

ON LOWER BOUNDS OF THE DIMENSIONS OF MULTIZETA VALUES IN POSITIVE CHARACTERISTIC

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, we study the linear independence of special values, including the positive characteristic analogue of multizeta values, alternating multizeta values and multiple polylogarithms, at algebraic points. Consequently, we establish linearly independent sets of these values with the same weight indices and a lower bound on the dimension of the space generated by depth $r > 2$ multizeta values of the same weight in positive characteristic.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 MULTIZETA VALUES IN POSITIVE CHARACTERISTIC

Let \mathbb{F}_q be a fixed finite field with q elements, where q is a power of a prime number p . Let \mathbb{P}^1 be the projective line defined over \mathbb{F}_q with a fixed point at infinity $\infty \in \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{F}_q)$. Let A be the ring of regular functions away from ∞ , and let k be its fraction field. Let k_∞ be the completion of k at ∞ , and let \mathbb{C}_∞ be the completion of a fixed algebraic closure of k_∞ . Let θ be a variable. We identify A with the polynomial ring $\mathbb{F}_q[\theta]$ and k with the rational function field $\mathbb{F}_q(\theta)$.

The ∞ -adic multizeta values (∞ -adic MZVs) were defined by Thakur in [Th04] as a generalization of Carlitz zeta values [Ca35]. For any index $\mathfrak{s} = (s_1, \dots, s_r) \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}^r$, ∞ -adic MZVs are defined by the following series:

$$\zeta_A(\mathfrak{s}) := \sum \frac{1}{a_1^{s_1} \cdots a_r^{s_r}} \in k_\infty, \quad (1.1)$$

where the sum is over $(a_1, \dots, a_r) \in A^r$ with a_i monic and $\deg a_1 > \deg a_2 > \dots > \deg a_r$. The second author introduced and studied ∞ -adic alternating multizeta values (∞ -adic AMZVs) [H20], which are a generalization of ∞ -adic MZVs defined by the following series:

$$\zeta_A(\mathfrak{s}; \epsilon) := \sum \frac{\epsilon_1^{\deg a_1} \dots \epsilon_r^{\deg a_r}}{a_1^{s_1} \dots a_r^{s_r}} \in k_\infty, \quad (1.2)$$

where $\epsilon := (\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_r) \in (A^\times)^r = (\mathbb{F}_q^\times)^r$ and the sum is over $(a_1, \dots, a_r) \in A^r$ with a_i monic and $\deg a_1 > \deg a_2 > \dots > \deg a_r$. The weight and depth of the presentation $\zeta_A(\mathfrak{s})$ and $\zeta_A(\mathfrak{s}; \epsilon)$ are defined by $\text{wt}(\mathfrak{s}) := s_1 + \dots + s_r$ and $\text{dep}(\mathfrak{s}) := r$, respectively. Note that both ∞ -adic MZVs and AMZVs are introduced as positive characteristic counterparts of real-valued multizeta values (real-valued MZVs) and real-valued alternating multizeta values (real-valued AMZVs), which researchers have conducted a variety of interesting studies (for details, see [Zh16]).

The ∞ -adic MZVs (resp. ∞ -adic AMZVs) are non-vanishing according to [Th09a] (resp. [H20]). Additionally, both ∞ -adic MZVs [AT09] and ∞ -adic AMZVs [H20] appear as periods of certain pre- t -motives introduced in [P08]. Let \mathcal{Z} (resp. \mathcal{AZ}) be the k -vector space spanned by 1 and all ∞ -adic MZVs (resp. ∞ -adic AMZVs). For $w \geq 1$, let \mathcal{Z}_w (resp. \mathcal{AZ}_w) be the k -vector space spanned by ∞ -adic MZVs (resp. ∞ -adic AMZVs) of weight w . In [Th10] (resp. [H20]), it was shown that the product of two ∞ -adic MZVs (resp. ∞ -adic AMZVs) can be written as an \mathbb{F}_p -linear combination of ∞ -adic MZVs (resp. ∞ -adic AMZVs) of the same weight, where \mathbb{F}_p is the prime field of k . Thus, \mathcal{Z} (resp. \mathcal{AZ}) forms a k -algebra. Specifically, one has $\mathcal{Z}_{w_1} \mathcal{Z}_{w_2} \subset \mathcal{Z}_{w_1+w_2}$ (resp. $\mathcal{AZ}_{w_1} \mathcal{AZ}_{w_2} \subset \mathcal{AZ}_{w_1+w_2}$) for $w_1 \geq 1$ and $w_2 \geq 1$. Further, an analogue of Goncharov's direct sum conjecture [G97] for ∞ -adic MZVs (resp. ∞ -adic AMZVs) was established in [C14] (resp. [H20]), namely, \mathcal{Z} (resp. \mathcal{AZ}) forms a graded k -algebra (graded by weights). In other words, all k -linear relations among ∞ -adic MZVs (resp. ∞ -adic AMZVs) are generated by these k -linear relations among ∞ -adic MZVs (resp. ∞ -adic AMZVs) with the same weight.

To study k -linear relations among the ∞ -adic MZVs with the same weight, Todd [To18] used the power sum and lattice reduction methods to produce k -linear relations. Based on his result, an analogue of Zagier's dimension conjecture, which predicts the dimension of the \mathbb{Q} -vector space generated by the same weight real-valued MZVs over \mathbb{Q} (see [W12]), has been formulated in the positive characteristic setting. Although some k -linear relations among the ∞ -adic MZVs with the same weight have been discovered (see [LRT14], [Ch17], [To18] and [GP20]), only a few results (see [C16], [CPY19], [CY07], [Mi15a] and [Mi17]) are known about the k -linear independence of ∞ -adic MZVs with the same-weight. Let $w, r \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. We set

$$\mathcal{Z}_w^r := \text{Span}_k \{ \zeta_A(\mathfrak{s}) \mid \text{wt}(\mathfrak{s}) = w, \text{dep}(\mathfrak{s}) = r \}$$

and

$$\overline{\mathcal{Z}}_w^r := \text{Span}_{\overline{k}} \{ \zeta_A(\mathfrak{s}) \mid \text{wt}(\mathfrak{s}) = w, \text{dep}(\mathfrak{s}) = r \}$$

to be the k -vector space (resp. \bar{k} -vector space) spanned by ∞ -adic MZVs of weight w and depth r . Also, we set $\mathcal{Z}_w^{1,r} := \mathcal{Z}_w^1 + \mathcal{Z}_w^r$ (resp. $\bar{\mathcal{Z}}_w^{1,r} := \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_w^1 + \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_w^r$). Note first that Chang [C14] showed the k -linear independence of ∞ -adic MZVs implies the \bar{k} -linear independence of them, whence $\dim_k \mathcal{Z}_w^r = \dim_{\bar{k}} \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_w^r$ and $\dim_k \mathcal{Z}_w^{1,r} = \dim_{\bar{k}} \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_w^{1,r}$. Furthermore, Chang [C16] proved a necessary condition for the linear dependence of depth 2 ∞ -adic MZVs, which can be stated as follows.

