# On the speed of convergence to limit distributions for Hecke *L*-functions associated with ideal class characters

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**Summary:** We prove an upper bound estimate of the speed of convergence to limit distributions  $W_K(R, \chi)$ , in the sense of Bohr and Jessen, for Hecke *L*-functions associated with ideal class characters. This is a generalization of the author's former result [8], in which the same estimate has been proved for Dedekind zeta-functions.

# **1** Introduction

Let *K* be an algebraic number field of degree  $\ell$ ,  $L = \max\{\ell, 2\}$ ,  $s = \sigma + it$  a complex variable, and  $\zeta_K(s)$  the Dedekind zeta-function attached to *K*. In [6, 7, 8], the value-distribution of  $\log \zeta_K(s)$  in the half-plane  $\sigma = \Re s > 1 - L^{-1}$  has been studied.

The definition of  $\log \zeta_K(\sigma + it)$  is clear for  $\sigma > 1$ , and for  $1 - L^{-1} < \sigma \le 1$  we define this function by analytic continuation along the horizontal line segment from 2 + it. In case there exists a zero or a pole of  $\zeta_K(s)$  on this line segment, we do not define  $\log \zeta_K(s)$ .

Let *R* be any fixed closed rectangle in the complex plane  $\mathbb{C}$  with the edges parallel to the axes. We write  $\mu_n(\cdot)$  for the *n*-dimensional Lebesgue measure. For any fixed  $\sigma > 1 - L^{-1}$ , let

$$V_K(T; R) = \mu_1(\{t \in [1, T] \mid \log \zeta_K(\sigma + it) \in R\}).$$

Then there exists the limit

$$W_K(R) = \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} V_K(T; R).$$
(1.1)

This was proved by Bohr and Jessen [1, 2] for the Riemann zeta-function  $\zeta(s)$ , and by the author [6, 7] for general case.

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In [8], the author studied the speed of convergence on the right-hand side of (1.1), and proved

$$W_K(R) - \frac{1}{T} V_K(T; R) = O\left( (\mu_2(R) + 1) (\log T)^{-C(\sigma) + \varepsilon} \right)$$
(1.2)

for any  $\sigma > 1 - L^{-1}$  and any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , where

$$C(\sigma) = \begin{cases} (\sigma - 1)/(3 + 2\sigma) & (\sigma > 1), \\ 2(2\sigma - 1)/(21 + 8\sigma) & (1 \ge \sigma > 1 - L^{-1}). \end{cases}$$
(1.3)

In the case of  $\zeta(s)$ , the estimate (1.2) was first proved in a joint paper of Harman and the author [3]. This paper [3] gives an improvement of former weaker results proved in the author's previous papers [4, 5, 7]. In [7], such a weaker result was also shown for  $\zeta_K(s)$  when *K* is a Galois extension of the rational number field  $\mathbb{Q}$ . In [3] it is mentioned without proof that (1.2) can be shown for  $\zeta_K(s)$  of any Galois number field. Finally in [8], the proof of (1.2) for any (Galois or non-Galois) number field has been given.

The purpose of the present paper is to generalize (1.2) to the case of Hecke *L*-functions associated with ideal class characters. Recently, the value-distribution of Hecke *L*-functions of number fields has been studied extensively by Mishou [10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15] (partly with Koyama). The present paper is another contribution to this topic.

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#### 2 Statement of the result

First we recall the definition and basic properties of Hecke L-functions.

Let *K* be as in Section 1,  $\mathcal{O}_K$  the ring of integers of *K*,  $r_1$  the number of real places of *K*, and  $2r_2$  the number of complex places of *K*. Denote by *I* the set of all ideals of  $\mathcal{O}_K$ , and by *J* the set of all fractional ideals of *K*. Fix an ideal  $\mathfrak{f} \in I$ , and define

$$J(\mathfrak{f}) = \{\mathfrak{a} \in J \mid (\mathfrak{a}, \mathfrak{f}) = 1\},$$
  
$$P(\mathfrak{f}) = \{(\alpha) \mid \alpha \in K, \alpha \equiv 1 \mod \tilde{\mathfrak{f}}\}$$

where ( $\alpha$ ) denotes the principal ideal generated by  $\alpha$ , and  $\alpha \equiv 1 \mod \tilde{f}$  means that  $\alpha$  is totally positive and if we write  $\alpha = a/b, a, b \in \mathcal{O}_K$ , (a, b) = 1, then  $a - b \in f$ . Then P(f) is a subgroup of J(f) and the quotient

$$Cl(\mathfrak{f}) = J(\mathfrak{f})/P(\mathfrak{f}),$$

the ideal class group modulo f, is a finite Abelian group. Denote the projection map by  $\pi$ .

