On t-Motifs
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Chapter 8

The Period Functor

8.1 A Tannakian Category of Periods

8.1.1. Let $L$ be a commutative ring, $A$ a commutative $L$-algebra and $B$ an $A$-algebra such that $A \to B$ is injective. Consider the category whose objects are triples $(V, W, \alpha)$ consisting of

- a projective and finitely generated $L$-module $V$;
- a projective $A$-module $W$;
- an isomorphism of $B$-modules $\alpha : V_B \to W_B$.

Morphisms in this category are pairs $(f, g)$ of an $L$-linear homomorphism $f : V_1 \to V_2$ and an $A$-linear homomorphism $g : W_1 \to W_2$ such that the obvious square commutes:

$$g_B \circ \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 \circ f_B.$$

Thus, $f$ determines $g_B$ and even $g$, since $A \to B$ is injective. It follows that $\text{Hom}((V_1, W_1, \alpha_1), (V_2, W_2, \alpha_2))$ is a sub-$L$-module of $\text{Hom}(V_1, V_2)$, and that the category we are dealing with is $L$-linear.

This category has a natural tensor product

$$(V_1, W_1, \alpha_1) \otimes (V_2, W_2, \alpha_2) \overset{\text{def}}{=} (V_1 \otimes_L V_2, W_1 \otimes_A W_2, \alpha_1 \otimes_B \alpha_2)$$

and the unit for tensor product is $(L, A, \text{id})$. The dual of a triple takes the contragredient $\alpha$, thus $(V, W, \alpha)^\vee \overset{\text{def}}{=} (V^\vee, W^\vee, (\alpha^\vee)^{-1})$. There is a
trace map from \((V, W, \alpha) \otimes (V, W, \alpha)^V\) to the unit \((L, A, \text{id})\):
\[
\text{tr} : (v \otimes \lambda, w \otimes \mu) \mapsto (\lambda(v), \mu(w)).
\]

This category of triples is an \(L\)-linear rigid tensor category and we shall denote it by \(\mathcal{P}(L, A, B)\).

\textbf{8.1.2.} Such a category arises naturally in the context of periods of algebraic varieties.\(^{(1)}\) Fix a subfield \(F\) of \(\mathbb{C}\).

Let \(X\) be a smooth and projective variety defined over \(F\). On the one hand, the algebraic De Rham complex yields cohomology with \(F\)-coefficients \(H^i_{dR}(X, F)\). The singular cohomology \(H^\bullet(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Q})\), on the other hand, has rational coefficients. They are related by the De Rham Theorem,\(^{(2)}\) which furnishes in every degree \(i\) an isomorphism
\[
\omega_X : H^i(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Q}) \otimes \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow H^i_{dR}(X, F) \otimes_F \mathbb{C},
\]
functorial in \(X\). The resulting functor
\[
X \rightsquigarrow (H^\bullet(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Q}), H^*_{dR}(X, F), \omega_X)
\]
to \(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{Q}, F, \mathbb{C})\) is conjectured to factor through the motif of \(X\) (here loosely defined as an element of the universal Tannakian category for the collection of \(\ell\)-adic cohomology theories):
\[
X \rightsquigarrow h(X, \mathbb{Q}) \rightsquigarrow (H^\bullet(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Q}), H^*_{dR}(X, F), \omega_X).
\]

Consider as an example the cohomology in degree \(2d\) of \(d\)-dimensional projective space. There is an isomorphism
\[
(H^{2d}(\mathbb{P}^d(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Q}), H^{2d}_{dR}(\mathbb{P}^d, F), \omega) \approx (\mathbb{Q}, F, \text{multiplication by } (2\pi i)^{-d}).
\]

\textbf{8.2 Construction of the Period Functor}

\textbf{8.2.1.} Let \(k[t] \rightarrow K\) be injective and let \(K^\dagger\) be any complete and algebraically closed field containing \(K\) such that \(\|\theta\| > 1\). Denote by

\(^{(1)}\)See [André 2004], in particular section 7.1.6.
\(^{(2)}\)Theorem 1' of [Grothendieck 1966].
\( R \subset K^\dagger\{t\} \) the subring consisting of those power series that have an infinite radius of convergence. Thus \( R \) is the ring of entire functions on the affine line over \( K^\dagger \). Let \( M \) be an effective \( t \)-motif over \( K \). Recall that \( H_{\mathrm{an}}(M, k[t]) \) is the set of \( \sigma \)-invariant vectors in \( M\{t\} \overset{\text{def}}{=} M \otimes_{K[t]} K^\dagger\{t\} \).