THEOREM 1.1 ([C14, Thm. 2.2.1], [C16, Thm. 3.1.1]). *Let $w \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ with $w \geq 2$. For each $i = 1, \dots, m$, let $\mathfrak{s}_i := (s_{i1}, s_{i2}) \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}^2$ be chosen with $s_{i1} + s_{i2} = w$. Then, all \bar{k} -linear relations among $\{\zeta_A(w), \zeta_A(\mathfrak{s}_1), \dots, \zeta_A(\mathfrak{s}_m)\}$ are those coming from the k -linear relations among $\{\zeta_A(w)\} \cup \{\zeta_A(\mathfrak{s}_j) \mid s_{j2} \text{ is divisible by } q - 1\}$. Specifically, we have*

$$\dim_k \mathcal{Z}_w^{1,2} = \dim_{\bar{k}} \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_w^{1,2} \geq w - \lfloor \frac{w-1}{q-1} \rfloor.$$

In particular,

$$\dim_k \mathcal{Z}_w^2 = \dim_{\bar{k}} \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_w^2 \geq w - 1 - \lfloor \frac{w-1}{q-1} \rfloor.$$

One of the goals of the present paper is to study the generalization of Theorem 1.1 in the higher depth case.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE MAIN THEOREM

Set $L_0 := 1$ and $L_i := (\theta - \theta^q) \dots (\theta - \theta^{q^i})$ for each $i \geq 1$. For an r -tuple $\mathfrak{s} = (s_1, \dots, s_r) \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}^r$, the Carlitz multiple polylogarithms (CMPLs) are defined as follows (see [C14]):

$$\text{Li}_{\mathfrak{s}}(z_1, \dots, z_r) := \sum_{i_1 > \dots > i_r \geq 0} \frac{z_1^{q^{i_1}} \dots z_r^{q^{i_r}}}{L_{i_1}^{s_1} \dots L_{i_r}^{s_r}} \in k[[z_1, \dots, z_r]]. \tag{1.3}$$

CMPLs can be viewed as an analogue of classical multiple polylogarithms

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathfrak{s}}(z_1, \dots, z_r) := \sum_{n_1 > \dots > n_r > 0} \frac{z_1^{n_1} \dots z_r^{n_r}}{n_1^{s_1} \dots n_r^{s_r}} \in \mathbb{Q}[[z_1, \dots, z_r]]$$

in the positive characteristic setting. The specializations at $(1, \dots, 1)$ of classical multiple polylogarithms with several variables give the real-valued MZVs. This phenomenon becomes delicate in the positive characteristic setting. In [AT90], it is shown that depth 1 MZVs can be written as k -linear combinations of same-weight Carlitz polylogarithms (CMPLs with $r = 1$) at algebraic points. This is generalized to higher depth MZVs case in [C14]. Additionally, some interesting algebraic relations between ∞ -adic MZVs and Carlitz logarithms at algebraic points were discovered by Thakur in [Th09b, Thm. 6]. Using the stuffle relations of CMPLs (see [C14, Sec. 5.2]), we deduce some

k -linear relations between ∞ -adic MZVs and CMPLs of the same weight at algebraic points. With these relations in mind, one may naturally ask whether we can extend the linear independence results, such as Theorem 1.1, to special values in the higher depth case, including ∞ -adic MZVs, ∞ -adic AMZVs, and CMPLs at algebraic points.

In what follows, we first introduce some terminology used to formulate our main result. For a fixed $w \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, let

$$I(w) := \{\mathfrak{s} = (s_1, \dots, s_r) \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}^r \mid \text{wt}(\mathfrak{s}) = w, 1 \leq r \leq w\} \tag{1.4}$$

be the collection of all weight w indices and let

$$J(w) := \{T \subset \{1, \dots, w-1\} \mid T \neq \emptyset\} \cup \{\{0\}\}. \tag{1.5}$$

Let $\mathfrak{s}_i = (s_{i1}, \dots, s_{ir}) \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}^r$ and $\mathfrak{Q}_i := (Q_{i1}, \dots, Q_{ir}) \in \overline{k}[t]^r$ for $i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$. There is a family of power series $\mathcal{L}_{[i],j}$ in the variable t with coefficients in \overline{k} and depending on datum $(\mathfrak{s}_i, \mathfrak{Q}_i)$ that defines entire functions on \mathbb{C}_∞ such that the specialization of these series at $t = \theta$ recovers ∞ -adic MZVs, ∞ -adic AMZVs, and CMPLs at algebraic points. More precisely, for $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ we define the n -fold Frobenius twisting

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{C}_\infty((t)) &\rightarrow \mathbb{C}_\infty((t)) \\ f := \sum_i a_i t^i &\mapsto \sum_i a_i^{q^n} t^i =: f^{(n)} \end{aligned}$$

and consider the entire power series

$$\Omega(t) := (-\theta)^{\frac{-q}{q-1}} \prod_{i=1}^\infty \left(1 - \frac{t}{\theta^{q^i}}\right) \in \overline{k}[[t]] \tag{1.6}$$

where $(-\theta)^{\frac{1}{q-1}}$ is a fixed $(q-1)$ -th root of $-\theta$ such that $1/\Omega(\theta) = \tilde{\pi}$ (See [ABP04, Cor. 5.1.4]) and $\tilde{\pi}$ is the Carlitz period. Then

$$\mathcal{L}_{[i],j} := \sum_{\ell_1 > \dots > \ell_j \geq 0} (\Omega^{s_{ij}} Q_{ij})^{(\ell_j)} \dots (\Omega^{s_{i1}} Q_{i1})^{(\ell_1)} \in \overline{k}[[t]]. \tag{1.7}$$

For example, the *Carlitz logarithm* is the CMPL for $\mathfrak{s} = (1)$, which is given by

$$\log_C(z) = \text{Li}_{(1)}(z) = \sum_{i \geq 0} \frac{z^{q^i}}{L_i} \in k[[z]]. \tag{1.8}$$

Carlitz essentially proved that $\log_C(1) = \zeta_A(1)$ in [Ca35], but see [AT90, p. 181]. Let $u \in \overline{k}$ be such that $\log_C(z)$ converges at $z = u$. Then, we consider the power series (see [P08, Sec. 6.1.1]):

$$\mathcal{L}_u(t) := u + \sum_{i > 0} \frac{u^{q^i}}{(t - \theta^q) \dots (t - \theta^{q^i})} \in \overline{k}[[t]].$$

It can be shown that $\mathcal{L}_u(t)$ converges at $t = \theta$ and that the evaluation recovers the Carlitz logarithm at $z = u$, namely,

$$\mathcal{L}_u(t) \Big|_{t=\theta} = \log_C(z) \Big|_{z=u} .$$

One may see from the definition that the product $\Omega(t)\mathcal{L}_u(t)$ provides an example of the special series $\mathcal{L}_{[i],j}$ (see Proposition 2.12 for further details).

We characterize our linear independence criterion from the information of the r -tuple $\mathfrak{s} \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}^r$ of these special values. Therefore, the r -tuple \mathfrak{s} reflects the vanishing order of the corresponding family of the power series at $t = \theta^{q^i}$ with $i \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. This fact allows us to introduce a certain notion for the r -tuple \mathfrak{s} . Specifically, we define the following map:

$$\begin{aligned} g : I(w) &\rightarrow J(w) \\ (s_1, \dots, s_r) &\mapsto \{w - s_1, w - s_1 - s_2, \dots, w - s_1 - \dots - s_{r-1}\}, \text{ for } r \geq 2 \\ (w) &\mapsto \{0\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then, for each collection of weight w indices $S \subset I(w)$, we say S is g -independent if $g(\mathfrak{s}) \cap g(\mathfrak{s}') = \emptyset$ for any $\mathfrak{s}, \mathfrak{s}' \in S$ with $\mathfrak{s} \neq \mathfrak{s}'$. In fact, we will see in Lemma 2.5 that $g(\mathfrak{s})$ is a collection of the vanishing orders of certain entire series at $t = \theta^{q^i}$ with $i \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. Note that the difference in the vanishing orders implies the $\bar{k}(t)$ -linear independence of these entire series (see Lemma 2.9). Then, an application of [ABP04, Thm. 3.1.1] provides the desired \bar{k} -linear independence of these special values. Now, we state our main theorem as follows; it will later be restated as Theorem 3.1.

THEOREM 1.2. *For $w \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, let $S = \{\mathfrak{s}_0, \dots, \mathfrak{s}_m\} \subset I(w)$ be g -independent with $\mathfrak{s}_0 = (w)$. Let $\Omega_i \in \bar{k}[t]^{\text{dep}(\mathfrak{s}_i)}$, which satisfies conditions (2.2) and (2.3) and then if we set $\mathcal{L}_{[i]} := \mathcal{L}_{[i], \text{dep}(\mathfrak{s}_i)}$ for $i = 0, \dots, m$, the following set*

$$\{\mathcal{L}_{[0]}(\theta), \dots, \mathcal{L}_{[m]}(\theta)\}$$

is \bar{k} -linearly independent.

