-2r}(O_{F,S}) \rightarrow H_{\text{et}}^1(\text{Spec}(O_{F,S}[1/\ell]), \mathbb{Z}_{\ell}(1-r))$ for the Chern class homomorphism constructed by Soulé [31] and Dwyer and Friedlander [19]. We also set $\text{Tr}_{C/R} := 1 + \tau \in Z[G_{C/R}]$.

**Lemma 3.7.** There exist finitely generated $G$-modules $X_r$ and $Y_r$ which possess all of the following properties.

(i) $X_{r,\text{tf}} \subseteq C_{r,\text{tf}}$ and $Y_{r,\text{tf}} = \text{Tr}_{C/R}(B_{r}) \subseteq B_r^{G_{C/R}}$ and both $Z' \otimes X_{r,\text{tf}} = Z' \otimes C_{r,\text{tf}}$ and $Z' \otimes Y_{r,\text{tf}} = Z' \otimes B_r^{G_{C/R}}$.

(ii) For each prime $\ell$ there is an isomorphism of $\mathbb{Z}_{\ell}[G]$-modules of the form $\mathbb{Z}_{\ell} \otimes X_r \cong H_{\text{et}}^1(\text{Spec}(O_{F,S}[1/\ell]), \mathbb{Z}_{\ell}(1-r))$. If $\ell$ is odd the induced isomorphism $\mathbb{Z}_{\ell} \otimes X_{r,\text{tf}} = \mathbb{Z}_{\ell} \otimes K_{1-2r}(O_{F,S}) \rightarrow H_{\text{et}}^1(\text{Spec}(O_{F,S}[1/\ell]), \mathbb{Z}_{\ell}(1-r))$ coincides with that induced by $\text{ch}_{1,1}^{1-1}$.

(iii) $X_{r,\text{tor}} = \mu_{1-r}(F)$ and $Y_{r,\text{tor}} = \bigoplus_{\ell} H_{\text{et}}^2(\text{Spec}(O_{F,S}[1/\ell]), \mathbb{Z}_{\ell}(1-r))$ where $\ell$ runs over all primes.

(iv) If the Quillen-Lichtenbaum Conjecture is valid for $F$ and $r$, then one has $Z' \otimes X_r = Z' \otimes C_r$ and $Z' \otimes Y_{r,\text{tor}} \cong Z' \otimes K_{-2r}(O_{F,S})$.

**Proof.** All claims in Lemma 3.7 except for the equality $Y_{r,\text{tf}} = \text{Tr}_{C/R}(B_{r})$ follow directly from the constructions of [8 §11.1] (where $X_r$ and $Y_r$ correspond to the modules $N_{r,0}$ and $N_{r,1}$ respectively). Since for every odd prime $p$ one has $Z_p \otimes Y_{r,\text{tf}} = Z_p \otimes Z' (Z' \otimes Y_{r,\text{tf}}) = Z_p \otimes (Z' \otimes B_r^{G_{C/R}}) = Z_p \otimes B_r^{G_{C/R}} = Z_p \otimes \text{Tr}_{C/R}(B_{r})$
it therefore suffices to prove that $\mathbb{Z}_2 \otimes Y_{r,tf} = \mathbb{Z}_2 \otimes \text{Tr}_{C/k}(B_r)$. To show this we recall the construction of $Y_r$ uses an isomorphism of $\mathbb{Z}_2[G]$-modules $\mathbb{Z}_2 \otimes Y_r \cong H^1(C^\bullet_{2,r})$ with $C^\bullet_{2,r} := \text{RHom}_{\mathbb{Z}_2} R\Gamma_{r,\text{ét}}(\mathcal{O}_F, S[\frac{1}{2}], \mathbb{Z}_2(r), \mathbb{Z}_2[-2])$ where the subscript ‘c’ denotes cohomology with compact support, whilst from the long exact cohomology sequences associated to the commutative diagram of exact triangles given in [10, (114)] (with $p = 2$ and $r$ replaced by $1 - r$) one obtains an exact commutative diagram of $\mathbb{Z}_2[G]$-modules of the form

$$
0 \to H^1(C^\bullet_{2,r})_tf \to \bigoplus_{w|\infty} H^0_{\text{ét}}(F_w, \mathbb{Z}_2(-r)) \to H^3_{\text{ét}}(\mathcal{O}_F, S[\frac{1}{2}], \mathbb{Z}_2(1 - r)) \to 0
$$

$$
\theta \downarrow \quad \cong \quad \downarrow \quad \bigoplus_{w|\infty} H^3_{\text{ét}}(F_w, \mathbb{Z}_2(1 - r)) \cong \bigoplus_{w|\infty} H^3_{\text{ét}}(F_w, \mathbb{Z}_2(1 - r)) \quad \downarrow \quad 0.
$$

Here $w$ runs over all archimedean places of $F$ and each term $H^0_{\text{ét}}(F_w, \mathbb{Z}_2(-r))$ arises from the explicit description of the complex $R\Gamma_{2,r}(F_w, \mathbb{Z}_2(r))^*[r-3]$ that is given in [10, p. 1391]. Now $H^3_{\text{ét}}(F_w, \mathbb{Z}_2(1 - r))$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}_2/2\mathbb{Z}_2$ if $w$ is real and $r$ is even and vanishes in all other cases. Thus, since the homomorphism $\theta$ in the above diagram is known to respect the direct sum decompositions of its source and target (see the proof of [10 Lem. 18]), the diagram induces an isomorphism

$$
H^1(C^\bullet_{2,r})_tf \cong \bigoplus_{w'} 2H^0_{\text{ét}}(F_{w'}, \mathbb{Z}_2(-r)) \oplus \bigoplus_{w} H^0_{\text{ét}}(F_w, \mathbb{Z}_2(-r))
$$

where $w'$, resp. $w$, runs over all real, resp. complex, places of $F$. Finally we note that each choice of a topological generator of $\mathbb{Z}_2(-r)$ gives a natural isomorphism of the last displayed direct sum module with $\mathbb{Z}_2 \otimes \text{Tr}_{C/k}(B_r)$. $\square$

The isomorphism $\text{Reg}_r$ combines with the two equalities $Y_{r,tf} = \text{Tr}_{C/k}(B_r)$ and $\mathbb{Q} \otimes X_r = \mathbb{Q} \otimes C_r$ coming from Lemma [3.7(i)] to imply the existence of homomorphisms of $G$-modules

$$
\lambda : Y_r \to X_r
$$

that have both finite kernel and finite cokernel. In particular, for each such $\lambda$, the induced map $\mathbb{Q} \otimes \lambda : \mathbb{Q} \otimes B_r^{G_{C/k}} = \mathbb{Q} \otimes Y_r \to \mathbb{Q} \otimes X_r = \mathbb{Q} \otimes C_r$ is bijective and so for each character $\psi = \chi^\gamma$, with $\gamma \in \Gamma$, we may set $R_\psi^\chi := R_\psi^\chi \otimes \lambda(\psi)$. For each integer $j$ with $1 \leq j \leq \chi(1)$ we then consider the composite homomorphism of $\mathcal{O}$-modules

$$
\ell_{\lambda,\psi}^j : Y_{r,\psi} \xrightarrow{\lambda_j^j} X_{r,\psi} \xrightarrow{\ell^j(\chi_{r,\psi})} X_{r,\psi}.
$$

We write $\text{Fit}_\mathcal{O}(M)$ for the Fitting ideal of an ideally generated $\mathcal{O}$-module $M$ (so in particular $\text{Fit}_\mathcal{O}(M) \subseteq \mathcal{O}$) and if $f : M \to M'$ is a homomorphism of finitely generated $\mathcal{O}$-modules that has both finite kernel and finite cokernel we define a fractional $\mathcal{O}$-ideal by setting $q(f) := \text{Fit}_\mathcal{O}(\text{cok}(f))/\text{Fit}_\mathcal{O}(\text{ker}(f))^{-1}$.

