

Mahler measure of K3 surfaces

Marie José BERTIN

Institut Mathématique de Jussieu
Université Paris 6
4 Place Jussieu 75006 PARIS
bertin@math.jussieu.fr

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Introduced by Mahler in 1962,
the logarithmic Mahler measure of a polynomial P is

$$m(P) := \frac{1}{(2\pi i)^n} \int_{\mathbb{T}^n} \log |P(x_1, \dots, x_n)| \frac{dx_1}{x_1} \cdots \frac{dx_n}{x_n}$$

and its Mahler measure

$$M(P) = \exp(m(P))$$

where

$$\mathbb{T}^n = \{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{C}^n / |x_1| = \dots = |x_n| = 1\}.$$

- $n = 1$

By Jensen's formula, if $P \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$ is monic, then

$$M(P) = \prod_{P(\alpha)=0} \max(|\alpha|, 1).$$

So it is related to **Lehmer's question (1933)**

Does there exist $P \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$, monic, non cyclotomic, satisfying

$$1 < M(P) < M(P_0) = 1.1762 \dots ?$$

The polynomial

$$P_0(X) = X^{10} + X^9 - X^7 - X^6 - X^5 - X^4 - X^3 + X + 1$$

is the Lehmer polynomial, in fact a Salem polynomial.

Lehmer's problem is still open.

A partial answer by Smyth (1971)

$$M(P) \geq 1.32 \dots$$

if P is non reciprocal.

The story can be explained with polynomials

$$x_0 + x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_n.$$

- $m(x_0 + x_1) = 0$ (by Jensen's formula)



$$m(x_0 + x_1 + x_2) = \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{4\pi} L(\chi_{-3}, 2) = L'(\chi_{-3}, -1) \text{ Smyth (1980)}$$



$$m(x_0 + x_1 + x_2 + x_3) = \frac{7}{2\pi^2} \zeta(3) \text{ Smyth (1980)}$$

These are the first explicit Mahler measures.



$$m(x_0+x_1+x_2+x_3+x_4) \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{675\sqrt{15}}{16\pi^3} L(f, 4) \quad \text{conjectured by Villegas (2004)}$$

f cusp form of weight 3 and conductor 15

$L(f, s)$ is also the L-series of the K3 surface defined by

$$\begin{aligned} x_0 + x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 &= 0 \\ \frac{1}{x_0} + \frac{1}{x_1} + \frac{1}{x_2} + \frac{1}{x_3} + \frac{1}{x_4} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

How such a conjecture possible?

Because of deep insights of two people.

- Deninger (1996) who conjectured

$$m\left(x + \frac{1}{x} + y + \frac{1}{y} + 1\right) \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{15}{4\pi^2} L(E, 2) = L'(E, 0)$$

E elliptic curve of conductor 15 defined by the polynomial

This conjecture was proved recently (May 2011) by Rogers and Zudilin thanks to a previous result due to Lalin. Here the polynomial is reciprocal.

- Maillot (2003) using a result of Darboux (1875): the Mahler measure of P which is the integration of a differential form on a variety, when P is non reciprocal, is in fact an integration on a smaller variety and the expression of the Mahler measure is encoded in the cohomology of the smaller variety.

- $n = 2$ The smaller variety is defined by

$$\begin{aligned}x_0 + x_1 + x_2 &= 0 \\ \frac{1}{x_0} + \frac{1}{x_1} + \frac{1}{x_2} &= 0 \iff x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_1x_2 = 0\end{aligned}$$

It is a curve of genus 0. So $m(x_0 + x_1 + x_2)$ is expressed as a Dirichlet L-series.

- $n = 3$ The smaller variety is defined by

$$\begin{aligned}x_0 + x_1 + x_2 + x_3 &= 0 \\ \frac{1}{x_0} + \frac{1}{x_1} + \frac{1}{x_2} + \frac{1}{x_3} &= 0 \iff (x_1 + x_2)(x_1 + x_3)(x_2 + x_3) = 0\end{aligned}$$

It is the intersection of 3 planes. Thus Smyth's result.