For suitable choices of Ω_i , the specialization of $\mathcal{L}_{[i]}$ at $t = \theta$ recovers MZVs, AMZVs, and CMPLs at algebraic points (see Proposition 2.12). Moreover, it is easily seen from the definition that $S_{\leq 2}^w := \{w\} \cup \{\mathfrak{s} := (s_1, s_2) \mid s_1 + s_2 = w, s_2 \text{ is not divisible by } q - 1\}$ is g -independent. In the case of $S = S_{\leq 2}^w$ with suitable choices of Ω_i , Theorem 1.2 shows that

$$\{\zeta_A(w)\} \cup \{\zeta_A(\mathfrak{s}_j) \mid \mathfrak{s}_j = (s_{j1}, s_{j2}), s_{j1} + s_{j2} = w, s_{j2} \text{ is not divisible by } q - 1\}$$

is a \bar{k} -linearly independent set. In particular, Theorem 1.2 recovers Theorem 1.1.

Additionally, Theorem 1.2 provides many \bar{k} -linearly independent ∞ -adic MZVs of the same weight in the higher-depth case. As a consequence, we deduce the following corollary, which provides a lower bound on the dimension of \mathcal{Z}_w^r and $\bar{\mathcal{Z}}_w^r$ with the given weight w and depth $r \geq 2$. This will later be restated as Corollary 3.5.

COROLLARY 1.3. *For given $w \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ and $r \in \mathbb{Z}_{>1}$, we have*

$$\dim_k \mathcal{Z}_w^{1,r} = \dim_{\bar{k}} \overline{\mathcal{Z}}_w^{1,r} \geq 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{w-1 - \lfloor \frac{w-1}{q-1} \rfloor}{r-1} \right\rfloor.$$

In particular,

$$\dim_k \mathcal{Z}_w^r = \dim_{\bar{k}} \overline{\mathcal{Z}}_w^r \geq \left\lfloor \frac{w-1 - \lfloor \frac{w-1}{q-1} \rfloor}{r-1} \right\rfloor.$$

In the case of $q \neq 2$, given an arbitrary $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ and $r \in \mathbb{Z}_{>1}$, we can find $w := w_{q,n,r} \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, which depends on q , n and r , such that there are at least n distinct \bar{k} -linearly independent ∞ -adic MZVs with the same depth r and the same weight w .

One motivation of our main theorem arises from the study of the \mathbb{Q} -vector space generated by real-valued MZVs. Zagier [Z94] gave a conjecture on the dimension of the \mathbb{Q} -vector space spanned by depth 2 real-valued MZVs of fixed weight $n \geq 3$ in terms of the dimension of cusp forms of weight n for $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$. This conjecture is partially solved in [Z93] by giving the upper bound of the dimension, but the lower bound remains unknown. For the higher-depth case, Broadhurst and Kreimer proposed a conjecture in [BK97] that predicts the dimensions of the weight- and depth-graded parts of the \mathbb{Q} -vector space generated by real-valued MZVs are given in the specific generating series. In their conjecture, the generating series is explicitly described using the dimensions of the weight-graded parts of the \mathbb{Q} -vector space generated by cusp forms. The Broadhurst-Kreimer conjecture in the general depth case remains an open problem. However, Goncharov [G98] proved that in the depth 3 case, the conjecture provides the upper bound of the dimension. Another proof was presented by Ihara and Ochiai [IO08]. In the depth ≥ 4 case, we do not even know if their conjecture provides the upper bound of the dimension.

We end this section by outlining this paper. In §2.1, we provide the notation of the basic objects used in our exposition. In §2.2, we review the definitions of Anderson dual t -motives and introduce a specific one constructed by means of the fiber coproduct, which was developed in [CM21]. In §2.3, we present the definitions and results of Anderson t -modules and certain Ext^1 -modules. In §2.4, we revisit the definition of Anderson-Thakur polynomials and that the deformation series can be specialized to CMPLs, ∞ -adic MZVs and ∞ -adic AMZVs. We prove our main theorem in §3 based on the preliminaries in §2 and conclude with applications that provide linear independence sets of special values and Corollary 1.3.

2 PRELIMINARIES

2.1 NOTATIONS

We now define the following notation.

q = a power of a prime number p .

\mathbb{F}_q = a finite field with q elements.

θ, t = independent variables.

A = the polynomial ring $\mathbb{F}_q[\theta]$.

A_+ = the set of monic polynomials in A .

A_{d+} = the set of elements in A_+ of degree d .

k = the rational function field $\mathbb{F}_q(\theta)$.

k_∞ = the completion of k at the infinite place ∞ , $\mathbb{F}_q((\frac{1}{\theta}))$.

$\overline{k_\infty}$ = a fixed algebraic closure of k_∞ .

\mathbb{C}_∞ = the completion of $\overline{k_\infty}$ at the infinite place ∞ .

\overline{k} = a fixed algebraic closure of k in \mathbb{C}_∞ .

k^{sep} = a fixed separable closure of k in \overline{k} .

$|\cdot|_\infty$ = a fixed absolute value for the completed field \mathbb{C}_∞ such that $|\theta|_\infty = q$.

\mathbb{T} = the Tate algebra over \mathbb{C}_∞ , the subring of $\mathbb{C}_\infty[[t]]$ consisting of power series convergent on the closed unit disc $|t|_\infty \leq 1$.

$\mathcal{E} = \{ \sum_{i=0}^\infty a_i t^i \in \overline{k}[[t]] \mid \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} |a_i|_\infty^{1/i} = 0, [k_\infty(a_0, a_1, \dots) : k_\infty] < \infty \}$.

$\text{ord}_\alpha(f)$ = the vanishing order of $f \in \mathcal{E}$ at $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}_\infty$.

$D_i = \prod_{j=0}^{i-1} (\theta^{q^i} - \theta^{q^j}) \in A_+$, where $D_0 := 1$.

Γ_{n+1} = the Carlitz gamma, $\prod_i D_i^{n_i}$ ($n = \sum_i n_i q^i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ ($0 \leq n_i \leq q-1$)).

2.2 ANDERSON DUAL t -MOTIVES AND FROBENIUS MODULES

In this section, we recall the notion of Frobenius modules and Anderson dual t -motives. Here, we use the term Anderson dual t -motives for those called dual t -motives in [ABP04, Def. 4.4.1] and Anderson t -motives in [P08, Def. 3.4.1]. We denote by $\overline{k}[t, \sigma]$ the non-commutative $\overline{k}[t]$ -algebra generated by σ subject to the following relation:

$$\sigma f = f^{(-1)} \sigma, \quad f \in \overline{k}[t].$$

DEFINITION 2.1 ([CPY19, Sec. 2.2]). A *Frobenius module* is a left $\overline{k}[t, \sigma]$ -module that is free of finite rank over $\overline{k}[t]$. We define morphisms of Frobenius modules by left $\overline{k}[t, \sigma]$ -module homomorphisms and denote by \mathcal{F} the category of Frobenius modules.

Let M be a Frobenius module with a fixed $\overline{k}[t]$ -basis $\mathbf{m} = (\mathbf{m}_1, \dots, \mathbf{m}_r)^{\text{tr}}$, where $r = \text{rank}_{\overline{k}[t]} M$. Then, the σ -action can be represented by a matrix $\Phi \in \text{Mat}_r(\overline{k}[t])$. In other words, we have $\sigma\mathbf{m} = \Phi\mathbf{m}$. Conversely, once we fix a free $\overline{k}[t]$ -module M of rank r with a fixed $\overline{k}[t]$ -basis $\mathbf{m} = (\mathbf{m}_1, \dots, \mathbf{m}_r)^{\text{tr}}$ and $\Phi \in \text{Mat}_r(\overline{k}[t])$, we can naturally obtain a Frobenius module structure on M by setting $\sigma\mathbf{m} = \Phi\mathbf{m}$. In this case, we call M the Frobenius module defined by Φ .