**Conjecture 3.8.** *(The ‘modified Lichtenbaum-Gross Conjecture’)* Let $S$ be any finite set of places of $k$ that contains $S_\infty$ and all places that ramify in $F/k$. Then for every homomorphism $\lambda$ and index $j$ as above one has

$$
\frac{L^\chi_{2j}(r, \chi^\alpha)}{R^\chi_{2j}(\chi^\alpha)} = \frac{L^\chi_{2j}(r, \check{\chi})^\alpha}{R^\chi_{2j}(\check{\chi})^\alpha}
$$
for all $\alpha \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{C})$ and also

$$L_S^\gamma(r, \chi^\gamma) = \frac{\mathcal{O}}{R^\gamma(\chi^\gamma)} = q(t_{\alpha, \chi^\gamma})^{-1}$$

for all $\gamma \in \Gamma$.

**Remark 3.11.**

(i) After taking account of the isomorphism (3.3), the equality (3.9) coincides with the central conjecture of Gross in [22] (which is often referred to as the ‘Gross-Stark Conjecture’). The equality (3.10) was first explicitly formulated by Chinburg, Kolster, Pappas and Snaith in [13] Conj. 6.12 (where it is referred to as a ‘modified Lichtenbaum-Gross Conjecture’). The notation of loc. cit. is however different from that used here and the necessary translation is described in [8, §11.3].

(ii) The ‘equivariant Tamagawa number’ $T\Omega(h^0(\text{Spec}(F))(r), Z[G])$ that is defined (unconditionally) by Flach and the first author in [11] Conj. 4.(iii)] is an element of the relative algebraic $K$-group $K_0(\mathbb{Z}[G], R[G])$ and the relevant case of the equivariant Tamagawa number conjecture predicts that $T\Omega(h^0(\text{Spec}(F))(r), Z[G])$ vanishes. In [8, §11.1] it is shown that Conjecture 3.8 is valid if and only if $T\Omega(h^0(\text{Spec}(F))(r), Z[G])$ belongs to the kernel of a natural homomorphism $\rho^\chi : K_0(\mathbb{Z}[G], R[G]) \to K_0(\mathcal{O}, \mathbb{C})$. When combined with the good functorial properties of $T\Omega(h^0(\text{Spec}(F))(r), Z[G])$ under change of extension $F/k$ (that are proved in [11] Prop. 4.1b]), this observation implies that the validity of Conjecture 3.8 is unchanged if one replaces $F$ by any subfield $F'$ of $F$ that is Galois over $k$ and such that $\chi$ factors through the projection $G \to G_{F'/k}$.

3.4. We now reinterpret the conjectural equality (3.10). To do this we set $\psi := \chi^\gamma$ for some fixed $\gamma \in \Gamma$ and $n := \psi(1) \equiv \chi(1)$. We choose an integer $j$ with $1 \leq j \leq n$ and set $\rho_r := \dim_E(V_j^r \otimes \mathbb{Z}[G]) B_{G/C} = \dim_E(V_{\psi}^j \otimes \mathbb{Z}[G] Y_r) = \dim_E(E \otimes \mathbb{O} Y_{r,\psi}^j)$. Then $\rho_r$ is independent of both $j$ and $\gamma$ and the argument of Lemma 2.8 shows that the function $L_S(s, \psi)$ vanishes to order $\rho_r$ at $s = r$. Now (3.9) implies that the quotient $L_S^\gamma(r, \chi) / R^\gamma(\psi)$ belongs to $E$ and, after unwinding the definition of $R^\gamma(\psi)$, this implies that there is an equality of $E$-spaces

$$L_S^\gamma(r, \chi) \cdot \wedge_{E} (V_{\psi}^j \otimes \mathbb{Z}[G] Y_r) = \text{Reg}_E(\chi) (\wedge_{E} (V_{\psi}^j \otimes \mathbb{Z}[G] C_r)),$$

where $\text{Reg}_E(\chi) : \mathbb{C} \otimes E \wedge_{E}^\rho (V_{\psi}^j \otimes \mathbb{Z}[G] C_r) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{C} \otimes E \wedge_{E} (V_{\psi}^j \otimes \mathbb{Z}[G] Y_r)$ is the isomorphism of $E$-spaces induced in the obvious way by $\text{Reg}_r$. In the next result we show that (3.10) implies a natural integral refinement of this equality.

**Proposition 3.12.** Assume that (3.10) is valid for $\chi$. Set $K := F^{\ker(\chi)}$ and $\psi := \chi^\gamma$ with $\gamma \in \Gamma$.

(i) Then in $\mathbb{C} \otimes E \wedge_{E}^\rho (V_{\psi}^j \otimes \mathbb{Z}[G] Y_r) = \mathbb{C} \otimes E \wedge_{E}^\rho Y_{r,\psi}$ one has

$$|\text{G}^r| L_S^\gamma(r, \psi) \cdot \text{Fit}_S(\mu_{1-r}(K)^{j,\psi}) \wedge_{E}^\rho (Y_{r,\psi}) = \text{Fit}_S((Y_{r,\psi})_{\text{tor}}) \cdot \text{Reg}_E(\chi) (\wedge_{E}^\rho (X_{r,\psi})_{\text{tor}})).$$

(ii) For each integer $a$ with $1 \leq a \leq \rho_r$ fix $\sigma_a$ in $\Sigma_F$ and define $\tilde{\sigma}_a := \text{Tr}_{C/E}(2\pi i r^{-1}) \sigma_a \in \Sigma_{F}$. Also set $\Sigma' := \{ \sigma_a : 1 \leq a \leq \rho_r \} \subseteq \Sigma_F$. Then for every $d'$ in $\text{Fit}_S(\mu_{1-r}(K)^{j,\psi})$ there exists a unique element $u_{j,\psi}^{d'}$ of $\text{Fit}_S((Y_{r,\psi})_{\text{tor}}) \wedge_{E}^\rho (n^{-1}(C_{r,\psi})^{d'})$ for which one has

$$\text{Reg}_E(\chi) (u_{j,\psi}^{d'}) = d'(n^{-1} \text{G})^r L_S^\gamma(r, \chi) \wedge_{E}^\rho f_{j} = f_\chi(\tilde{\sigma}_a).$$
Proof. We set $\rho := \rho_r$. To derive the equality of claim (i) from the equality (3.10) in Conjecture 3.8 we note that

$$L_S^{(\rho_r)}(r, \tilde{\psi}) \cdot \Lambda^\rho_{O}(Y^j_{r,\psi})_{\text{tf}} = R^\lambda_{\psi}(\psi) q(t^1_{\lambda,\psi})^{-1} \Lambda^\rho_{O}(Y^j_{r,\psi})_{\text{tf}}$$

$$= q(t^1_{\lambda,\psi})^{-1} (\text{Reg}_{\psi}^r \circ \Lambda^\rho_{O}(\mathbb{C} \otimes \lambda_{\psi}))(\Lambda^\rho_{O}(Y^j_{r,\psi})_{\text{tf}})$$

$$= q(t^1_{\lambda,\psi}) \text{Fit}_{\psi}((Y^j_{r,\psi})_{\text{tor}}) \text{Reg}_{\psi}^r(\Lambda^\rho_{O}(X^j_{r,\psi})_{\text{tf}})$$

$$= q(t^1_{\lambda,\psi}) \text{Fit}_{\psi}((Y^j_{r,\psi})_{\text{tor}}) \text{Reg}_{\psi}^r(\Lambda^\rho_{O}(X^j_{r,\psi})_{\text{tf}})$$

$$= |G|^{-1} \text{Fit}_{\psi}((Y^j_{r,\psi})_{\text{tor}}) \text{Reg}_{\psi}^r(\Lambda^\rho_{O}(X^j_{r,\psi})_{\text{tf}}).$$

The first equality here follows immediately from (3.10), the second from the definition of $R^\lambda_{\psi}(\psi)$ and the fourth from the equality $q(t^1_{\lambda,\psi}) = q(t'(X_r, \psi))q(\lambda_{\psi})$ which is a consequence of the kernel-cokernel sequence of the composite $t^1_{\lambda,\psi} = t'(X_r, \psi) \circ \lambda_{\psi}$. In addition, the third and fifth displayed equalities follow by applying Lemma 3.13 below with $f$ equal to $\lambda_{\psi}^j : Y^j_{r,\psi} \to X^j_{r,\psi}$ and $t'(X_r, \psi) : X^j_{r,\psi} \to X^j_{r,\psi}$ respectively.