- $n = 4$ (Villegas's Conjecture) The smaller variety is defined by

$$x_0 + x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 = 0$$

$$\frac{1}{x_0} + \frac{1}{x_1} + \frac{1}{x_2} + \frac{1}{x_3} + \frac{1}{x_4} = 0$$

It is the modular $K3$ -surface studied by Peters, Top, van der Vlugt defined by a reciprocal polynomial. Its L-series is related to f .

- $n = 5$ (Villegas's Conjecture again)

$$m(x_0 + x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 + x_5) = ** L(g, 5)$$

g cusp form of weight 4 and conductor 6 related to L -series of the Barth-Nieto quintic.

Barth-Nieto quintic

It the 3-fold compactification of the complete intersection of

$$\begin{aligned}x_0 + x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 + x_5 &= 0 \\ \frac{1}{x_0} + \frac{1}{x_1} + \frac{1}{x_2} + \frac{1}{x_3} + \frac{1}{x_4} + \frac{1}{x_5} &= 0\end{aligned}$$

It has been studied by [Hulek, Spandaw, Van Geemen, Van Straten](#) in 2001. They proved that the L -function of the quintic (i.e. of their third étale cohomology group) is modular, a fact predicted by a conjecture of Fontaine and Mazur.

The modular form is the newform of weight 4 for $\Gamma_0(6)$

$$f = (\eta(q)\eta(q^2)\eta(q^3)\eta(q^6))^2$$

Briefly, to guess the Mahler measure of a non reciprocal polynomial we need results on reciprocal ones.

In particular, it is very important to collect many examples of Mahler measures of $K3$ -hypersurfaces.

Notice that Maillot's insight predicts only the type of formula expected. Also Deninger's guess comes from Beilinson's Conjectures.

So replace E by a surface X which is also a **Calabi-Yau variety**, i.e. a $K3$ -surface and try to answer the questions:

What are the analog of Deninger, Boyd, R-Villegas 's results and conjectures?

Which type of Eisenstein-Kronecker series corresponds to $L(X, 3)$?

Our results concern polynomials of the family

$$P_k = x + \frac{1}{x} + y + \frac{1}{y} + z + \frac{1}{z} - k$$

defining K3-surfaces Y_k . **What's a K3-surface?**

It is a **smooth** surface X satisfying

- $H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X) = 0$ i.e. X simply connected
- $K_X = 0$ i.e. the canonical bundle is trivial i.e. there exists a unique, up to scalars, holomorphic 2-form ω on X .

Example and main properties

- A double covering branched along a plane sextic for example defines a K3-surface X .

In our case

$$(2z + x + \frac{1}{x} + y + \frac{1}{y} - k)^2 = (x + \frac{1}{x} + y + \frac{1}{y} - k)^2 - 4$$

Main properties

- $H_2(X, \mathbb{Z})$ is a free group of rank 22.

Main properties (continued)

- With the intersection pairing, $H_2(X, \mathbb{Z})$ is a lattice and

$$H_2(X, \mathbb{Z}) \simeq U_2^3 \perp (-E_8)^2 := \mathcal{L}$$

\mathcal{L} is the $K3$ -lattice, U_2 the hyperbolic lattice of rank 2, E_8 the unimodular lattice of rank 8.



$$\text{Pic}(X) \subset H_2(X, \mathbb{Z}) \simeq \text{Hom}(H^2(X, \mathbb{Z}), \mathbb{Z})$$

where $\text{Pic}(X)$ is the group of divisors modulo linear equivalence, parametrized by the algebraic cycles (since for $K3$ surfaces linear and algebraic equivalence are the same).



$$\text{Pic}(X) \simeq \mathbb{Z}^{\rho(X)}$$

$\rho(X) :=$ Picard number of X

$$1 \leq \rho(X) \leq 20$$



$$T(X) := (\text{Pic}(X))^\perp$$

is the transcendental lattice of dimension $22 - \rho(X)$

- If $\{\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{22}\}$ is a \mathbb{Z} -basis of $H_2(X, \mathbb{Z})$ and ω the holomorphic 2-form,

$$\int_{\gamma_i} \omega$$

is called a period of X and

$$\int_{\gamma} \omega = 0 \text{ for } \gamma \in \text{Pic}(X).$$

- If $\{X_z\}$ is a family of $K3$ surfaces, $z \in \mathbb{P}^1$ with generic Picard number ρ and ω_z the corresponding holomorphic 2-form, then the periods of X_z satisfy a Picard-Fuchs differential equation of order $k = 22 - \rho$. For our family $k = 3$.