DEFINITION 2.2. An *Anderson dual t -motive* is a left $\overline{k}[t, \sigma]$ -module M satisfying that

- (i) M is a free left $\overline{k}[t]$ -module of finite rank,
- (ii) M is a free left $\overline{k}[\sigma]$ -module of finite rank,
- (iii) $(t - \theta)^s M \subset \sigma M$ for all sufficiently large $s \in \mathbb{Z}$.

EXAMPLE 2.3. The *trivial Frobenius module* is defined by $\mathbf{1} = \overline{k}[t]$ with the σ -action given by $\sigma f = f^{(-1)}$ for each $f \in \overline{k}[t]$. Note that $\mathbf{1}$ is *not* an Anderson dual t -motive, as it is not of finite rank as a left $\overline{k}[\sigma]$ -module.

EXAMPLE 2.4. Let $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. Then, the n -th *tensor power of the Carlitz motive* is defined by $C^{\otimes n} = \overline{k}[t]$ with the σ -action given by $\sigma f = f^{(-1)}(t - \theta)^n$ for each $f \in \overline{k}[t]$. Note that $C^{\otimes n}$ is an Anderson dual t -motive, the set $\{1\}$ forms a $\overline{k}[t]$ -basis of $C^{\otimes n}$ and the set $\{(t - \theta)^{n-1}, \dots, (t - \theta), 1\}$ forms a $\overline{k}[\sigma]$ -basis of $C^{\otimes n}$.

Next, we construct the Anderson dual t -motive M'_* via the fiber coproduct method, which was introduced in [CM21]. To begin, let us introduce some notions. We first recall the power series defined in (1.6)

$$\Omega(t) = (-\theta)^{\frac{-q}{q-1}} \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \left(1 - \frac{t}{\theta^{q^i}}\right) \in \mathcal{E}.$$

Note that $\Omega(t)$ satisfies the Frobenius difference equation

$$\Omega^{(-1)} = (t - \theta)\Omega. \tag{2.1}$$

Given a polynomial $Q := \sum_i c_i t^i \in \overline{k}[t]$, we define $\|Q\|_{\infty} := \max_i \{|c_i|_{\infty}\}$. For an r -tuple $\mathfrak{s} = (s_1, \dots, s_r) \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}^r$, we set $\mathbb{D}_{\mathfrak{s}}$ as the collection of all $\Omega := (Q_1, \dots, Q_r) \in \overline{k}[t]^r$ satisfying the following two conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\|Q_1\|_{\infty}/|\theta|_{\infty}^{qs_1/(q-1)})^{q^{i_1}} \dots (\|Q_r\|_{\infty}/|\theta|_{\infty}^{qs_r/(q-1)})^{q^{i_r}} \rightarrow 0 \\ & \text{as } 0 \leq i_r < \dots < i_1 \text{ and } i_1 \rightarrow \infty, \end{aligned} \tag{2.2}$$

$$aQ_r \notin (\sigma - 1)C^{\otimes s_r} \text{ for all } a \in \mathbb{F}_q[t] \text{ with } a \neq 0. \tag{2.3}$$

Condition (2.2) guarantees that the series $\mathcal{L}_{[i],j}$ given in (1.7) defines an entire function, and condition (2.3) implies that the special point we consider in Theorem 3.1 and Proposition 3.3 is not an $\mathbb{F}_q[t]$ -torsion element under the isomorphism given in Theorem 2.7.

Next, we set Anderson dual t -motives $\{M'_{[i]}\}$ and construct the fiber coproduct over $C^{\otimes w}$ of them. Let $w \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, $S = \{\mathfrak{s}_0, \dots, \mathfrak{s}_m\} \subset I(w)$ with $\mathfrak{s}_0 = (w)$. Let $r_i := \text{dep}(\mathfrak{s}_i)$ for each $0 \leq i \leq m$. For $\mathfrak{s}_i = (s_{i1}, \dots, s_{ir_i}) \in I(w)$ and $\mathfrak{Q}_i = (Q_{i1}, \dots, Q_{ir_i}) \in \mathbb{D}_{\mathfrak{s}_i}$, we define the square matrix $\Phi_{[i]} \in \text{Mat}_{r_i+1}(\overline{k}[t])$ and the column vector $\psi_{[i]} \in \text{Mat}_{(r_i+1) \times 1}(\mathcal{E})$ as follows:

$$\Phi_{[i]} := \begin{pmatrix} (t-\theta)^{s_{i1}+\dots+s_{ir_i}} & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ Q_{i1}^{(-1)}(t-\theta)^{s_{i1}+\dots+s_{ir_i}} & (t-\theta)^{s_{i2}+\dots+s_{ir_i}} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & Q_{i2}^{(-1)}(t-\theta)^{s_{i2}+\dots+s_{ir_i}} & \ddots & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & (t-\theta)^{s_{ir_i}} & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & Q_{ir_i}^{(-1)}(t-\theta)^{s_{ir_i}} & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$\psi_{[i]} := \begin{pmatrix} \Omega^{s_{i1}+\dots+s_{ir_i}} \\ \Omega^{s_{i2}+\dots+s_{ir_i}} \mathcal{L}_{[i],1} \\ \vdots \\ \Omega^{s_{ir_i}} \mathcal{L}_{[i],r_i-1} \\ \mathcal{L}_{[i],r_i} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Here, we recall the special series defined in (1.7)

$$\mathcal{L}_{[i],j} := \sum_{\ell_1 > \dots > \ell_j \geq 0} (\Omega^{s_{ij}} Q_{ij})^{(\ell_j)} \dots (\Omega^{s_{i1}} Q_{i1})^{(\ell_1)} \in \mathcal{E}. \tag{2.4}$$

We remark that this series satisfies the Frobenius difference equation:

$$\mathcal{L}_{[i],j}^{(-1)} = \mathcal{L}_{[i],j} + (\Omega^{s_{ij}} Q_{s_{ij}-1})^{(-1)} \mathcal{L}_{[i],j-1}. \tag{2.5}$$

Here, we set $\mathcal{L}_{[i],0} = 1$. For later convenience, we set $\mathcal{L}_{[i]} := \mathcal{L}_{[i],r_i}$. Importantly, the deformation series $\mathcal{L}_{[i],j}$ has the property that

$$\mathcal{L}_{[i],j}(\theta^{q^N}) = (\mathcal{L}_{[i],j}(\theta))^{q^N} \tag{2.6}$$

for all $N \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ (See [C14, Lem. 5.3.5], [CPY19, Prop. 2.3.3]).

To simplify our notation, for $r_i \geq 2$, we express

$$\Phi_{[i]} = \left(\begin{array}{c|c|c} (t-\theta)^w & 0 & 0 \\ D_{[i]} & \Phi''_{[i]} & 0 \\ \hline 0 & \nu_{[i]} & 1 \end{array} \right), \Phi'_{[i]} = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} (t-\theta)^w & 0 \\ \hline D_{[i]} & \Phi''_{[i]} \end{array} \right).$$

where $D_{[i]} \in \text{Mat}_{(r_i-1) \times 1}(\overline{k}[t])$, $\nu_{[i]} \in \text{Mat}_{1 \times (r_i-1)}(\overline{k}[t])$ and $\Phi''_{[i]} \in \text{Mat}_{r_i-1}(\overline{k}[t])$. We further set

$$\psi_{[i]} = \begin{pmatrix} \Omega^w \\ \psi''_{[i]} \\ \mathcal{L}_{[i]} \end{pmatrix}, \psi'_{[i]} = \begin{pmatrix} \Omega^w \\ \psi''_{[i]} \end{pmatrix}$$

where $\psi''_{[i]} \in \text{Mat}_{(r_i-1) \times 1}(\mathcal{E})$.
 For $r_i = 1$, we express

$$\Phi_{[i]} = \begin{pmatrix} (t-\theta)^w & 0 \\ \nu_{[i]} & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \Phi'_{[i]} = ((t-\theta)^w)$$

and

$$\psi_{[i]} = \begin{pmatrix} \Omega^w \\ \mathcal{L}_{[i]} \end{pmatrix}, \psi'_{[i]} = (\Omega^w).$$

For each $H = (h_1, \dots, h_m) \in \text{Mat}_{1 \times m}(\mathcal{E})$, we denote by $\text{ord}_\alpha(H) := \{\text{ord}_\alpha(h_j)\}_{j=1}^m$ for $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}_\infty$. The following lemma is crucial in the proof of our main theorem.