**Lemma.** \( H_{\mathrm{an}}(M, k[t]) \subset M \otimes_{K[t]} R \).

**Proof.** This is essentially Proposition 3.1.3 of [Anderson et al. 2004]—to see this it suffices to choose a basis of \( M \) and to express everything in terms of matrices. \( \square \)

**8.2.2.** By the Lemma, there is a natural map

\[
H_{\mathrm{an}}(M, k[t]) \to M[[t - \theta]] \overset{\text{def}}{=} M \otimes_{K[t]} K^\dagger[[t - \theta]]
\]

obtained through Taylor expansion in \( t = \theta \). It induces a map

\[
H_{\mathrm{an}}(M, k[t]) \otimes_{k[t]} K^\dagger((t - \theta)) \overset{\omega_M}{\longrightarrow} M[[t - \theta]] \otimes_{K^\dagger[[t-\theta]]} K^\dagger((t - \theta))
\]

and this map is an isomorphism if and only if \( M \) is analytically trivial.

With \( M = C \), we have that on the natural bases \( \omega_C \) equals multiplication with \( \Omega \).

**8.2.3.** The construction

\[
M \rightsquigarrow (H_{\mathrm{an}}(M, k[t]), M[[t - \theta]], \omega_M) \tag{8.1}
\]

defines a \( \otimes \)-functor from \( t\mathcal{M}_{\text{eff,a.t.}} \) to \( \mathcal{P}(k[t], K^\dagger[[t - \theta]], K^\dagger((t - \theta))) \). Extending scalars from \( k[t] \) to \( k(t) \) yields a functor

\[
M \rightsquigarrow (H_{\mathrm{an}}(M, k(t)), M[[t - \theta]], \omega_M) \tag{8.2}
\]

from \( t\mathcal{M}_{\text{eff,a.t.}}^\circ \) to \( \mathcal{P}(k(t), K^\dagger[[t - \theta]], K((t - \theta))) \). Note that \( K^\dagger[[t - \theta]] \) is indeed a \( k(t) \)-algebra, since \( \theta \) is transcendental over \( k \).

As the target categories \( \mathcal{P} \) are rigid, both functors extend to noneffective \( t \)-motifs in a purely formal way.
8.3 Fully Faithfulness on Pure $t$-Motifs

8.3.1. Denote by the letter $P$ the functor

$$P : tM_{a.t.} \to \mathcal{P} \left(k[t], K^\dagger[[t - \theta]], K^\dagger((t - \theta))\right)$$

described in the preceding section.

8.3.2. For the sake of brevity, we write $\mathcal{P}$ for the target category of the functors $P$. Assume that $K = K^\dagger$. Here is the main Theorem of this chapter:

**Theorem (first form).** If $M_1$ and $M_2$ are $t$-motifs that are analytically trivial and pure of the same weight, then the natural map

$$\text{Hom}_{tM}(M_1, M_2) \to \text{Hom}_P(P(M_1), P(M_2))$$

is an isomorphism of $k[t]$-modules.

Note that we have already shown that the map is injective (3.2.6.)

8.3.3. The Theorem is equivalent with the apparently weaker claim:

**Theorem (second form).** Let $n$ be a non-negative integer and $M$ an analytically trivial effective $t$-motif that is pure of weight $n$, then

$$\text{Hom}_{tM}(C^n, M) \to \text{Hom}_P(P(C^n), P(M))$$

is an isomorphism of $k[t]$-modules.