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Let  $\chi$  be a character of  $Cl(\mathfrak{f})$ . Define the mapping  $\chi : I \setminus \{0\} \to \mathbb{C}$  (ideal class character) by

$$\chi(\mathfrak{a}) = \begin{cases} \chi(\pi(\mathfrak{a})) & \text{if } \mathfrak{a} \in I \cap J(\mathfrak{f}), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Denote by  $\mathcal{B}$  the set of all values taken by the ideal class character  $\chi$ . Clearly this is a finite set.

The Hecke *L*-function associated with  $\chi$  is

$$L_K(s,\chi) = \sum_{\mathfrak{a} \in I \setminus \{0\}} \chi(\mathfrak{a}) (N\mathfrak{a})^{-s}, \qquad (2.1)$$

where *N* $\mathfrak{a}$  denotes the norm of  $\mathfrak{a}$ . This series is convergent absolutely for  $\sigma > 1$ , and can be continued meromorphically to the whole plane  $\mathbb{C}$ . The functional equation is

$$\xi_K(1-s,\bar{\chi}) = \xi_K(s,\chi), \qquad (2.2)$$

where

$$\xi_K(s,\chi) = d(\mathfrak{f})^s \Gamma(s)^{r_2} \prod_{m=1}^{r_1} \Gamma\left(\frac{s+a_m}{2}\right) L_K(s,\chi)$$

with a constant d(f) depending only on f and  $a_m \in \{0, 1\}$   $(1 \le m \le r_1)$ . Hence the critical strip is  $0 \le \sigma \le 1$ , and the critical line is  $\sigma = 1/2$ .

Define  $\log L_K(s, \chi)$  for  $\sigma > 1 - L^{-1}$  as in the case of  $\log \zeta_K(s)$  explained in Section 1. Let

$$V_K(T; R, \chi) = \mu_1(\{t \in [1, T] \mid \log L_K(\sigma + it, \chi) \in R\})$$

for any fixed  $\sigma > 1 - L^{-1}$ . Then the existence of the limit

$$W_K(R,\chi) = \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} V_K(T; R, \chi)$$
(2.3)

can be established. This is a special case of a general limit theorem proved in [6]. The restriction  $\sigma > 1 - L^{-1}$  comes from the fact that, at present, we can prove the mean square estimate

$$\int_{1}^{T} |L_{K}(\sigma + it, \chi)|^{2} dt = O(T)$$
(2.4)

only for  $\sigma > 1 - L^{-1}$ . This follows from the functional equation (2.2) and Potter's general result [17]. The estimate (2.4) is necessary to apply the result of [6].

In the present paper we will prove the following generalization of (1.2).

**Theorem 2.1** Let K be an algebraic number field of degree  $\ell$ , and let  $L = \max\{\ell, 2\}$ . Then, for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , we have

$$W_K(R,\chi) - \frac{1}{T} V_K(T; R,\chi) = O\left( (\mu_2(R) + 1) (\log T)^{-C(\sigma) + \varepsilon} \right)$$
(2.5)

for  $\sigma > 1 - L^{-1}$ , where  $C(\sigma)$  is given by (1.3).

The basic structure of the proof is the same as in [8], so we omit the details, only describing several key points of the argument in the following three sections.

It is desirable to generalize the above theorem further to the case of Hecke *L*-functions associated with any Grössencharacters, but it seems that the argument in the present paper is not sufficient for that purpose.