To deduce the equality of claim (i) from the above displayed formula it only remains to show that $(X^j_{r,\psi})_{\text{tor}} = \mu_1(K)^j_{\psi}$. But $(T^j_{\psi} \otimes X^j_{r,\text{tor}})^G = (T^j_{\psi} \otimes X^j_{r,\text{tor}})^G = (T^j_{\psi} \otimes X^j_{r,\text{tor}})^G = (X^j_{r,\text{tor}})^j_{\psi} \text{ where the second and third equalities follow from the fact that } T^j_{\psi} \text{ is torsion-free and, in the latter case, that } G_{F/K} = \text{ker}(\psi) \text{ acts trivially on } T^j_{\psi}$. The required equality is therefore true because Lemma 3.7(iii) implies $X^j_{r,\text{tor}} = \mu_1(K)^j_{\psi}$.

To prove claim (ii) we note that the element $\Lambda^\rho_{O}(Y^j_{r,\psi})_{\text{tf}}$ belongs to $\Lambda^\rho_{O}(Y^j_{r,\psi})_{\text{tf}}$. The existence of an element $u^j_{\Sigma,\psi}(d')$ of $\text{Fit}_{\psi}((Y^j_{r,\psi})_{\text{tor}}) \Lambda^\rho_{O}(n^{-1}(X^j_{r,\psi})_{\text{tf}})$ which satisfies the displayed equality in claim (ii) therefore follows directly from claim (i). It thus suffices to note that Lemma 3.7(i) implies $(X^j_{r,\psi})_{\text{tf}} \subseteq (C^j_{r,\psi})_{\text{tf}}$ and that the uniqueness of $u^j_{\Sigma,\psi}(d')$ follows from the injectivity of $\text{Reg}_{\psi}^r$.

\[\square\]

Lemma 3.13. If $f : M \to N$ is any homomorphism of finitely generated $O$-modules that has both finite kernel and finite cokernel, then there is an equality of $O$-lattices

$$\Lambda^d_{E}(E \otimes O f)(\Lambda^d_{O}M_{\text{tf}}) = q(f) \text{Fit}_{O}(M_{\text{tor}}) \Lambda^d_{O}N_{\text{tf}}$$

with $d := \dim_E(E \otimes O M)$.

Proof. We consider the following exact commutative diagram
Now the finite group $\mu$ last displayed formula implies that $T_n \rho R_n \epsilon (3.15)$ implies that $\text{ker}(f_{\text{tor}}) \longrightarrow \ker(f) \longrightarrow 0$

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
ker(f_{\text{tor}}) & \longrightarrow & \ker(f) & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
0 & \longrightarrow & M_{\text{tor}} & \longrightarrow & M & \longrightarrow & M_{\text{tf}} & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
f_{\text{tor}} & \downarrow & f & \downarrow & f_{\text{tf}} & \downarrow \\
0 & \longrightarrow & N_{\text{tor}} & \longrightarrow & N & \longrightarrow & N_{\text{tf}} & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
& & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
& & 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{cok}(f_{\text{tor}}) & \longrightarrow & \text{cok}(f) & \longrightarrow & \text{cok}(f_{\text{tf}}) & \longrightarrow & 0.
\end{array}
\]

Here $f_{\text{tor}}$ and $f_{\text{tf}}$ denote the homomorphisms that are induced by the given map $f$; the equality $\ker(f_{\text{tor}}) = \ker(f)$ and the injectivity of $f_{\text{tf}}$ both follow from the assumption that $\ker(f)$ is finite and the exactness of the bottom row then follows from the Snake lemma. Now $M_{\text{tf}}$, and hence also $N_{\text{tf}}$ since $\text{cok}(f_{\text{tf}})$ is finite, is a projective $O$-module of rank $d$ and so the definition of $\text{Fit}_O(\text{cok}(f_{\text{tf}}))$ implies that $\wedge^d_O(E \otimes_O f)(\wedge^d_O M_{\text{tf}}) = \text{Fit}_O(\text{cok}(f_{\text{tf}})) \cdot \wedge^d_O N_{\text{tf}}$. On the other hand, the exactness of the bottom row and left hand column of the above diagram combines with the multiplicativity of Fitting ideals on exact sequences of finite $O$-modules and the definition of $q(f)$ to imply that $\text{Fit}_O(\text{cok}(f_{\text{tf}})) = \text{Fit}_O(\text{cok}(f)) \cdot \text{Fit}_O(\text{cok}(f_{\text{tor}}))^{-1} = q(f) \text{Fit}_O(\ker(f)) \text{Fit}_O(\text{cok}(f_{\text{tor}}))^{-1} = q(f) \text{Fit}_O(M_{\text{tor}}) \text{Fit}_O(N_{\text{tor}})^{-1}$. The claimed equality is thus clear.

3.5. We now prove Theorem 3.1. To do this we set $n := \chi(1)$, $\psi := \chi' \gamma$ with $\gamma \in \Gamma$ and $\text{pr}_\psi := n^{-1}|G| \epsilon_\psi = \sum_{g \in G} \psi(g) g \in O[G]$ and note that $\sum_{j=1}^n f^{j, \psi}_{\text{tor}}$ is a decomposition of $\epsilon_\psi$ as a sum of indecomposable idempotents in $E[G]$. We set $K := F^{\ker(\chi)} = F^{\ker(\psi)}$ and $d' := w_{1-r}(K)^n$. For the given embedding $\sigma$ we also set $\tilde{\sigma} := \text{Tr}_{C \otimes \mathbb{Q}}((2\pi i)^{-r} \sigma)$ (so $\tilde{\sigma} \in Y_{r,\text{tf}}$ by Lemma 3.7(i)) and then for each index $j$ as above we define

$$
(3.14) \quad \epsilon_\sigma(\psi, j) := \frac{d'|G|}{n} L^j_S(r, \tilde{\psi}) \lambda^j(\epsilon^{j, \psi}(\tilde{\sigma})) \in C \otimes_O C^{j, \psi}.
$$

We may assume that $\rho_r = 1$ since if $\rho_r > 1$, then $L^j_S(r, \tilde{\psi}) = 0$ for all $\delta \in \Gamma$ and so Conjecture 1.2 is obviously valid. Then, since $\rho_r = 1$ one has $L^j_S(r, \tilde{\psi}) = L^j_S(r, \psi)$ and so, as $f^{j, \psi}_{\text{tor}}(\tilde{\sigma})$ is a non-zero element of the dimension one $E$-space $E \otimes_O Y_{r,\psi}$, the definition of $R^j_S(\psi)$ implies that

$$
\text{Reg}_{E(\psi)}(\epsilon_\sigma(\psi, j)) = d' n^{-1}|G| L^j_S(r, \tilde{\psi}) \cdot f^{j, \psi}_{\text{tor}}(\tilde{\sigma}).
$$

Now the finite group $\mu_{1-r}(K)$ is cyclic and so the (finite) $O$-module $\mu_{1-r}(K)^{j, \psi} \subseteq T^j_S \otimes \mu_{1-r}(K)$ is both annihilated by $w_{1-r}(K)$ and generated by (at most) $\text{rk}_O(T^j_S) = n$ elements. It follows in particular that $d'$ belongs to $\text{Fit}_O(\mu_{1-r}(K)^{j, \psi})$ and so the last displayed formula implies that $\epsilon_\sigma(\psi, j)$ is equal to the element $w^j_{\mu_{1-r}(K)}(d')$ of $n^{-1}\text{Fit}_O(Y^j_{r,\psi}) \otimes C_{r,\text{tf}} \subseteq O \otimes C_{r,\text{tf}}$ that occurs in Proposition 3.12(ii). Lemma 3.6(ii) thus implies that

$$
(3.15) \quad \epsilon_\sigma(\psi, j) \in \text{Fit}_O((Y^j_{r,\psi})_{\text{tor}}) \otimes C_{r,\text{tf}} \subseteq O \otimes C_{r,\text{tf}}.
$$
The element $\tau_\sigma(\psi, S) := \sum_{j=1}^{j=n} \epsilon_\sigma(\psi, j)$ therefore belongs to $O \otimes C_{r, \text{tr}}$ and satisfies the equality

$$(2\pi i)^r \text{Reg}_{\sigma}(\tau_\sigma(\psi, S)) = (2\pi i)^r \sum_{j=1}^{j=nl} d^j n^{-1}|G| L'_S(r, \psi) \cdot f^j_\beta(\hat{\sigma})$$