- In fact, by Morrison, a \mathcal{M} -polarized K3-surface, with Picard number 19 has a Shioda-Inose structure, that means

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 X & & A = E \times E / C_N \\
 & \searrow & \swarrow \\
 & Y = \text{Kum}(A / \pm 1) &
 \end{array}$$

- If the Picard number $\rho = 20$, then the elliptic curve is CM.

Theorem

(B. 2005) Let $k = t + \frac{1}{t}$ and

$$t = \left(\frac{\eta(\tau)\eta(6\tau)}{\eta(2\tau)\eta(3\tau)} \right)^6, \quad \eta(\tau) = e^{\frac{\pi i \tau}{12}} \prod_{n \geq 1} (1 - e^{2\pi i n \tau}), \quad q = \exp 2\pi i \tau$$

$$\begin{aligned} m(P_k) = & \frac{\Im \tau}{8\pi^3} \left\{ \sum_{m, \kappa} \left(-4(2\Re \frac{1}{(m\tau + \kappa)^3(m\bar{\tau} + \kappa)} + \frac{1}{(m\tau + \kappa)^2(m\bar{\tau} + \kappa)^2}) \right. \right. \\ & + 16(2\Re \frac{1}{(2m\tau + \kappa)^3(2m\bar{\tau} + \kappa)} + \frac{1}{(2m\tau + \kappa)^2(2m\bar{\tau} + \kappa)^2}) \\ & - 36(2\Re \frac{1}{(3m\tau + \kappa)^3(3m\bar{\tau} + \kappa)} + \frac{1}{(3m\tau + \kappa)^2(3m\bar{\tau} + \kappa)^2}) \\ & \left. \left. + 144(2\Re \frac{1}{(6m\tau + \kappa)^3(6m\bar{\tau} + \kappa)} + \frac{1}{(6m\tau + \kappa)^2(6m\bar{\tau} + \kappa)^2}) \right) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Sketch of proof

Let

$$P_k = x + \frac{1}{x} + y + \frac{1}{y} + z + \frac{1}{z} - k$$

defining the family (X_k) of $K3$ -surfaces.

- For $k \in \mathbb{P}^1$, generically $\rho = 19$.
- The family is \mathcal{M}_k -polarized with

$$\mathcal{M}_k \simeq U_2 \perp (-E_8)^2 \perp \langle -12 \rangle$$

- Its transcendental lattice satisfies

$$T_k \simeq U_2 \perp \langle 12 \rangle$$

- The Picard-Fuchs differential equation is

$$(k^2 - 4)(k^2 - 36)y'''' + 6k(k^2 - 20)y''' + (7k^2 - 48)y'' + ky' = 0$$

- The family is modular in the following sense
if $k = t + \frac{1}{t}$, $\tau \in \mathcal{H}$ and τ as in the theorem

$$t\left(\frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}\right) = t(\tau) \quad \forall \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma_1(6, 2)^* \subset \Gamma_0(12)^* + 12$$

where

$$\Gamma_1(6) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in Sl_2(\mathbb{Z}) \mid a \equiv d \equiv 1 \pmod{6} \quad c \equiv 0 \pmod{6} \right\}$$

$$\Gamma_1(6, 2) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma_1(6) \mid c \equiv 6b \pmod{12} \right\}$$

and

$$\Gamma_1(6, 2)^* = \langle \Gamma_1(6, 2), w_6 \rangle$$

.