# 3 Limit distributions for finite truncations

It is well known that  $L_K(s, \chi)$  has the Euler product expansion

$$L_K(s,\chi) = \prod_{\mathfrak{p}} \left( 1 - \frac{\chi(\mathfrak{p})}{(N\mathfrak{p})^s} \right)^{-1} \qquad (\sigma > 1),$$
(3.1)

where p runs over all prime ideals. Let  $p_n$  be the *n*-th prime number, and  $\mathfrak{p}_n^{(1)}, \ldots, \mathfrak{p}_n^{(g(n))}$  the prime divisors of  $p_n$  with norm  $N\mathfrak{p}_n^{(j)} = p_n^{f(j,n)}$   $(1 \le j \le g(n))$ . Then

$$L_K(s,\chi) = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \prod_{j=1}^{g(n)} \left(1 - \chi\left(\mathfrak{p}_n^{(j)}\right) \left(N\mathfrak{p}_n^{(j)}\right)^{-s}\right)^{-1}$$
$$= \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \prod_{j=1}^{g(n)} \left(1 - \chi\left(\mathfrak{p}_n^{(j)}\right) p_n^{-f(j,n)\sigma} \exp(-if(j,n)t\log p_n)\right)^{-1}.$$

Let *N* be a positive integer,  $\sigma > 1 - L^{-1}$ , and consider the finite truncation

$$L_{N,K}(s,\chi) = \prod_{n=1}^{N} \prod_{j=1}^{g(n)} \left( 1 - \chi\left(\mathfrak{p}_{n}^{(j)}\right) p_{n}^{-f(j,n)\sigma} \exp(-if(j,n)t\log p_{n}) \right)^{-1}.$$
 (3.2)

Let  $Q_N = [0, 1)^N$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\theta} = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_N) \in Q_N$ ,

$$z_{n,K}(\theta_n, \chi) = -\sum_{j=1}^{g(n)} \log\left(1 - \chi\left(\mathfrak{p}_n^{(j)}\right) p_n^{-f(j,n)\sigma} \exp(2\pi i f(j,n)\theta_n)\right),$$
(3.3)

and

$$S_{N,K}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\chi}) = \sum_{n=1}^{N} z_{n,K}(\theta_n, \boldsymbol{\chi}).$$
(3.4)

Then

$$\log L_{N,K}(s,\chi) = S_{N,K}(\mathbf{x}(t),\chi), \qquad (3.5)$$

where

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \left( \left\{ -\frac{t}{2\pi} \log p_1 \right\}, \dots, \left\{ -\frac{t}{2\pi} \log p_N \right\} \right)$$

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 $({x} = x - [x]$  is the fractional part of x). Define

$$V_{N,K}(T; R, \chi) = \mu_1(\{t \in [1, T] \mid \log L_{N,K}(\sigma + it, \chi) \in R\}).$$

From (3.5) we see that  $\log L_{N,K}(\sigma + it, \chi) \in R$  if and only if  $\mathbf{x}(t) \in \Omega_N(R, \chi)$ , where

$$\Omega_N(R,\chi) = \{ \boldsymbol{\theta} \in Q_N \mid S_{N,K}(\boldsymbol{\theta},\chi) \in R \}.$$

The uniqueness of the decomposition of integers into prime factors implies that  $\log p_1, \ldots$ ,  $\log p_N$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Hence, by the Kronecker–Weyl theorem, we can show the existence of the limit

$$W_{N,K}(R,\chi) = \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} V_{N,K}(T; R, \chi),$$
(3.6)

and moreover  $W_{N,K}(R, \chi) = \mu_N(\Omega_N(R, \chi))$ . The latter shows that  $W_{N,K}$  is a probability measure on  $\mathbb{C}$ .

We evaluate the speed of convergence on the right-hand side of (3.6).

**Proposition 3.1** Let N be sufficiently large, and let m and r be large positive integers with  $2rN \le m$ . Then

$$\left| W_{N,K}(R,\chi) - \frac{1}{T} V_{N,K}(T;R,\chi) \right| \\ \ll \frac{N^{1/2}}{r} + \frac{Nr}{m} + \frac{1}{T} (6r \log m)^N \exp(mN \log N).$$
(3.7)

In the case of Dedekind zeta-functions, this is Proposition 1 of [8], whose main idea goes back to [3] (and even [4, 9]).

In [8], the proposition has been deduced from (5.1), (5.2), (5.3) and Lemma 3 of [8]. Hence our task here is to generalize those to our present situation.

Inequalities (5.1), (5.2) and (5.3) of [8] were first proved in [3] in the case of  $\zeta(s)$ , and the method in [3] can be applied without change to our present situation.