LEMMA 2.5. *Suppose that $r_i \geq 2$, $\mathcal{L}_{[i],j}(\theta) \neq 0$ for all $1 \leq i \leq m$ and $1 \leq j \leq r_i - 1$. We thus have*

$$\text{ord}_{\theta^N}(\psi''_{[i]}) = \{w - s_{i1}, \dots, w - s_{i1} - \dots - s_{ir_i-1}\} = g(\mathfrak{s}_i)$$

for all $N \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$.

Proof. Recall from the definition that

$$\psi''_{[i]} = \begin{pmatrix} \Omega^{s_{i2} + \dots + s_{ir_i}} \mathcal{L}_{[i],1} \\ \vdots \\ \Omega^{s_{ir_i}} \mathcal{L}_{[i],r_i-1} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Since $\mathcal{L}_{[i],j}(\theta) \neq 0$ for all $1 \leq i \leq m$ and $1 \leq j \leq r_i - 1$, we can use (2.6) to deduce that

$$\text{ord}_{\theta^N}(\Omega^{s_{i(j+1)} + \dots + s_{ir_i}} \mathcal{L}_{[i],j}) = \text{ord}_{\theta^N}(\Omega^{s_{i(j+1)} + \dots + s_{ir_i}}) = w - s_{i1} - \dots - s_{ij}.$$

Then, the desired result immediately follows. □

Now, we consider the Frobenius difference equation associated with $\mathbb{F}_q[t]$ -linear combinations $a_0 \mathcal{L}_{[0]} + \dots + a_m \mathcal{L}_{[m]}$ for some $a_0, \dots, a_m \in \mathbb{F}_q[t]$. The result is given by

$$\Phi_\star := \begin{pmatrix} (t-\theta)^w & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ D_{[1]} & \Phi''_{[1]} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ D_{[m]} & & & \Phi''_{[m]} & 0 \\ a_0 \nu_{[0]} & \dots & \dots & a_m \nu_{[m]} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.7}$$

and

$$\psi_\star := \begin{pmatrix} \Omega^w \\ \psi''_{[1]} \\ \vdots \\ \psi''_{[m]} \\ a_0\mathcal{L}_{[0]} + \cdots + a_m\mathcal{L}_{[m]} \end{pmatrix}. \tag{2.8}$$

One can check that $\psi_\star^{(-1)} = \Phi_\star \psi_\star$ by direct computation using (2.1) and (2.5). To simplify the notation, we set

$$\Phi_\star = \begin{pmatrix} \Phi'_\star & 0 \\ \nu_\star & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{2.9}$$

Let $M'_{[i]}$ (resp. M'_\star) be the Frobenius module defined by $\Phi'_{[i]}$ (resp. Φ'_\star). Then, one can check directly that $M'_{[i]}$ defines an Anderson dual t -motive and M'_\star is the fiber coproduct [CM21, Sec. 2.4] of $\{M'_{[i]}\}$ over $C^{\otimes w}$. Therefore, M'_\star also defines an Anderson dual t -motive by [CM21, Prop. 2.4.5].

2.3 THE Ext^1 -MODULE AND ANDERSON t -MODULES

In this section, we recall the isomorphism between certain Ext^1 -modules and Anderson t -modules due to Anderson’s idea.

First, we review the definition of Anderson t -modules. Let L be an A -field with $A \subset L \subset \mathbb{C}_\infty$, and let $\tau := (x \mapsto x^q) : L \rightarrow L$ be the Frobenius q -th power operator. Let $L[\tau]$ be the twisted polynomial ring in τ over L subject to the relation $\tau\alpha = \alpha^q\tau$ for $\alpha \in L$.

DEFINITION 2.6 ([A86]). Let L be an A -field with $A \subset L \subset \mathbb{C}_\infty$. For a fixed $d \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, a d -dimensional Anderson t -module defined over L is a pair $E = (\mathbb{G}_a^d, \rho)$ where \mathbb{G}_a^d is the d -dimensional additive group scheme over L and ρ is an \mathbb{F}_q -linear ring homomorphism

$$\begin{aligned} \rho : \mathbb{F}_q[t] &\rightarrow \text{Mat}_d(L[\tau]) \\ a &\mapsto \rho_a \end{aligned}$$

such that when we write $\rho_t = \alpha_0 + \sum_i \alpha_i \tau^i$ with $\alpha_i \in \text{Mat}_d(L)$, $\alpha_0 - \theta I_d$ is a nilpotent matrix. A morphism of Anderson t -modules defined over L is a morphism of additive group schemes over L commuting with $\mathbb{F}_q[t]$ -action. That is, for Anderson t -modules $E = (\mathbb{G}_a^d, \rho)$ and $F = (\mathbb{G}_a^m, \mu)$ over L , the morphism f satisfies $f\rho_a = \mu_a f$ ($a \in \mathbb{F}_q[t]$).

Later on, supposing that $L \subset F$ is a field extension, we consider the F -valued points of the Anderson t -module E defined over L and denote it by $E(F)$: that is, a pair $(\mathbb{G}_a^d(F), \rho)$ of the F -valued points of \mathbb{G}_a^d and the \mathbb{F}_q -linear ring homomorphism ρ such that $\rho(\mathbb{F}_q[t]) \subset \text{Mat}_d(F[\tau])$.

We fix an Anderson dual t -motive M' of rank d over $\bar{k}[t]$, which is defined by the matrix $\Phi' \in \text{Mat}_d(\bar{k}[t])$. Then, we define $\text{Ext}^1_{\mathcal{F}}(\mathbf{1}, M')$ to be the left

$\mathbb{F}_q[t]$ -module of equivalence classes $[M]$ of Frobenius modules M , which fits into the following short exact sequence of Frobenius modules:

$$0 \rightarrow M' \rightarrow M \rightarrow \mathbf{1} \rightarrow 0.$$

The left $\mathbb{F}_q[t]$ -module structure of $\mathrm{Ext}_{\mathcal{F}}^1(\mathbf{1}, M')$ comes from the Baer sum and pushout of morphisms of M' . Specifically, the structure is described as follows. We assume that $M_1, M_2 \in \mathcal{F}$ are defined by

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Phi' & 0 \\ \mathbf{v}_1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \Phi' & 0 \\ \mathbf{v}_2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathrm{Mat}_{d+1}(\overline{k}[t])$$

respectively, and both fit into the above short exact sequence. Then, the Baer sum $M_1 +_B M_2$ of M_1 and M_2 is a Frobenius module defined by the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Phi' & 0 \\ \mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Moreover, by taking the scalar product with $a \in \mathbb{F}_q[t]$, we obtain an endomorphism $a : M' \rightarrow M'$. Then, the pushout $a * M_1$ of the endomorphism is a Frobenius module defined by

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Phi' & 0 \\ a\mathbf{v}_1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then, $\mathrm{Ext}_{\mathcal{F}}^1(\mathbf{1}, M')$ forms an $\mathbb{F}_q[t]$ -module with

$$[M_1] + [M_2] := [M_1 +_B M_2], \quad a[M_1] := [a * M_1] \quad (a \in \mathbb{F}_q[t])$$

for representatives $[M_1], [M_2] \in \mathrm{Ext}_{\mathcal{F}}^1(\mathbf{1}, M')$. Anderson proved the following result involving $\mathrm{Ext}_{\mathcal{F}}^1(\mathbf{1}, M')$.

THEOREM 2.7 (Anderson, [CPY19, Thm. 5.2.1]). *Let M' be an Anderson dual t -motive. Then, we have the following $\mathbb{F}_q[t]$ -module isomorphism:*

$$\mathrm{Ext}_{\mathcal{F}}^1(\mathbf{1}, M') \cong M' / (\sigma - 1)M' \cong E'(\overline{k}) \tag{2.10}$$

where E' is the Anderson t -module associated with M' defined over \overline{k} in the sense that the \overline{k} -valued point of E' is isomorphic to $M' / (\sigma - 1)M'$ as \mathbb{F}_q -vector spaces and the $\mathbb{F}_q[t]$ -module structure on E' via ρ is induced by the $\mathbb{F}_q[t]$ -action on $M' / (\sigma - 1)M'$.