- The P-F equation has a basis of solutions $G(\tau)$, $\tau G(\tau)$, $\tau^2 G(\tau)$ with

$$G(\tau) = \eta(\tau)\eta(2\tau)\eta(3\tau)\eta(6\tau)$$

satisfying

$$G(\tau) = F(t(\tau)), \quad F(t) = \sum_{n \geq 0} v_n t^{2n+1}, \quad v_n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k}^2 \binom{n+k}{k}^2$$

- $\frac{dm(P_k)}{dk}$ is a period, hence satisfies the P-F equation

$$\frac{dm(P_k)}{dk} = G(\tau)$$

$$dm(P_k) = -G(\tau) \frac{dt}{t} \frac{1-t^2}{t}$$

is a weight 4 modular form for $\Gamma_1(6, 2)^*$

- so can be expressed as a combination of $E_4(n\tau)$ for $n = 1, 2, 3, 6$

- By integration you get

$$m(P_k) = \Re(-\pi i\tau + \sum_{n \geq 1} (\sum_{d|n} d^3) (4 \frac{q^n}{n} - 8 \frac{q^{2n}}{2n} + 12 \frac{q^{3n}}{3n} - 24 \frac{q^{6n}}{6n}))$$

- Then using a Fourier development one deduces the expression of the Mahler measure in terms of an Eisenstein-Kronecker series

Remark

Such a formula may be quite interesting.

Example

For the family Q'_k

$$X+1/X+Y+1/Y+Z+1/Z+XY+1/XY+ZY+1/ZY+XYZ+1/XYZ-k$$

we get

$$m(Q'_k) = \Re(-\pi i \tau + \sum_{n \geq 1} (\sum_{d|n} d^3) (-2 \frac{q^n}{n} + 32 \frac{q^{2n}}{2n} + 18 \frac{q^{3n}}{3n} - 288 \frac{q^{6n}}{6n}))$$

By $X = x$, $Y = y/x$, $Z = z/y$, Q'_k is transformed in Q_k

$$(x + y + z + 1)(xy + xz + yz + xyz) - (k + 4)xyz$$

and

$$m(Q_k) = m(Q'_k)$$

Remark (continued)

$$m(Q_{-4}) = 2m(x + y + z + 1) = \frac{7}{\pi^2} \zeta(3) \quad (\text{Smyth})$$

can be recovered from the expression of $m(Q'_{-4})$

- $k = -4$ corresponds to $\tau = 0$ thus $q = 1$ (Verrill)
and

-

$$m(Q'_{-4}) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \left(\sum_{d|n} d^3 \right) \left(-\frac{2}{n} + \frac{32}{2n} + \frac{18}{3n} - \frac{288}{6n} \right)$$

Lemma

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} \left(\sum_{d|n} \chi(d) d^3 \right) \frac{1}{n^s} = \zeta(s) L(\chi, s-3)$$

Lemma

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow 1} \zeta(s)L(\chi, s-3) = -\frac{1}{4\pi^2}L(\chi, 3)$$

if $\chi(-1) = 1$, in particular if χ is the trivial character.

Thus

$$m(Q'_{-4}) = -\frac{\zeta(3)}{4\pi^2}(-2 + 16 + 6 - 48) = \frac{7}{\pi^2}\zeta(3)$$

Another proof of Smyth's formula!

For some values of k , the corresponding τ is imaginary quadratic.
 For example

k	0	2	3	6	10	18
τ	$\frac{-3+\sqrt{-3}}{6}$	$\frac{-2+\sqrt{-2}}{6}$	$\frac{-3+\sqrt{-15}}{12}$	$\frac{\sqrt{-6}}{6}$	$\frac{\sqrt{-2}}{2}$	$\sqrt{\frac{-5}{6}}$

For these quadratic τ called “singular moduli”, the corresponding K3-surface is singular, that means its Picard number is $\rho = 20$ and the elliptic curve E of the Shioda-Inose is CM

So, an expression of the Mahler measure in terms of Hecke L-series (arithmetic aspect) and perhaps in terms of the L-series of the hypersurface K3 (geometric aspect).