(3.16)

$$= (2\pi i)^r d' L'_S(r, \psi) \cdot \text{pr}_\psi(\hat{\sigma})
= d' \sum_{g \in G} L'_S(r, \psi) \tilde{\psi}(g) g(\sigma) + d' \sum_{g \in G} L'_S(r, \psi)(-1)^r \tilde{\psi}(g) g(\tau \circ \sigma).$$

Now the assumed validity of (3.10) combines with (3.1) to imply that for all $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{C})$ and all $j$ one has

$$\epsilon_\sigma(\chi^\alpha, j) := \frac{d|G| L'_S(r, \chi^\alpha)}{n} R^2_\alpha(\chi) \lambda^j_\alpha(f^j_\beta(\hat{\sigma})) = \left( \frac{d|G| L'_S(r, \chi^\alpha)}{n} R^2_\alpha(\chi) \lambda^j_\alpha(f^j_\beta(\hat{\sigma})) \right)^\alpha = \epsilon_\sigma(\chi, j)^\alpha$$

(3.17)

(where in the last two terms we use the natural semi-linear action of $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{C})$ on the space $\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}^{\psi^\sigma} \subset f^j_\beta(\tau, \chi) \otimes C\tau$ and hence also $\tau_\sigma(\psi, S) = \tau_\sigma(\chi, S)^\gamma$. Given this equality, it is now straightforward to check, by unwinding the definition of $\text{Reg}_{\sigma}$, that (3.10) implies that for all $\sigma' \in \Sigma_{\psi}$ the image of $\tau_\sigma(\chi, S)^\gamma$ under $(2\pi i)^r \text{Reg}_{\sigma}^{-1}$ is equal to the right hand side of (1.3). To verify Conjecture 1.2 and hence complete the proof of Theorem 3.1, it thus suffices to define $\epsilon_\sigma(\chi, S)$ to be any pre-image of $\tau_\sigma(\chi, S)$ under the natural map $O \otimes C_r \rightarrow O \otimes C_{r, \text{tr}}$.

The containment $\text{Tr}_1(\epsilon_\sigma(\chi, S)) \in K_{1-2r}(F)$ in Theorem 3.1(ii) follows directly from claim (i) and the result of Proposition 2.2(i) with $d = 1$. To prove the rest of claim (ii) we set $\chi(\chi) := \tau_\sigma(\chi, S)$. We also note that for each prime ideal $p$ of $O$ the isomorphism class of the $O_p$-module $O_p \otimes Y_{r, \chi^\gamma}$ is independent of the choice of index $j$ and hence that $\text{Fit}_{O_p}(\text{Y}_{r, \chi^\gamma}|_{\text{tor}}) = \text{Fit}_{O_p}((\text{Y}_{r, \chi^\gamma})|_{\text{tor}})$ for all $j$. From the containment (3.15) and the comment above we therefore know that both $\chi(\chi)^\gamma$ belongs to $\text{Fit}_{O_p}((\text{Y}_{r, \chi^\gamma})|_{\text{tor}}) \cap C_{r, \text{tr}}$ and that $\chi(\chi)^\gamma = \chi(\chi)^\gamma e_{\chi^\gamma}$ and so for every $\phi$ in $\text{Hom}_{\text{G}}(C_r, \mathbb{Z}[G]) \subseteq \text{Hom}_{\text{G}}(E \otimes C_{r, \text{tr}}, E[G])$ the element $\phi(\chi(\chi)^\gamma)$ belongs to $\text{Fit}_{O_p}((\text{Y}_{r, \chi^\gamma})|_{\text{tor}}) \cdot \mathbb{O}[G] e_{\chi^\gamma}$. Now Lemma 3.1(i) implies that $Z' \otimes Y_{r, \text{tr}} = Z' \otimes B_{\text{C/F}}/Z'$ is a projective $\mathbb{Z}[G]$-module so that $Z' \otimes (Y_{r, \chi^\gamma})|_{\text{tor}}$ identifies with $Z' \otimes (Y_{r, \text{tor}})|_{\chi^\gamma}^\gamma$ and hence that $\phi(\chi(\chi)^\gamma) \in Z' \otimes \text{Fit}_{O_p}((\text{Y}_{r, \text{tor}})|_{\chi^\gamma}).$ By applying [9] Lem. 11.1.2(i)] we can therefore deduce that the element $\chi^{-1}(1)^{G\phi} \phi(\chi(\chi)^\gamma)$ belongs to $Z' \otimes \text{Ann}_{\mathbb{Z}[G]}(Y_{r, \text{tor}})$. The displayed containment in Theorem 3.1(ii) thus follows directly from the equality $\phi(\text{Tr}_1(\epsilon_\sigma(\chi, S))) = \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \phi(\chi(\chi)^\gamma)$ and the description of $Y_{r, \text{tor}}$ given in Lemma 3.1(iii). This completes our proof of Theorem 3.1.

4. ON $K_3$ AND THE REGULATOR

In preparation for describing some numerical evidence for Conjecture 1.2 we now make precise the relation between a version of the (second) Bloch group and $K_3$ of a field, and, if the field is a number field, the Beilinson regulator map. This result may itself be of some independent interest and so, in order to keep open the
possibility of extending it to higher Bloch groups, we have used the approach of [10] rather than the potentially more precise result of [32] Th. 5.2.

Let $F$ be a field, and let $K_3(F)^{\text{ind}}$ be the quotient of $K_3(F)$ by the image of the Milnor $K$-group $K_3^M(F)$. We recall that if $F$ is a number field of signature $[r_1, r_2]$ then $K_3^M(F) \cong \langle \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \rangle^{r_1}$ by [11] Th. 2.1(3) so $K_3(F)^{\text{ind}} = K_3(F)_{\text{tf}}$ naturally, and this is a free Abelian group of rank $r_2$ by Remark [2.10 iii]. Finally, we set

$$\wedge^2 F^\times := F^\times \otimes F^\times/((-x) \otimes x : x \in F^\times),$$

(this does not coincide with the usual exterior power $\wedge^2 F^\times$ because of the negative sign in the denominator) and then write $\delta_{2,F}$ for the homomorphism from the free Abelian group $\mathbb{Z}[F^\times]$ on $F^\times$ to $\wedge^2 F^\times$ that is given by mapping a generator $\{x\}$ with $x$ in $F^\times$ to $(1 - x) \wedge x$ if $x \neq 1$ and to $0$ if $x = 1$.

In the next proposition we refine various results in [10] §2-55. Here we write $D(z)$ for the Bloch-Wigner dilogarithm $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\} \to \mathbb{R}(1)$ that is defined in [3] by integrating the function $\log |w| \text{diag}(1 - w) - \log |1 - w| \text{diag}(w)$ along any path from a point $z_0 \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0, 1\}$ to $z$ (for $z = 1$ one uses a limit).

**Theorem 4.1.**  

(i) With notation as above, there is a homomorphism

$$\varphi_F : \ker(\delta_{2,F}) \to K_3(F)^{\text{ind}}_{\text{tf}},$$

which is natural up to sign.

(ii) If $F$ is a number field, then $\varphi_F$ has finite cokernel.

(iii) Moreover, there is a universal choice of sign, such that if $F$ is any number field, and $\sigma$ any embedding $F \to \mathbb{C}$, then the composition

$$\ker(\delta_{2,F}) \xrightarrow{\varphi_F} K_3(F)^{\text{ind}}_{\text{tf}} \xrightarrow{\sigma} K_3(\mathbb{C})_{\text{tf}} \xrightarrow{\text{reg}_2} \mathbb{R}(1)$$

is induced by mapping $\{x\}$ to $D(\sigma(x))$.

**Proof.** At the outset we note that our set-up is essentially that of [3] with the various modifications and improvements contained in [4] and [10] (but which are sometimes carried out only after tensoring with $\mathbb{Q}$). In particular, the reader may observe that the construction of the element $[x]_2'$ and the map to $K_3(F)^{\text{ind}}_{\text{tf}}$ described below become those in [10] §3] after tensoring with $\mathbb{Q}$ and decomposing according to the Adams eigenspaces.