For more details about the construction of these isomorphisms, see [CPY19, Sec. 5.2]. We also refer readers to [PR03], [HP04], [Ta10] and [HJ16] for a related discussion.

For the n -th tensor power of the Carlitz motive, the isomorphisms (2.10) are described in the following example.

EXAMPLE 2.8. Let $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. The n -th tensor power of the Carlitz module is the associated Anderson t -module of $C^{\otimes n}$, which is given by $\mathbf{C}^{\otimes n} := (\mathbb{G}_a^n, [\cdot]_n)$, where $[\cdot]_n$ is uniquely determined by

$$[t]_n := \begin{pmatrix} \theta & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ & \theta & \ddots & \vdots \\ & & \ddots & 1 \\ \tau & & & \theta \end{pmatrix} \in \text{Mat}_n(\mathbb{C}_\infty[\tau]).$$

Recall that $C^{\otimes n}$ has a $\bar{k}[\sigma]$ -basis $\{(t - \theta)^{n-1}, \dots, (t - \theta), 1\}$; thus, every $f \in C^{\otimes n}/(\sigma - 1)C^{\otimes n}$ has a unique representative with t -degree less than or equal to $n - 1$ of the form

$$f_1(t - \theta)^{n-1} + f_2(t - \theta)^{n-2} + \cdots + f_n, \quad f_i \in \bar{k}.$$

Then, the isomorphisms (2.10) can be explicitly described as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{F}}^1(\mathbf{1}, C^{\otimes n}) &\cong C^{\otimes n}/(\sigma - 1)C^{\otimes n} \cong \mathbf{C}^{\otimes n}(\bar{k}) \\ [M_f] &\mapsto f + (\sigma - 1)C^{\otimes n} \mapsto (f_1, \dots, f_n)^{\text{tr}} \end{aligned}$$

where M_f is the Frobenius module defined by the matrix

$$\Phi_f := \begin{pmatrix} (t - \theta)^n & 0 \\ f^{(-1)}(t - \theta)^n & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Next, we present two lemmas that enable us to consider linear independence of certain special values via the torsion elements of Anderson t -modules and Ext^1 -modules. The first lemma concerns the $\bar{k}(t)$ -linear independence of elements in \mathcal{E} .

LEMMA 2.9. *Let $f_1, \dots, f_m \in \mathcal{E}$ be non-zero elements and $c_1, \dots, c_m \in \bar{k}(t)$ such that $c_1 f_1 + \cdots + c_m f_m = 0$. Suppose that there are infinitely many $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}_\infty$ such that $\text{ord}_\alpha(f_i)$ is different for each i . Then, we have $c_i = 0$ for all $1 \leq i \leq m$.*

Proof. We prove this lemma by induction. In the case $m = 1$, on the basis of the assumption that $f_1 \neq 0$ and $f_1 \in \mathcal{E}$, it follows that there are infinitely many $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}_\infty$ that satisfy $f_1|_{t=\alpha} \neq 0$ or otherwise f_1 must vanish identically by the entireness. Indeed, non-zero elements in \mathcal{E} only admit finitely many zeros in any bounded disc centred on 0 according to [Go96, Prop.2.11]. Therefore, there are infinitely many $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}_\infty$ such that $c_1|_{t=\alpha} = 0$ since $c_1 f_1 = 0$. Then, because $c_1 \in \bar{k}(t)$ and every non-zero element in $\bar{k}(t)$ has only finitely many zeros, we conclude that c_1 vanishes identically and we complete the case of $m = 1$. In the case $m = N$, based on the assumptions, we can choose $1 \leq j \leq N$ such that there are infinitely many $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}_\infty$ with $\text{ord}_\alpha(f_j) < \text{ord}_\alpha(f_i)$ for all $1 \leq i \neq j \leq N$. Without loss of generality, we may assume that $j = N$. Since c_1, \dots, c_N are rational functions, they only admit finitely many poles. Thus, there are infinitely many $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}_\infty$ such that

$$(c_1 f_1 + \cdots + c_N f_N)(t - \alpha)^{-\text{ord}_\alpha(f_N)}$$

is defined at $t = \alpha$. By evaluating the above quantity at $t = \alpha$, we obtain $c_N|_{t=\alpha} = 0$ for infinitely many $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}_\infty$ since

$$f_i(t - \alpha)^{-\text{ord}_\alpha(f_N)}|_{t=\alpha} = 0$$

for all $1 \leq i < N$ and

$$f_N(t - \alpha)^{-\text{ord}_\alpha(f_N)}|_{t=\alpha} \neq 0.$$

Hence, c_N vanishes identically, and the desired result follows immediately from the induction hypothesis. \square

In what follows, we establish a criterion for elements being a torsion element in certain Ext^1 -modules.

LEMMA 2.10 (cf. [CPY19, Thm. 2.5.2]). *Let $S = \{\mathfrak{s}_0, \dots, \mathfrak{s}_m\} \subset I(w)$ be g -independent with $\mathfrak{s}_0 = (w)$, and let $\mathfrak{Q}_i \in \mathbb{D}_{\mathfrak{s}_i}$ such that $\mathcal{L}_{[i],j}(\theta) \neq 0$ for each $0 \leq i \leq m$ and $1 \leq j \leq r_i$. Let M_\star be the Frobenius module defined by Φ_\star . If $a_0\mathcal{L}_{[0]} + \dots + a_m\mathcal{L}_{[m]}$ vanishes at $t = \theta$, then $[M_\star]$ is an $\mathbb{F}_q[t]$ -torsion element in $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{F}}^1(\mathbf{1}, M'_\star)$.*

Proof. It suffices to show that there exists a non-zero $b \in \mathbb{F}_q[t]$ such that $b[M_\star]$ represents the trivial class in $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{F}}^1(\mathbf{1}, M'_\star)$. Consider the associated Frobenius difference equation $\psi_\star^{(-1)} = \Phi_\star\psi_\star$ defined in (2.7) and (2.8). Then, according to [ABP04, Thm. 3.1.1], there exists $\mathbf{f} = (f_0, \vec{f}_1, \dots, \vec{f}_m, f_{m+1})$ with $f_0, f_{m+1} \in \bar{k}[t]$ and $\vec{f}_i \in \text{Mat}_{1 \times (r_i-1)}(\bar{k}[t])$ for each $1 \leq i \leq m$ such that $\mathbf{f}\psi_\star = 0$ and $\mathbf{f}(\theta) = (0, \dots, 0, 1)$. We set $\mathbf{f}' := (f'_0, \vec{f}'_1, \dots, \vec{f}'_m, 1)$, where

$$f'_0 = f_0/f_{m+1} \in \bar{k}(t) \text{ and } \vec{f}'_i = \frac{1}{f_{m+1}} \vec{f}_i \in \text{Mat}_{1 \times (r_i-1)}(\bar{k}(t))$$

for each $1 \leq i \leq m-1$. Note that $\mathbf{f}'\psi_\star = 0$; thus, $(\mathbf{f}' - \mathbf{f}'^{(-1)}\Phi_\star)\psi_\star = 0$. Therefore, by setting

$$\mathbf{f}' - \mathbf{f}'^{(-1)}\Phi_\star = (R_0, \vec{R}_1, \dots, \vec{R}_m, 0),$$

we obtain

$$R_0\Omega^w + \vec{R}_1 \cdot \psi''_{[1]} + \dots + \vec{R}_m \cdot \psi''_{[m]} = 0.$$