Mahler measure and L-series of K3-hypersurfaces

Theorem

Let Y_k the K3 hypersurface associated to the polynomial P_k , $L(Y_k, s)$ its L-series and T_Y its transcendental lattice. Then,

$$m(P_0) = d_3 := \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{4\pi} L(\chi_{-3}, 2)$$

$$m(P_2) = \frac{|\det T(Y_2)|^{3/2}}{\pi^3} L(Y_2, 3) = \frac{8\sqrt{8}}{\pi^3} L(f_8, 3)$$

$$m(P_6) \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{|\det T(Y_6)|^{3/2}}{2\pi^3} L(Y_6, 3) = \frac{24\sqrt{24}}{2\pi^3} L(f_{24}, 3)$$

$$m(P_{10}) = \frac{|\det T(Y_{10})|^{3/2}}{9\pi^3} L(Y_{10}, 3) + 2d_3 = \frac{72\sqrt{72}}{9\pi^3} L(f_8, 3) + 2d_3$$

$$m(P_{18}) \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{|\det T(Y_{18})|^{3/2}}{9\pi^3} L(Y_{18}, 3) + \frac{14}{5}d_3 = \frac{120\sqrt{120}}{9\pi^3} L(f_{120}, 3) + \frac{14}{5}d_3$$

- 1 Prove the conjectured expressions of $m(P_6)$, $m(P_{18})$
- 2 Find an analog for $m(P_3)$
- 3 Give the corresponding expressions in terms of Hecke L-series.

Some ingredients in the proof

Here f_N denotes the unique, up to twist, CM-newform, CM by $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-N})$, of weight 3 and level N with rational coefficients.

$$L^*(X, s) := \prod_{p \nmid N}^* Z(X|_{\mathbb{F}_p}, p^{-s}) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{a(n)}{n^s}$$

$$Z(X|_{\mathbb{F}_p}, t) := \exp\left(\sum_{s=1}^{\infty} N p^s \frac{t^s}{s}\right) = \frac{1}{(1-t)(1-p^2t)P_2(t)}$$

N is the determinant of the transcendental lattice

$$P_2(t) = \det(1 - tF_p | H_{\text{et}}^2(X, \mathbb{Q}_l))$$

is a degree 22 polynomial

$$H_{\text{et}}^2(X, \mathbb{Q}_l) = H_{\text{alg}}^2(X, \mathbb{Q}_l) + H_{\text{tr}}^2(X, \mathbb{Q}_l)$$

$$N_p = \#X(\mathbb{F}_p)$$

$$N_p = 1 + p^2 + \overbrace{\text{Tr}H_{\text{alg}}^2(X, \mathbb{Q}_l)}^{(1)} + \overbrace{\text{Tr}H_{\text{tr}}^2(X, \mathbb{Q}_l)}^{(2)}$$

(1) corresponds to algebraic cycles and depends on whether they are defined over \mathbb{F}_p or \mathbb{F}_{p^2}

(2) corresponds to transcendental cycles

For example, suppose X singular and the 20 generators of the Néron-Severi defined over \mathbb{F}_p (case of Y_2 and Y_6)

$$P_2(t) = (1 - pt)^{20}(1 - \beta t)(1 - \beta' t)$$

$$N_p = 1 + p^2 + 20p + \beta + \beta'$$

Lemma

Let $\rho_l, \rho'_l : G_{\mathbb{Q}} \rightarrow \text{Aut } V_l$ two rational l -adic representations with $\text{Tr} F_{p, \rho_l} = \text{Tr} F_{p, \rho'_l}$ for a set of primes p of density one (i.e. for all but finitely many primes). If ρ_l and ρ'_l fit into two strictly compatible systems, the L -functions associated to these systems are the same.

Then the great idea is to replace this set of primes of density one by a finite set.

Definition

A finite set T of primes is said to be an effective test set for a rational Galois representation $\rho_l : G_{\mathbb{Q}} \rightarrow \text{Aut } V_l$ if the previous lemma holds with the set of density one replaced by T .