To prove Lemma 3 of [8], we used in [8] the Artin–Chebotarev density theorem to find a suitable rearrangement of the sequence of prime numbers. Here we apply the Artin–Chebotarev density theorem (see Proposition 7.15 of Narkiewicz [16]) in a slightly different way; by the Artin–Chebotarev theorem we see that there exist infinitely many primes  $p_n$  for which g(n) = 1,  $f(1, n) = \ell$  hold. Moreover, since there are only finitely many prime factors of  $\mathfrak{f}$ , we may assume that the above  $p_n$ s are coprime with  $\mathfrak{f}$ . Denote the first three of those primes by  $p_{n(1)}$ ,  $p_{n(2)}$  and  $p_{n(3)}$ , and define the rearrangement of primes, by using these  $p_{n(\nu)}$  ( $\nu = 1, 2, 3$ ), similarly as in Section 5 of [8]. The curve  $\Gamma_{n(\nu)}$ described by

$$z_{n(\nu),K}(\theta_{n(\nu)},\chi) = -\log\left(1 - \chi\left(\mathfrak{p}_{n(\nu)}^{(1)}\right)p_{n(\nu)}^{-\ell\sigma}\exp\left(2\pi i\ell\theta_{n(\nu)}\right)\right)$$
(3.8)

 $(0 \le \theta_{n(\nu)} < 1)$  is convex  $(\nu = 1, 2, 3)$ . Since  $(\mathfrak{p}_{n(\nu)}^{(1)}, \mathfrak{f}) = 1$ , we have  $|\chi(\mathfrak{p}_{n(\nu)}^{(1)})| = 1$ . Write  $\chi(\mathfrak{p}_{n(\nu)}^{(1)}) = \exp(2\pi i \ell \varphi(\nu))$  with a certain real number  $\varphi(\nu)$ , and put  $\theta'_{n(\nu)} = \exp(2\pi i \ell \varphi(\nu))$ 

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 $\ell(\theta_{n(\nu)} + \varphi(\nu))$ . Then

$$z_{n(\nu),K}(\theta_{n(\nu)},\chi) = -\log\left(1 - p_{n(\nu)}^{-\ell\sigma}\exp\left(2\pi i\theta'_{n(\nu)}\right)\right),\tag{3.9}$$

and this describes the same curve as  $\Gamma_{n(\nu)}$  when  $\theta'_{n(\nu)}$  moves from 0 to  $\ell$ . The difference from the argument in [8] is that, in the present case,  $z_{n(\nu),K}(\theta_n(\nu), \chi)$  rounds  $\ell$ -times along the curve  $\Gamma_{n(\nu)}$  when  $\theta'_{n(\nu)}$  moves from 0 to  $\ell$ . When  $\theta'_{n(\nu)}$  moves on the subinterval [k, k+1) $(0 \le k \le \ell - 1)$ , we can show the analogue of Lemma 3 of [3] for  $z_{n(\nu),K}(\theta_n(\nu), \chi)$ . Hence the analogue of Lemma 4 of [3] can also be established for each k. Therefore, adding them, we find that the analogue of Lemma 4 of [3] is valid in our present situation.

To prove the analogue of Lemma 3 of [8], the remaining part of the proof is the same as in [8].

# 4 An application of Lévy's inversion formula

From (4.6) of [6] we have

$$\lim_{N \to \infty} W_{N,K}(R,\chi) = W_K(R,\chi)$$
(4.1)

for any rectangle R. In this section we evaluate the speed of this convergence to show, as a generalization of Proposition 2 of [8], the following

**Proposition 4.1** For any sufficiently large N, we have

$$|W_K(R,\chi) - W_{N,K}(R,\chi)| \ll \mu_2(R) N^{1-2\sigma} (\log N)^{-2\sigma}.$$
 (4.2)

The proof is based on Lévy's inversion formula. Consider the Fourier transform

$$\Lambda_{N,K}(w,\chi) = \int_{\mathbb{C}} e^{i \langle z,w \rangle} dW_{N,K}(z,\chi)$$
  
= 
$$\int_{Q_N} \exp\left(i \langle S_{N,K}(\theta,\chi),w \rangle\right) d\mu_N(\theta)$$

where  $\langle z, w \rangle = \Re z \Re w + \operatorname{Im} z \operatorname{Im} w$ . Then the right-hand side is the product of

$$K_{n,K}(w,\chi) = \int_0^1 \exp\left(i < z_{n,K}(\theta_n,\chi), w > \right) d\theta_n \qquad (1 \le n \le N)$$
(4.3)

(see (3.4)).