Lemma 2.5 yields

$$\text{ord}_{\theta^q N}(\psi''_{[i]}) \cap \text{ord}_{\theta^q N}(\psi''_{[j]}) = g(\mathfrak{s}_i) \cap g(\mathfrak{s}_j) = \emptyset$$

for all $N \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ $1 \leq i \neq j \leq m$. One can now check directly that

$$\text{ord}_{\theta^q N}((\Omega^w, \psi''_{[1]}, \dots, \psi''_{[m]})^{\text{tr}}) = \{w\} \cup g(\mathfrak{s}_1) \cup \dots \cup g(\mathfrak{s}_m)$$

is a disjoint union for all $N \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$. Then, Lemma 2.9 shows that $R_0 = 0$ and $\vec{R}_i = \vec{0}$ for all $1 \leq i \leq m$. If we consider

$$\gamma := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & & & \\ & \mathbb{I}_{r_1-1} & & & & \\ & & \ddots & & & \\ & & & & \mathbb{I}_{r_m-1} & \\ f'_0 & \vec{f}'_1 & \dots & \vec{f}'_m & & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

where \mathbb{I}_n denote by $n \times n$ identity matrix, then we have

$$\gamma^{(-1)} \begin{pmatrix} \Phi'_* \\ \nu_* & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \Phi'_* \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} \gamma,$$

where Φ'_* and ν_* are given in (2.9). Now, according to [CPY19, Prop. 2.2.1], there exists a non-zero $b \in \mathbb{F}_q[t]$ such that $bf'_0 \in \overline{k}[t]$ and $b\vec{f}'_i \in \text{Mat}_{1 \times (r_{i-1})}(\overline{k}[t])$ for all $1 \leq i \leq m$. If we consider

$$\delta := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & & \\ & \mathbb{I}_{r_1-1} & & & \\ & & \ddots & & \\ & & & \mathbb{I}_{r_m-1} & \\ bf'_0 & b\vec{f}'_1 & \cdots & b\vec{f}'_m & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

then we have

$$\delta^{(-1)} \begin{pmatrix} \Phi'_* \\ b\nu_* & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \Phi'_* \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} \delta.$$

Consequently, by changing the $\overline{k}[t]$ -basis of $b * M_*$ with δ , we conclude that $b[M_*]$ represents the trivial class in $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{F}}^1(\mathbf{1}, M'_*)$, and the desired result follows immediately. \square

2.4 ANDERSON-THAKUR POLYNOMIALS AND SPECIAL VALUES

Before we move to the main theorem, let us first briefly review Anderson-Thakur polynomials [AT90]. These polynomials are needed to describe the applications of Theorem 3.1 to ∞ -adic MZVs, ∞ -adic AMZVs and CMPLs at algebraic points. Set $F_0 := 1$ and $F_i := \prod_{j=1}^i (t^{q^i} - \theta^{q^j})$ and define the Anderson-Thakur polynomials $H_n \in A[t]$ by the following generating function:

$$\left(1 - \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{F_i}{D_i|_{\theta=t}} x^{q^i} \right)^{-1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{H_n}{\Gamma_{n+1}|_{\theta=t}} x^n.$$

In [Ch17, Thm. 3.3], H_n is explicitly given for some specific $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, as follows:

EXAMPLE 2.11.

$$H_0(t) = 1, H_{q^2-q-1}(t) = \Gamma_{q^2-q}|_{\theta=t}, H_{q^3-1}(t) = \Gamma_{q^3}|_{\theta=t}.$$

Let $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ and $i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$. We set the power sum to be

$$S_i(n) := \sum_{a \in A_{i+}} \frac{1}{a^n} \in k.$$

Then, an important identity established in [AT90] is the following:

$$(\Omega^n H_{n-1})^{(i)}|_{t=\theta} = \frac{\Gamma_n S_i(n)}{\tilde{\pi}^n}. \tag{2.11}$$

Based on (2.11), it has been shown that many special values appear in the specialization of the deformation series given in (1.7). We collect some results from [AT90], [P08], [AT09], [C14], [C16], [CPY19], and [H20] to state the following proposition.

PROPOSITION 2.12. *Let $\mathfrak{s} = (s_1, \dots, s_r) \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}^r$ and $\Omega = (Q_1, \dots, Q_r) \in \overline{k}[t]^r$. We set*

$$\mathcal{L} := \mathcal{L}_{\mathfrak{s}, \Omega} := \sum_{\ell_1 > \dots > \ell_r \geq 0} (\Omega^{s_r} Q_r)^{(\ell_r)} \dots (\Omega^{s_1} Q_1)^{(\ell_1)} \in \overline{k}[[t]].$$

1. *If $\Omega = (u_1, \dots, u_r) \in \mathbb{D}_{\mathfrak{s}} \cap (\overline{k})^r$, then*

$$\mathcal{L} \Big|_{t=\theta} = \frac{\text{Li}_{\mathfrak{s}}(u_1, \dots, u_r)}{\tilde{\pi}^{s_1 + \dots + s_r}}.$$

2. *If $\Omega = (H_{s_1-1}, \dots, H_{s_r-1})$, then*

$$\mathcal{L} \Big|_{t=\theta} = \frac{\Gamma_{s_1} \dots \Gamma_{s_r} \zeta_A(\mathfrak{s})}{\tilde{\pi}^{s_1 + \dots + s_r}}.$$

3. *If $\Omega = (\gamma_1 H_{s_1-1}, \dots, \gamma_r H_{s_r-1})$, where γ_i is a fixed $(q-1)$ -th root of $\epsilon_i \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$ for $\epsilon = (\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_r) \in (\mathbb{F}_q^\times)^r$, then*

$$\mathcal{L} \Big|_{t=\theta} = \frac{\gamma_1 \dots \gamma_r \Gamma_{s_1} \dots \Gamma_{s_r} \zeta_A(\mathfrak{s}; \epsilon)}{\tilde{\pi}^{s_1 + \dots + s_r}}.$$

REMARK 2.13. For our purpose, the identity of ∞ -adic AMZVs given in Proposition 2.12 is slightly different than the original version given in [H20, Thm. 3.4]. To derive Proposition 2.12 (3), we combine (2.11) with the fact that for each $\epsilon \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$ and fixed $(q-1)$ -th root γ of ϵ , we have $\gamma^{(i)} = \gamma \cdot \epsilon^i$ for all $i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$. Then, an argument similar to that of [H20, Thm. 3.4] gives the desired identity.

3 THE MAIN RESULT AND APPLICATIONS

In this section, we first state our main theorem and then present some applications.

3.1 MAIN THEOREM

In what follows, we describe and prove our main result, a linear independence criterion for special values that appear in the specialization at $t = \theta$ of the deformation series given in (1.7).

THEOREM 3.1. *For $w \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, let $S = \{\mathfrak{s}_0, \dots, \mathfrak{s}_m\} \subset I(w)$ be g -independent with $\mathfrak{s}_0 = (w)$ and let $\Omega_i \in \mathbb{D}_{\mathfrak{s}_i}$ such that $\mathcal{L}_{[i],j}(\theta) \neq 0$ for each $0 \leq i \leq m$ and $1 \leq j \leq r_i$. If we set $\mathcal{L}_{[i]} := \mathcal{L}_{[i], \text{dep}(\mathfrak{s}_i)}$, then the following set*

$$\{\mathcal{L}_{[0]}(\theta), \dots, \mathcal{L}_{[m]}(\theta)\}$$

is \overline{k} -linearly independent.

Proof. We first note that the k -linear independence of $\{\mathcal{L}_{[0]}(\theta), \dots, \mathcal{L}_{[m]}(\theta)\}$ is equivalent to the k -linear independence of $\{\tilde{\pi}^w \mathcal{L}_{[0]}(\theta), \dots, \tilde{\pi}^w \mathcal{L}_{[m]}(\theta)\}$. Also, we note that each element in $\{\tilde{\pi}^w \mathcal{L}_{[0]}(\theta), \dots, \tilde{\pi}^w \mathcal{L}_{[m]}(\theta)\}$ has the MZ (multi-zeta) property with weight w in the sense of [C14, Def. 3.4.1] (cf. [H20, Sec. 4.2]). Hence, on the basis of [C14, Prop. 4.3.1], we conclude that the k -linear independence of $\{\mathcal{L}_{[0]}(\theta), \dots, \mathcal{L}_{[m]}(\theta)\}$ is equivalent to the \bar{k} -linear independence of $\{\mathcal{L}_{[0]}(\theta), \dots, \mathcal{L}_{[m]}(\theta)\}$.