Definition

Let \mathcal{P} denote the set of primes, S a finite subset of \mathcal{P} with r elements, $S' = S \cup \{-1\}$. Define for each $t \in \mathcal{P}$, $t \neq 2$ and each $s \in S'$ the function

$$f_s(t) := \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \left(\frac{s}{t} \right) \right)$$

and if $T \subset \mathcal{P}$, $T \cap S = \emptyset$,

$$f : T \rightarrow (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^{r+1}$$

such that

$$f(t) = (f_s(t))_{s \in S'}.$$

Theorem

(Serre-Livné's criterion) Let ρ and ρ' be two 2-adic $G_{\mathbb{Q}}$ -representations which are unramified outside a finite set S of primes, satisfying

$$\mathrm{Tr}F_{p,\rho} \equiv \mathrm{Tr}F_{p,\rho'} \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$$

and

$$\det F_{p,\rho} \equiv \det F_{p,\rho'} \pmod{2}$$

for all $p \notin S \cup \{2\}$.

Any finite set T of rational primes disjoint from S with $f(T) = (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^{r+1} \setminus \{0\}$ is an effective test set for ρ with respect to ρ' .

Theorem

Let S be a K3-surface defined over \mathbb{Q} , with Picard number 20 and discriminant N . Its transcendental lattice $T(S)$ is a dimension 2 $\text{Gal}(\bar{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$ -module thus defines a L series, $L(T(S), s)$.

There exists a weight 3 modular form, f , CM over $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-N})$ satisfying

$$L(T(S), s) \doteq L(f, s).$$

Moreover, if $NS(S)$ is generated by divisors defined over \mathbb{Q} ,

$$L(S, s) \doteq \zeta(s-1)^{20} L(f, s).$$

The last ingredient: Schütt's classification of CM-newforms of weight 3

Theorem

Consider the following classifications of singular K3 surfaces over \mathbb{Q} :

- 1 by the discriminant d of the transcendental lattice of the surface up to squares,
- 2 by the associated newform up to twisting,
- 3 by the level of the associated newform up to squares,
- 4 by the CM-field $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-d})$ of the associated newform.

Then, all these classifications are equivalent. In particular, $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-d})$ has exponent 1 or 2.

Let

$$P_k = x^2yz + xy^2z + xyz^2 + t^2(xy + xz + yz) - kxyzt.$$

- Y_k is the desingularization of the set of zeroes of P_k .
- With some fibration, Y_k is an elliptic surface with singular fibers of type I_n .
- Use Shioda's theorems on elliptic surfaces to compute the determinant of $NS(Y_k)$, in particular, the formula

$$\rho_k = r_k + 2 + \sum_{\nu} (m_{\nu,k} - 1)$$

where r_k is the rank of $MW(Y_k)$.

Some ingredients in the proof (continued)

- If $k = 2$, since $\rho_2 = 20$ and fibers are of type $I_{12}, I_6, I_2, I_2, I_1, I_1$, $r_2 = 0$ (easy case).
- So,

$$|\det NS(Y_2)| = \frac{\prod m_{\nu,2}}{\text{Torsion}^2} = 8$$

- If $k = 10$, since $\rho_2 = 20$ and fibers are of type $I_{12}, I_3, I_3, I_2, I_2, I_1, I_1$, $r_{10} = 1$ (difficult case).
 - So, have to guess an infinite section,
 - have to use Néron's desingularization.

Some ingredients in the proof (continued)

- The value of $\det NS(Y_{10})$ gives the CM-field of the elliptic curve in the Shioda-Inose structure.
- Have to count the number of points of the reduction of Y_k modulo q ($q = p^r$).
- In case Y_k modular this allows to determine which modular form gives the equality

$$L(Y_k, s) = L(f, s).$$

- Compare to the expression of the Mahler measure and conclude.

- We have

$$\det NS(Y_2) = -8$$

$$\det NS(Y_{10}) = -72$$

so the underlying elliptic curves E_2 and E_{10} are both CM on $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-2})$.

- Since

$$L(Y_2, s) = L(Y_{10}, s) = L(f, s),$$

by Tate's conjecture, Y_2 and Y_{10} are related by an algebraic correspondance.