For any Noetherian regular ring $R$ we let $X_R = \mathbb{P}_R^1 \setminus \{t = 1\}$, where $t$ is the standard affine coordinate on $\mathbb{P}_R^1$. Then there is a long exact sequence of relative $K$-groups (terminating with $K_0(\square)$),

$$\cdots \to K_n(X_R; \square) \to K_n(X_R) \to K_n(\square) \to K_{n-1}(X_R; \square) \to \cdots$$

where $\square$ consists of the subset of $X_R$ where $t = 0, \infty$, i.e., two copies of $\text{Spec}(R)$. Since the pullback $K_n(R) \to K_n(X_R)$ along the natural map is an isomorphism (by Quillen [28] p.122) and therefore the composition $K_n(R) \to K_n(X_R) \to K_n(\square) \cong K_n(R) \oplus K_n(R)$ is the diagonal map, we find an isomorphism

$$(4.2) K_n(X_R; \square) \cong K_{n+1}(R)$$

for $n \geq 0$, with a map that is natural up to a universal sign.

We can combine localization with relativity under suitable assumptions (see [10] §2.2). In particular, if we take $R = \mathbb{Z}[S, S^{-1}]$, then we have the exact sequence
(terminating with a map $K_0(X_R;□) \to 0$)

$$\cdots \to K_2(X_R;□) \to K_2(X_R \setminus \{t = S\};□) \to K_1(R') \to K_1(X_R;□) \to \cdots$$

with $R' = \mathbb{Z}[S, S^{-1}, (1 - S)^{-1}]$. Then $K_1(R') \cong \langle -1, S, 1 - S \rangle$, and using \cite{16} Lem. 3.14 one sees that the map $K_1(R') \to K_1(X_R;□) \cong K_2(R)$ maps $(1 - S)$ to $\pm\{1 - S, S\} = 0$, so there exists an element $[S]_2^\mathbb{Z}$ in $K_2(X_R \setminus \{t = S\};□)$ with image $(1 - S)^{-1}$ in $K_1(\mathbb{Z}[S, S^{-1}, (1 - S)^{-1}])$. Because $K_2(X_R;□) \cong K_3(R) \cong K_3(\mathbb{Z}) \oplus K_2(\mathbb{Z})$ is torsion of exponent 48 (by Lee and Szczarba \cite{24} the element $[S]_2^\mathbb{Z}$ is unique up to such torsion. We fix a choice of $[S]_2^\mathbb{Z}$ in what follows.

For the field $F$, write $F^b = F \setminus \{0, 1\}$ as well as $X_{F,\text{loc}} = X_F \setminus \{t = u \text{ with } u \in F^b\}$. By comparing the exact localization sequence

$$0 \to (1 + I)^X \to \bigoplus_{u \in F^b} \mathbb{Z} \to K_0(X_F;□) \to \cdots$$

with the same one without relativity one sees as on \cite{16} p.222 that

$$(1 + I)^X := K_1(X_{F,\text{loc}};□) = \left\{ f(t) = \prod_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{t-a_i}{t-1} \right)^{n_i} \text{ with } f(0) = f(\infty) = 1 \right\}$$

where $n \geq 0$, all $a_i$ are in $\mathbb{Z}$, and all $a_i$ are in $F^b$. Tensoring the short exact sequence

$$0 \to (1 + I)^X \to \bigoplus_{u \in F^b} \mathbb{Z} \to F^X \to 0,$$

which is part of \cite{13}, with $F^X$ over $\mathbb{Z}$, we obtain the top row of the diagram

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
0 & \to & \text{Tor}_1^{\mathbb{Z}}(F^X, F^X) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
0 & \to & \frac{K_2(X_F;□)}{\text{im}(\bigoplus_{u \in F^b} K_2(F))} \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
0 & \to & \bigoplus_{u \in F^b} F^X \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
0 & \to & K_2(X_{F,\text{loc}};□) \quad d^* \rightarrow \quad \bigoplus_{u \in F^b} F^X \quad \rightarrow \quad K_1(X_F;□) \quad \rightarrow \quad 0.
\end{array}
$$

The bottom row is also obtained from \cite{13}, using \cite{16} Lem. 3.14 and the fact that $K_2(F)$ is generated by symbols $\{a, b\} = a \cup b$. The second and last vertical maps are induced by the cup product, thus giving rise to the first vertical map which makes the diagram commutes.

Using \cite{16} Lem. 3.14 yet again one sees that the image of $\bigoplus_{u \in F^b} K_2(F) \to K_2(X_F;□)$ under the isomorphism $K_2(X_F;□) \cong K_3(F)$ in \cite{13} equals the image of $K_3^M(F)$ under the natural map to $K_3(F)$. So with $K_3(F)^{\text{ind}} = K_3(F)/\text{im}(K_3^M(F))$ and $A$ the image of $\text{Tor}_1^{\mathbb{Z}}(F^X, F^X)$ we obtain an exact sequence

$$0 \to K_3(F)^{\text{ind}} \to A \to \frac{K_2(X_{F,\text{loc}};□)}{\text{im}((1 + I)^X \otimes F^X)} \; d \rightarrow F^X \otimes F^X \rightarrow K_2(F) \to 0,$$

which gives an isomorphism $\ker(d) \cong K_3(F)^{\text{ind}}/A$.

For $x$ in $F^X$, let $[x]_2^\mathbb{Z}$ be the image of $x^*([S]_2^\mathbb{Z}) \in K_2(X_F \setminus \{t = x\};□)$ under the localization $K_2(X_F \setminus \{t = x\};□) \rightarrow K_2(X_{F,\text{loc}};□)$. Note that the boundary of $[x]_2^\mathbb{Z}$ under $d^*$ is $(1 - x)^{-1}$ if $x \neq 1$ and is trivial if $x = 1$. Write $[x]_2^\mathbb{Z}$ for the image of $[x]_2^\mathbb{Z}$ in $K_2(X_{F,\text{loc}};□)/\text{im}((1 + I)^X \otimes F^X)$, let $B_2(F)$ be the subgroup of $K_2(X_{F,\text{loc}};□)/\text{im}((1 + I)^X \otimes F^X)$ generated by the $[x]_2^\mathbb{Z}$ with $x$ in $F^X$; and let $d_2$ be the restriction of $d$ to $B_2(F)$. We then have an inclusion

$$\ker(d_2) \rightarrow K_3(F)^{\text{ind}}/A.$$
Now let \( \mathcal{N} \) be the subgroup of \( B_2(F) \) generated by the classes of \([x]_2 + [1/x]_2\) with \( x \) in \( F^\times \). Then we have a commutative diagram

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathcal{N} & \xrightarrow{d_2/\mathcal{N}} & d(\mathcal{N}) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
B_2(F) & \xrightarrow{d_2} & F^\times \otimes F^\times.
\end{array}
\]

Next we note that \( d_2(\mathcal{N}) = ((-x) \otimes x : x \in F^\times) \subseteq F^\times \otimes F^\times \) so \( F^\times \otimes F^\times / d_2(\mathcal{N}) = \hat{\lambda}^2 F^\times \), and hence by taking quotients we get a short exact sequence

\[
0 \to \ker(d_2/\mathcal{N}) \to \ker(d_2) \to \ker(d_2') \to 0
\]

where, setting \( B'_2(F) := B_2(F)/\mathcal{N} \), we write

\[
d'_2 : B'_2(F) \to \hat{\lambda}^2 F^\times
\]

for the induced map. Writing \([x]_2'\) for the image of \([x]_2\) in \( B'_2(F) \) we have that \( d_2' \)
maps \([x]_2'\) to \((1-x)^{-1}\hat{\lambda}x\) if \( x \neq 1 \) and to 0 if \( x = 1 \).

We know from [16, Lem. 3.7] that \( \ker(d_2/\mathcal{N}) \) is torsion, so combining (4.5) with the map (4.3) and using that \( A \) is torsion, we obtain a map

\[
\ker(d'_2) \to K_3(F)_{\text{ind}}
\]

with torsion kernel. We note that this map is independent of the choice of \([S]_2\)\(^\sim\), which was unique up to torsion. The map \( \varphi_F \) in Theorem 4.1(i) is now induced by mapping \( \{x\} \) in \( \ker(d_{2,F}) \subseteq \mathbb{Z}[F^\times] \) to \([x]_2'\) in \( \ker(d'_2) \subseteq B'_2(F) \).