**Proof of equivalence.** Take $M_1$ and $M_2$ as in the first formulation. Then for a sufficiently large $n$ the $t$-motif $M \overset{\text{def}}{=} \text{Hom}(M_1, M_2) \otimes C^n$ is effective and by adjunction (2.2.5) it follows that

$$\text{Hom}_{tM}(M_1, M_2) = \text{Hom}_{tM}(C^n, M)$$

and similarly that

$$\text{Hom}_P(P(M_1), P(M_2)) = \text{Hom}_P(P(C^n), P(M)).$$
8.34. Proof of the Theorem in its second form. Let \( f : P(C^n) \to P(M) \) be given. Pick generators to identify
\[
P(C^n) = (k[t], K[[t-\theta]], \Omega^n)
\]
Denote the image of 1 \( \in k[t] \) under \( f \) by \( v \in M\{t\}^\sigma \). The fact that \( f \) is a morphism in \( P \) implies that
\[
\omega_M(v) \in \Omega^n M[[t-\theta]] = (t-\theta)^n M[[t-\theta]]. \tag{8.3}
\]
Claim: \( v \in \Omega^n M \otimes_{K[t]} R \).
By Lemma 8.2.1 \( v \) lies in \( M \otimes_{K[t]} R \). The claim states that \( v \) has zeroes of order at least \( n \) at \( t = \theta^i \) for all \( i \geq 0 \). For \( i = 0 \) this is precisely what is asserted in equation (8.3). The presence of the other zeroes follows by induction on \( i \) since \( \sigma(v) = v \) and the action of \( \sigma \) is defined over \( K[t] \).

The claim shows that
\[
C^n \otimes R \to M \otimes R : g e \mapsto \sigma(g) \frac{v}{\Omega^n}
\]
is a well-defined \( \sigma \)-equivariant \( R \)-homomorphism. By the GAGA-style Proposition 4.4 of [Gardeyn 2003], this ‘analytic’ map descends to an ‘algebraic’ morphism \( C^n \to M \) of \( t \)-motifs which by construction gets mapped to \( f \) under the functor \( P \).

\[
8.35. \text{Remarks.} \quad \text{The Theorem can also be deduced from Anderson’s results on scattering matrices}^{(3)}
\]
A more general result, accounting also for non-pure \( t \)-motifs, has been announced by Pink\(^{(4)}\) but unfortunately no precise statement, nor a proof, has been published so far.

8.4 Corollary: \( \Gamma_{K^s} \) is Connected

8.4.1. Using the above fully faithfulness we obtain the following important Theorem.

\[^{(3)}\text{See §3 of [Anderson 1986].}\]
\[^{(4)}\text{See the pre-print [Pink 1997].}\]
Theorem. An effective and analytically trivial $t$-motif $M$ that is pure of weight zero is constant.

Proof. It is sufficient to prove the Theorem for $K = K^\dagger$.

Denote by $r$ the rank of $M$, so that $\wedge^r M$ is isomorphic to the unique rank one effective $t$-motif that is pure of weight zero: $\wedge^r M \approx 1$. By functoriality this translates into an isomorphism

$$P(\wedge^r M) \approx P(1)$$

which implies that the matrix expressing $\omega_M$ lies in $\GL(r, K[[t - \theta]])$. From this it follows that there is an isomorphism

$$P(M) \approx P(r1)$$

whence by Theorem 8.3.2 the effective $t$-motif $M$ is constant. 

8.4.2. This allows us to finish the proof of the connectedness of $\Gamma_K$ (4.2.3). Recall that assuming the non-connectedness of $\Gamma$ we have obtained an effective $t$-motif $M$ that is analytically trivial and such that $M \otimes M$ is a subquotient of $nM$ for some $n$. We were left with the task of showing that $M$ is constant.

End of the proof of Theorem 4.2.3. Let $\lambda$ be the maximal weight of $M$. Then $2\lambda$ is the maximal weight of $M \otimes M$ and hence $2\lambda$ is a weight of $nM$, hence $2\lambda \leq \lambda$, hence $\lambda = 0$, hence $M$ is pure of weight 0, hence, by the above Theorem, $M$ is constant. 

\[\blacksquare\]