In order to use Lévy's inversion formula, it is necessary to obtain a suitable upper bound of  $|K_{n,K}(w, \chi)|$ . For this purpose, in [8], we use the fact that there are only finitely many patterns of decomposition of primes into prime ideals of *K*. In the present case, we combine this fact with the finiteness of the set  $\mathcal{B}$ , introduced in Section 2.

For any integer g satisfying  $1 \le g \le \ell$ , let  $\mathcal{F}_g(\chi)$  be the set of all vectors

$$(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}) = (f(1), \dots, f(g), b(1), \dots, b(g)),$$

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for which there exists an *n* such that g = g(n), f(j) = f(j, n) and  $b(j) = \chi(\mathfrak{p}_n^{(j)})$  $(1 \le j \le g)$  holds. Then  $\mathcal{F}_g(\chi)$  is a finite set, because  $\mathcal{B}$  is finite and

$$\sum_{j=1}^{g(n)} e(j,n) f(j,n) = \ell$$
(4.4)

holds, where e(j, n) is the ramification index of  $\mathfrak{p}_n^{(j)}$  over  $p_n$ . Hence

$$\mathcal{F}(\chi) = \bigcup_{1 \le g \le \ell} \mathcal{F}_g(\chi)$$

is also finite.

For each  $(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}) \in \mathcal{F}(\chi)$ , define

$$F_{(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{b})}(v) = -\sum_{j=1}^{g} \log\left(1 - b(j)v^{f(j)}\right).$$
(4.5)

Let  $\mathbb{N}$  be the set of all positive integers. For any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we can find a unique  $(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}) \in \mathcal{F}(\chi)$  which satifsies

$$z_{n,K}(\theta_n, \chi) = F_{(\mathbf{f},\mathbf{b})}\left(p_n^{-\sigma} \exp(2\pi i \theta_n)\right).$$
(4.6)

Let  $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b})$  be the set of all *n* for which (4.6) holds. Then we have

$$\mathbb{N} = \bigcup_{(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}) \in \mathcal{F}(\chi)} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{b}).$$
(4.7)

This decomposition corresponds to (3.9) of [8], and then, by the same argument as in [8], we can show

$$K_{n,K}(w,\chi) = O\left(p_n^{\sigma\ell/2}|w|^{-1/2}\right).$$
(4.8)

In the procedure of proving (4.8), it is important that  $\mathcal{F}(\chi)$  is a finite set.

Estimate (4.8) is exactly the same as (3.16) of [8], and from which we can deduce the assertion of Proposition 4.1.

## 5 Completion of the proof

Now we can combine Proposition 3.1 and Proposition 4.1 to complete the proof of our theorem, quite similarly to the argument in Section 6 of [8]. The main tools used in Section 6 of [8] are Lemma 4 of [8] and estimate (6.9) of [8]. Lemma 4 of [8] can be generalized to the present case, by using the rearrangement of primes defined in Section 3. Estimate (6.9) of [8] is based on Lemma 5 of [7]. The latter is a certain mean value estimate of Dedekind zeta-functions. This can be generalized to the present case, because of (2.4). Therefore the argument in Section 6 of [8] can be applied without change to  $L_K(s, \chi)$ . The proof of our theorem is now complete.

**Remark.** When K is a Galois extension of  $\mathbb{Q}$ , we have  $f(1, n) = \cdots = f(g(n), n)$  (= f(n), say), hence (3.3) is

$$z_{n,K}(\theta_n, \chi) = -\sum_{j=1}^{g(n)} \log\left(1 - \chi\left(\mathfrak{p}_n^{(j)}\right) p_n^{-f(n)\sigma} \exp(2\pi i f(n)\theta_n)\right).$$
(5.1)

In the case of the Dedekind zeta-function  $\zeta_K(s)$ , this is further reduced to

$$-g(n)\log(1-p_n^{-f(n)\sigma}\exp(2\pi i f(n)\theta_n)),$$

which describes a convex curve. This is the reason why in [3] it is mentioned that estimate (1.2), proved for the Riemann zeta-function in that paper, can be generalized to  $\zeta_K(s)$  of any Galois extension. However, for Hecke *L*-functions, the curve described by (5.1) is not always convex (because of the existence of  $\chi(\mathfrak{p}_n^{(j)})$ ) even in the case of Galois extensions. Therefore the idea in [8], originally developed for the purpose of treating  $\zeta_K(s)$  in the non-Galois case, is necessary even for Galois extensions when we consider Hecke *L*-functions.

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