If \( F \subseteq \mathbb{C} \) then [16] Prop. 4.1 describes the composition of the maps in \( \ker(d'_2) \to K_3(F)_{\text{ind}} \to K_3(\mathbb{C})_{\text{ind}} \) with those in (1.1) for \( r = -1 \), namely

\[
K_3(\mathbb{C})_{\text{ind}} \to H^3_{\text{BP}}(\text{Spec}(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{R}(2)) \cong \mathbb{R}(1)
\]

That proposition states that the total map is induced by a map \( B'_2(F) \to \mathbb{R}(1) \) mapping \([z]_2'\) to \( \pm D(z) \), with the (universal) sign depending on the choice of the sign in the isomorphism (4.2). (Note that in loc. cit. this was expressed using the function \( P_2(z) = D(z)/i \).) Claim (iii) of the proposition then follows because the construction of \( B'_2(F) \) and the map \( \varphi_F \) is natural, so that

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\ker(\delta_{2,F}) & \xrightarrow{\delta_{2,F}} & B'_2(F) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
\ker(\delta_{2,C}) & \xrightarrow{\delta_{2,C}} & B'_2(\mathbb{C})
\end{array}
\]

commutes, where the vertical maps are induced by the embedding \( \sigma : F \to \mathbb{C} \).

Finally, claim (ii) of the proposition follows from the facts that, as \( F \) is a number field, after tensoring with \( \mathbb{Q} \), \( \varphi_F \) induces an isomorphism (by [16, Th. 5.3]) and \( K_3(F)_{\text{tf}} \) is finitely generated (by Quillen [29]).

5. NUMERICAL EVIDENCE

In this section we provide corroborating numerical evidence for Conjecture 1.2 in the case that \( r = -1 \), \( k = \mathbb{Q} \) and \( S = S_\infty \) (so that Theorem 3.1 does not apply). For other interesting numerical work that is related to Conjecture 1.2 but uses elements in the \( K \)-group tensored with the rationals see the articles of Besser, Buckingham, Roblot and the second author [2, §7] and of Zagier and the third author [36, §5].
In the sequel we will use the symbol \( \doteq \) to indicate a numerical identity that we have checked to hold to many (and in all cases at least one hundred) decimal places.

We shall give examples of \( F/Q \) with an embedding \( \sigma : F \to \mathbb{C} \), and an irreducible complex character \( \chi \) of \( G_{F/Q} \) with \( \chi(1) - \chi(\sigma) = 2 \), so that \( L(s, \chi) \) vanishes to order one at \( s = -1 \) by Remark [13] \( e_\chi^2 = 2 \) and \( \Sigma_{F}^{-1} \cdot \chi = \Sigma_{F} \).

Let \( Q(\chi) \subset \mathbb{C} \) be the character field of \( \chi \) with ring of integers \( \mathcal{O} \). In each case, we found elements \( \xi \in \ker(\delta_{2,F}) \) and used the resulting \( \varphi_F(\xi) \) in \( K_3(F)_{\text{tr}} \) to construct an element \( \beta \) of \( \mathcal{O} \otimes K_3(F)_{\text{tr}} \) that satisfies \( e_\sigma \cdot \chi \cdot \beta = \beta \), as well as, for all \( \gamma \) in \( G_{Q(\chi)/Q} \),

\[
(2\pi)^{-1} \text{reg}_{2,\sigma}(\beta^\gamma) = \gamma(e) L'(\gamma)
\]

for some \( e \) in \( F^\times \). Using Remark [21] it is easy to check that \( w_2(F_{\ker(\chi)}) = 24 \) in all of our examples. In each case we can write \( e f = e_\sigma^\gamma w_{-1}(\chi) = 2 \cdot 24 \chi(\gamma) \) for some \( f \) in \( \mathcal{O} \), so that \( \beta_\sigma(\chi, S_\infty) = f \beta \) satisfies the requirements of Proposition [2, (ii)], thus verifying Conjecture [2] for \( \chi \) and \( \sigma \). In fact, in view of Lemma [2, 3] this verifies Conjecture [2] for all characters in \( \{ \chi^\gamma : \gamma \in \Gamma \} \) and for all \( \sigma \) in \( \Sigma_F \).

We used Theorem [1, (iii)] and GP-PARI [35] in order to compute \( \text{reg}_{2,\sigma}(\beta^\gamma) \), and the latest version of MAGMA [6] for the computation of \( L'(\gamma) \) (but for our original experiments some of these values were provided by A. Booker and X.-F. Roblot).

The elements in \( \ker(\delta_{2,F}) \) were found, using GP-PARI, roughly as follows. Let \( T \) be a finite set of places of \( Q \) including the archimedean place. Then, in a first step, we produce exceptional \( T \)-units \( x \in \mathcal{O}_{T} \) (recall that \( x \) is said to be ‘exceptional’ if also \( 1 - x \in \mathcal{O}_{T} \)), and we decompose both \( x \) and \( 1 - x \) with respect to a chosen set \( B \) of fundamental \( T \)-units (as provided by GP-PARI). The second step is then to look for linear relations among the elements \( (1 - x) \land x \) of \( \mathcal{R}(B) \), the latter constituting a finite rank submodule of \( \mathcal{R} F^\times \). (For more details on the underlying algorithm and implementation, we refer to work in preparation [21] and to the third author’s personal web page.) A theorem of Bloch and Suslin, combined with the explicit formula for the rank of \( K \)-groups given in Remark [2, (iii)], guarantees that, for sufficiently large \( T \), there are \( \mathbb{Z} \)-linear combinations \( \xi \) of elements \( \{ x \} \) as above with \( \xi \in \ker(\delta_{2,F}) \) such that the \( \varphi_F(\xi) \) generate a subgroup of finite index in \( K_3(F)_{\text{tr}} \) (cf. Theorem [11]).

For each natural number \( m \) we now set \( \zeta_m := \exp(2\pi i/m) \) and \( \eta_m := \zeta_m + \zeta_m^{-1} \).

5.1. Dihedral representations. Let \( F \) be a Galois extension of \( Q \) with \( G_{F/Q} \) isomorphic to the dihedral group \( D_n \) for an odd integer \( n \). If \( F \) is not totally real, then the element \( \tau_\sigma \) in Conjecture [1, 2] has order 2 and so for any irreducible 2-dimensional character \( \chi \) of \( G \) one has \( \chi(1) - \chi(\tau_\sigma) = 2 \).

5.1.1. Let \( F = Q(a) \) denote the totally complex field of discriminant \(-47^5 \) that is the splitting field over \( Q \) of the irreducible polynomial \( x^{10} - 5x^9 + 12x^8 - 18x^7 + 20x^6 - 18x^5 + 10x^4 - 2x^3 + 2x^2 + x + 1 \) in \( Q[x] \), of which \( a \) is a root. This field is such that \( G = G_{F/Q} \cong D_5 \) is generated by an element \( s \) of order 5 with \( s(a) = \frac{1}{2}(3a^3 - 12a^2 + 25a^7 - 34a^6 + 38a^5 - 33a^4 + 16a^3 - 7a^2 + 2a + 3) \) and an element \( t \) of order 2 with \( t(a) = -a \). The irreducible 2-dimensional characters of \( G_{F/Q} \) take values in \( Q(\eta_5) = Q(\sqrt{5}) \), and form an orbit \( \{ \chi_1, \chi_2 \} \) under the action of
\[ \Gamma := G_{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{\tau})/\mathbb{Q}}, \] where \( \chi_j(s) = \zeta_j^s + \zeta_j^{-s} \) for \( j \in \{1, 2\} \). MAGMA gives

\[ L'(-1, \chi_1) \doteq 1.2094 \ldots, \quad L'(-1, \chi_2) \doteq -0.91109 \ldots. \]

The elements \( u := \frac{1}{5}(-3a^4 + 5a^2 - 9a + 9) \) are exceptional units in \( \mathcal{O}_F \), and we find that \( \xi := 2\{u\} \) lies in \( \ker(\delta_2, F) \). We fix \( \sigma \) with \( \sigma(a) = 1.367 \ldots + 0.197 \ldots i \), and let \( \beta = 10e_{\sigma, \chi_2}\varphi_F(\xi) = \sum_{g \in G} \xi(g)(1 - \tau_5)g\varphi_F(\xi) \) in \( \mathcal{O} \otimes K_3(F)_{tf} \), so that \( e_{\sigma, \chi_1} \beta = \beta \). We then find, for both \( \gamma \) in \( \Gamma \), that

\[ (2\pi i)^{-1}\text{reg}_{2, \sigma}(\beta') \doteq \gamma(e)L'(-1, \chi_1^e) \]

for \( e = \sqrt{5} \) in \( E^x \), so that \( e \) does not divide \( c_{\sigma, w, -1}(\chi_1) = 2 \cdot 24^2 \) in \( \mathcal{O} \). We find a different \( \beta \) as follows. If \( g \in G \) has \( \chi_1(g) \neq 0 \), then \( (\chi_1(g) - 2)/(\eta_5 - 2) \in \mathcal{O} \), so we can write \( 5e_{\chi_1} = (\eta_5 - 2)z + 2z' \) with \( z = \sum_{i=0}^{5} s_i \) in \( \mathcal{O}[G] \). If \( \beta' \) is in \( K_3(F)_{tf} \), then \( (1 + t)z\beta' \) is in \( \mathcal{O} \otimes K_3(F)_{tf} \) and \( (\eta_5 - 2)(1 + t)z\beta' = 5e_{\chi_1}(1 + t)\beta' \) because \( (1 + t)z' \beta' \) lies in \( K_3(F)_{tf} \). Hence \( \beta = (1 - \tau_5)(1 + t)z\varphi_F(\xi) \) in \( \mathcal{O} \otimes K_3(F)_{tf} \) also satisfies \( e_{\sigma, \chi_1} \beta = \beta \). For this choice of \( \beta \) we find \ref{5.1} is satisfied for both \( \gamma \) with \( e = -2 - \sqrt{5} \), so we may take \( \delta_{\tau}(\chi_1, S_{\infty}) = f \beta \) with \( f = (4 - 2\sqrt{5})24^2 \) in \( \mathcal{O} \).

5.1.2. Now let \( F = \mathbb{Q}(a) \) denote the totally complex field of discriminant \(-717\) that is the splitting field over \( \mathbb{Q} \) of the irreducible polynomial \( x^{14} - 4x^{12} - x^{11} + 5x^{10} + 6x^9 + 16x^8 + 25x^7 + 16x^6 + 6x^5 + 5x^4 - x^3 - 4x^2 + 1 \) in \( \mathbb{Q}[x] \), of which \( a \) is a root. This field is such that \( G = GF/\mathbb{Q} \cong D_7 \) generated by an element \( s \) of order 5 with \( s(a) = \frac{1}{119}(1685a^{13} - 343a^{12} - 6831a^{11} - 12a^{10} + 8661a^9 + 7815a^8 + 25668a^7 + 36171a^6 + 17365a^5 + 6516a^4 + 6531a^3 + 4219a^2 - 5336a + 1683) \) and an element \( t \) of order 2 with \( t(a) = a^{-1} \). The irreducible 2-dimensional characters of \( GF/\mathbb{Q} \) take values in \( \mathbb{Q}(\eta_7) \), where \( \eta_7^3 + \eta_7^2 - 2\eta_7 - 1 = 0 \), and form an orbit \( \{\chi_1, \chi_2, \chi_3\} \) under the action of \( \Gamma := G_{\mathbb{Q}(\eta_7)/\mathbb{Q}} \), where \( \chi_j(s) = \zeta_j^s + \zeta_j^{-s} \) for \( j \in \{1, 2, 3\} \). MAGMA gives

\[ L'(-1, \chi_1) \doteq 2.6049 \ldots, \quad L'(-1, \chi_2) \doteq -2.1887 \ldots, \quad L'(-1, \chi_3) \doteq -1.5689 \ldots. \]

Just as in \ref{5.1} we found an element \( \xi = \sum_{j \in J} n_j \{x_j\} \) in \( \ker(\delta_2, F) \) (with \( |J| = 14 \), all \( x_j \) exceptional units in \( \mathcal{O}_F \), one coefficient \( n_j \) equal to \( -4 \) and all thirteen others equal to \( \pm 2 \)). We fix \( \sigma \) with \( \sigma(a) = 0.450 \ldots + 0.163 \ldots i \) and let \( \beta = 14e_{\sigma, \chi_1}\varphi_F(\xi) = \sum_{g \in G} \xi(g)(1 - \tau_5)g\varphi_F(\xi) \) in \( \mathcal{O} \otimes K_3(F)_{tf} \), so that \( e_{\sigma, \chi_1} \beta = \beta \). We then find, for all three \( \gamma \) in \( \Gamma \), that

\[ (2\pi i)^{-1}\text{reg}_{2, \sigma}(\beta') \doteq \gamma(e)L'(-1, \chi_1^e) \]

for \( e = 2\eta_7^2 - \eta_7 + 1 \) in \( E^x \), which has norm 49, so that again \( e \) does not divide \( c_{\sigma, w, -1}(\chi_1) = 2 \cdot 24^2 \) in \( \mathcal{O} \). To find a more suitable element we write \( 7e_{\chi_1} = (\eta_7 - 2)z + 2z' \) with \( z = \sum_{i=0}^{6} s_i \) in \( \mathcal{O}[G] \), and one sees as before that \( \beta = (1 - \tau_5)(1 + t)z\varphi_F(\xi) \) in \( \mathcal{O} \otimes K_3(F)_{tf} \) is fixed by \( e_{\sigma, \chi_1} \). For this \( \beta \) we find that \ref{5.2} is satisfied for all three \( \gamma \) with \( e = -3\eta_7^2 - 3\eta_7 - 1 \), which has norm \(-13 \). We may then take

\[ \beta = ((-3\eta_7 - 3\eta_7^2)14e_{\sigma, \chi_1} + (2 - 3\eta_7^2)(1 - \tau_5)(1 + t)z)\varphi_F(\xi), \]

which also satisfies \( e_{\sigma, \chi_1} \beta = \beta \), and for which \ref{5.2} holds for all three \( \gamma \) with \( e = 1 \), and \( \beta_{\sigma}(\chi_1, S_{\infty}) = 2 \cdot 24^2 \beta \).
5.2. A tetrahedral representation. Let $F$ denote the Galois closure of the field $F' = \mathbb{Q}(\theta)$ with $\theta^4 = 1 - \theta$. Then $F$ has discriminant $283^{12}$ and $G_{F/\mathbb{Q}}$ is isomorphic to the symmetric group $S_4$. In fact, since the polynomial $x^4 + x - 1$ has precisely two real roots, under the natural identification of $G_{F/\mathbb{Q}}$ with $S_4$ the element $\tau_\sigma$ corresponds to a transposition. For the (rational valued, 3-dimensional) tetrahedral character $\chi_3$ of $G_{F/\mathbb{Q}}$ one therefore has $\chi_3(1) - \chi_3(\tau_\sigma) = 2$. In this case MAGMA gives $L'(−1, \chi_3) = 0.62475\ldots$. Note that the tetrahedral representation occurs with multiplicity one inside $\mathbb{Q} \otimes K_3(F)$ by Lemma 2.8 and that it has a unique one-dimensional $G_{F/F'}$-invariant subspace $V$. Because $K_3(F')_{\text{ht}}$ has rank 1 and is of finite index in $K_3(F)_{\text{ht}}$, both groups lie in $V$ and $\chi_3$ acts on them as the identity. This applies, in particular, to $\varphi_F(\{\theta\}) = \varphi_F(\{\theta\})$. If $\sigma$ is in $\Sigma_F$ then we let $\beta = (1 - \tau_\sigma)\varphi_F(\{\theta\})$ in $K_3(F)_{\text{ht}}$ so that $e_{\chi_3}\beta = \beta$ and $\text{reg}_{2,\sigma}(\beta) = 2\text{reg}_{2,\sigma}(\varphi_F(\{\theta\}))$. For any $\sigma$ with $\sigma(\theta) = 0.248\ldots + 1.033\ldots i$ we find

$$(2\pi i)^{-1}\text{reg}_{2,\sigma}(\beta) = \frac{1}{2}L'(−1, \chi_3),$$

so we can take $\beta_\sigma(\chi, S_\infty) = 4 \cdot 24^3\beta$.

**Remark 5.3.** In this case there is another rational valued, 3-dimensional character $\chi'_3$ of $G_{F/\mathbb{Q}}$ that is obtained by multiplying $\chi_3$ by the alternating character. However, the function $L(s, \chi'_3)$ vanishes to order 2 at $s = −1$ and so Conjecture 1.2 is trivially satisfied. In the spirit of Proposition 4.12 we investigated the value of the second derivative of $L(s, \chi'_3)$ at $s = −1$. One has $L''(−1, \chi'_3) = −10541.735\ldots$. Further, with $F''$ denoting the fixed field of $F$ under some element of $G_{F/\mathbb{Q}}$ of order 4, we found two elements $\xi_1, \xi_2$ of $\ker(\delta_{2, F''})$ (each being a linear combination of about one hundred terms), together with two embeddings $\sigma_1, \sigma_2$ in $\Sigma_F$, such that

$$(2\pi i)^{-2}\det\left((\text{reg}_{2,\sigma}(\varphi_F(\xi_b)))\right)_{1 \leq a, b \leq 2} = \frac{1}{4}L''(−1, \chi'_3).$$

5.3. The Tate-Buhler-Chinburg representations. As a final example we considered one of the fields $F$ of degree 48 over $\mathbb{Q}$ studied by Tate and Buhler [7] and Chinburg [13] [III.A.]. This field has discriminant $72^{19}2^{12}$ and $G := G_{F/\mathbb{Q}}$ is isomorphic to the amalgamated product $(SL_2(\mathbb{F}_3) \times \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z})/\langle (\begin{smallmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{smallmatrix}) \rangle$, denoted $SL_2(\mathbb{F}_3) \ast \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}$. This group has precisely six irreducible two-dimensional characters: $\chi_1, \chi_3$ (corresponding to the representations denoted $\sigma$ and $\tilde{\sigma}$ in [13], which each have character field $\mathbb{Q}(i)$) and $\chi_2, \chi_2, \chi'_2, \chi''_2$ (corresponding to the representations $\rho, \rho', \rho''$ and $\rho'$, which each have character field $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{12})$). Since for any $\sigma$ in $\Sigma_F$ the element $\tau_\sigma$ is a non-central element of order 2, hence belongs to the conjugacy class $A_0A_3$ in the character table [13 Table I], we see that $\chi(1) - \chi(\tau_\sigma) = 2$ for every such character $\chi$.

We now describe $F$ and our identification of $G$ with $SL_2(\mathbb{F}_3) \ast \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}$. Note that $PGL_2(\mathbb{F}_3)$ is $S_4$ by means of its action on $\mathbb{P}_3$, which also gives $PSL_2(\mathbb{F}_3) \simeq A_4$. As $SL_2(\mathbb{F}_3)$ has a unique element of order 2 one sees easily that it is generated by any two non-commuting elements $\lambda_1$ and $\lambda_2$ of order 3. The disjoint conjugacy classes of $\langle \begin{smallmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{smallmatrix} \rangle$ and its inverse contain all eight elements of order 3, so we can take the $\lambda_i$ in the same conjugacy class. Then $SL_2(\mathbb{F}_3) \ast \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}$ is generated by $(\lambda_1, \overline{0}), (\lambda_2, \overline{0})$, and either element of order 4 in its centre, and has at most 48 automorphisms. In fact all 48 automorphisms can be obtained by letting $PGL_2(\mathbb{F}_3)$ act on $SL_2(\mathbb{F}_3)$ by conjugation and $\{\pm 1\}$ act on $\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}$ by multiplication. We may therefore identify $G$ with $SL_2(\mathbb{F}_3) \ast \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}$ by specifying two distinct conjugate elements $g_1, g_2$ of order 3.
as well as a central element \( h \) of order 4, and letting them correspond to \( ((\overline{\mathbb{Q}}), \overline{0}) \) and \( ((\mathbb{Q}), \overline{0}) \) respectively.

We note \( F \) is the splitting field of the irreducible polynomial \( f(x) = x^{16} - x^{15} + 4x^4 + x^3 - x + 9x + 10 + 3x^9 + 19x^8 + 23x^7 + 13x^6 + x^5 + 2x^4 + 3x^3 + 3x^2 + 3x + 1 \) in \( \mathbb{Q}[x] \), so \( F = \mathbb{Q}(a)(b) \) where \( f(a) = 0 \) and \( b \) is a root of the factor

\[
g(x) = x^3 - \left( \frac{2134023}{36299918} \right) a^{15} + \cdots \left( \frac{27840861}{48399939} \right) x^2 + \cdots + \left( \frac{10585549}{48399939} \right) a^{15} + \cdots + \frac{43460997}{36299918}
\]

of \( f(x) \) in \( \mathbb{Q}(a)[x] \). Let \( \sigma \) be the embedding of \( F \) with \( \sigma(a) = 1.254 \ldots + 0.583 \ldots i \) and \( \sigma(b) = 0.849 \ldots - 1.939 \ldots i \), one of the roots of \( g^\sigma(x) = x^3 - (0.222 \ldots - 2.544 \ldots i)x^2 - (1.658 \ldots - 1.108 \ldots i)x - (0.827 \ldots + 0.252 \ldots i) \). We take distinct conjugate elements \( g_1, g_2 \) of order three with \( g_1(a) = a, \sigma(g_1(b)) = -0.612 \ldots + 0.058 \ldots i, \sigma(g_2(a)) = -0.612 \ldots - 0.058 \ldots i, \sigma(g_2(b)) = 1.254 \ldots - 0.583 \ldots i \), and \( h \) the element of order four in the centre given by \( \sigma(h(a)) = 0.586 \ldots - 0.409 \ldots i \) and \( \sigma(h(b)) = -0.612 \ldots - 0.058 \ldots i \). The field \( F \) is computationally difficult but fortunately we were able to find elements in \( K_3(F)_{ht} \) by searching in \( \ker(\delta_{2,F}) \subseteq \ker(\delta_{2,F}) \) for \( F' = \mathbb{Q}(c) \) where \( \sigma(c) = 1.472 \ldots + 0.900 \ldots i \). (This field \( F' \) is one of six conjugate subfields of degree 24 over \( \mathbb{Q} \), the only other subfield of this degree being the fixed field of the normal subgroup \( \{1, h^2\} \).)

The characters \( \chi_1 \) and \( \chi_1 \) form an orbit under the action of \( G_{Q(i)/\mathbb{Q}} \). MAGMA gives \( L'(-1, \chi_1) = 64.577 \ldots + 631.991 \ldots i \), and its complex conjugate for \( L'(-1, \chi_1) \). We found that, for both \( \gamma \) in \( G_{Q(i)/\mathbb{Q}} \),

\[
(2\pi i)^{-1} \text{reg}_\gamma(\beta') = 12L'(-1, \chi_1^\gamma)
\]

with \( \beta = \sum_{g \in G} \chi_1(g)(1 - \tau_g)g\varphi_F(\xi) \) for some \( \xi \) in \( \ker(\delta_{2,F}) \), so that \( e_{\sigma,\chi_1} \beta = \beta \).

We may therefore take \( \beta_\sigma(\chi_1, S_\infty) = f^\beta \) with \( f = 96 \) in \( \mathcal{O} = \mathbb{Z}[i] \).

The remaining characters \( \chi_2, \chi_2, \chi_2^2 \) and \( \chi_2^2 \) form an orbit under the action of \( G_{Q(\zeta_{12})/\mathbb{Q}} \). The corresponding \( L \)-values are \( L'(-1, \chi_2) = -3.5823 \ldots + 4.4538 \ldots i \) and \( L'(-1, \chi_2^2) = -3.1252 \ldots + 4.8866 \ldots i \), as well as their complex conjugates \( L'(-1, \chi_2) \) and \( L'(-1, \chi_2^2) \). In this case we found that, for all \( \gamma \) in \( G_{Q(\zeta_{12})/\mathbb{Q}} \),

\[
(2\pi i)^{-1} \text{reg}_\gamma(\beta') = 12L'(-1, \chi_2^\gamma)
\]

with \( \beta = \sum_{g \in G} \chi_2(g)(1 - \tau_g)g\varphi_F(\xi) \) for the same \( \xi \) in \( \ker(\delta_{2,F'}) \), so that \( e_{\sigma,\chi_2} \beta = \beta \).

We may therefore take \( \beta_\sigma(\chi_2, S_\infty) = f^\beta \) with \( f = 96 \) in \( \mathcal{O} = \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{12}] \).

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