Thus, to prove the theorem, it suffices to show the k -linearly independence of the set $\{\mathcal{L}_{[0]}(\theta), \dots, \mathcal{L}_{[m]}(\theta)\}$. Suppose on the contrary that $\{\mathcal{L}_{[0]}(\theta), \dots, \mathcal{L}_{[m]}(\theta)\}$ is a k -linearly dependent set. Then, there exists $a_0, \dots, a_m \in \mathbb{F}_q[t]$ not all zero such that

$$a_0(\theta)\mathcal{L}_{[0]}(\theta) + \dots + a_m(\theta)\mathcal{L}_{[m]}(\theta) = 0. \tag{3.1}$$

Now, we consider the Frobenius difference equation associated with the $\mathbb{F}_q[t]$ -linear combinations $a_0\mathcal{L}_{[0]} + \dots + a_m\mathcal{L}_{[m]}$ given in (2.7) and (2.8). Let M_\star be the Frobenius module defined by Φ_\star . Then, Lemma 2.10 shows that $[M_\star]$ represents a torsion element in $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{F}}^1(\mathbf{1}, M'_\star)$. Thus, there is a non-zero element $b \in \mathbb{F}_q[t]$ such that $b[M_\star]$ represents the trivial class in $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{F}}^1(\mathbf{1}, M'_\star)$. Let $\{x_0, x_{11}, \dots, x_{1r_1}, \dots, x_{m1}, \dots, x_{mr_m}\}$ be a $\bar{k}[t]$ -basis of M'_\star such that the σ -action is represented by Φ'_\star . Then, we have the following $\mathbb{F}_q[t]$ -module isomorphism (see [CPY19, Thm. 5.2.1]):

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{F}}^1(\mathbf{1}, M'_\star) &\cong M'_\star / (\sigma - 1)M'_\star \\ [b \star M_\star] &\mapsto ba_0Q_{01}^{(-1)}(t - \theta)^w x_0 + \sum_{i=1}^m ba_i Q_{ir_i}^{(-1)}(t - \theta)^{s_{ir_i}} x_{ir_i} + (\sigma - 1)M'_\star. \end{aligned}$$

Now, we consider the natural projection map

$$\begin{aligned} \pi : M'_\star &\twoheadrightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^m C^{\otimes s_{ir_i}} \\ g_0 x_0 + \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^{r_i} g_{ij} x_{ij} &\mapsto (g_{1r_1}, \dots, g_{mr_m}). \end{aligned}$$

Since $\pi \circ (\sigma - 1) = (\sigma - 1) \circ \pi$ and π is surjective, we deduce that

$$\Delta : E'_\star(\bar{k}) \cong M'_\star / (\sigma - 1)M'_\star \twoheadrightarrow \bigoplus_{i=1}^m (C^{\otimes s_{ir_i}} / (\sigma - 1)C^{\otimes s_{ir_i}}) \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^m \mathbf{C}^{\otimes s_{ir_i}}(\bar{k}). \tag{3.2}$$

Let $\mathbf{v}_{[i]}$ be the point in $\mathbf{C}^{\otimes s_{ir_i}}(\bar{k})$ corresponding to $Q_{ir_i}^{(-1)}(t - \theta)^{s_{ir_i}}$ in $C^{\otimes s_{ir_i}} / (\sigma - 1)C^{\otimes s_{ir_i}}$ for each $1 \leq i \leq m$. Note that $\mathbf{v}_{[i]} \neq 0$ for each $1 \leq i \leq m$ by (2.3). Then, the trivial class $b[M_\star]$ is mapped to $([ba_1]_{s_{1r_1}} \mathbf{v}_{[1]}, \dots, [ba_m]_{s_{mr_m}} \mathbf{v}_{[m]})$ in $\bigoplus_{i=1}^m \mathbf{C}^{\otimes s_{ir_i}}(\bar{k})$ by Δ in (3.2). If there is an a_i that is non-zero, then $\mathbf{v}_{[i]}$ is a non-zero $\mathbb{F}_q[t]$ -torsion element in $\mathbf{C}^{\otimes s_{ir_i}}(\bar{k})$ because $b \neq 0$, $a_i \neq 0$ and $\mathbf{v}_{[i]} \neq 0$, while $[ba_i]_{s_{ir_i}} \mathbf{v}_{[i]} = 0$. This situation leads to a contradiction since $\mathbf{v}_{[i]}$ is not a torsion element according to (2.3). Consequently, we must have $a_i = 0$ for each $1 \leq i \leq m$. Thus, by (3.1), a_0 also vanishes, and we obtain the desired result. \square

REMARK 3.2. Let $r \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. Let $\mathfrak{s} = (s_1, \dots, s_r) \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}^r$ and $\mathfrak{Q} = (Q_1, \dots, Q_r) \in \overline{k}[t]^r$. The difficulty in applying Theorem 3.1 is checking whether \mathfrak{Q} satisfies (2.3). Note that checking condition (2.3) is equivalent to showing that the corresponding point of Q_r in $C^{\otimes s_r}/(\sigma - 1)C^{\otimes s_r} \cong \mathbf{C}^{\otimes s_r}(\overline{k})$ is not an $\mathbb{F}_q[t]$ -torsion point. In general, it is not easy to determine whether a point is an $\mathbb{F}_q[t]$ -torsion in the tensor powers of a Carlitz module. However, in the case of $\mathfrak{Q} = (Q_1, \dots, Q_r) \in k[t]^r$, we may use [AT90, Prop. 1.11.2] to study the k -rational $\mathbb{F}_q[t]$ -torsion points in the tensor powers of a Carlitz module. A detailed discussion of this topic is presented in the next subsection.

3.2 SOME APPLICATIONS

As an application, we describe how to associate a partition of $\{1, \dots, w - 1\}$ to a \overline{k} -linearly independent set of weight w special values, including MZVs. Consider the inverse map of g

$$g^{-1} : g(I(w)) \subset J(w) \rightarrow I(w)$$

$$\{x_1 > \dots > x_{r-1}\} \mapsto (w - x_1, x_1 - x_2, \dots, x_{r-2} - x_{r-1}, x_{r-1}).$$

A partition P of $\{1, \dots, w - 1\}$ is a subset of $J(w)$ such that for all $\mathcal{P} \in P$ and $\mathcal{P}' \in P$, it satisfies that $\mathcal{P} \cap \mathcal{P}' = \emptyset$ and $\bigcup_{\mathcal{P} \in P} \mathcal{P} = \{1, \dots, w - 1\}$. A partition P of $\{1, \dots, w - 1\}$ is called q -admissible if for each $\mathcal{P} \in P$ the minimal element of \mathcal{P} is not divisible by $q - 1$. For example, we can give the following \overline{k} -linearly independent set of ∞ -adic MZVs and CMPLs at rational points whose indices come from the q -admissible partition.

PROPOSITION 3.3. For $w \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, let $S = \{\mathfrak{s}_0, \dots, \mathfrak{s}_m\} \subset I(w)$ be g -independent with $\mathfrak{s}_0 = (w)$ and $\mathfrak{s}_i = (s_{i1}, \dots, s_{ir_i})$. Suppose that $r_i := \text{dep}(\mathfrak{s}_i)$ and s_{ir_i} is not divisible by $q - 1$; then, $\mathfrak{Q}_i = (Q_{i1}, \dots, Q_{ir_i}) \in k[t]^r$ satisfying (2.2) automatically satisfies (2.3). In particular, let $P = \{\mathcal{P}_1, \dots, \mathcal{P}_m\}$ be a q -admissible partition of $\{1, \dots, w - 1\}$. We set $\mathfrak{s}_0 := (w)$ and $\mathfrak{s}_i := g^{-1}(\mathcal{P}_i)$ for $1 \leq i \leq m$. Then, the following collection of ∞ -adic MZVs of weight w

$$\{\zeta_A(w), \zeta_A(\mathfrak{s}_1), \dots, \zeta_A(\mathfrak{s}_m)\}$$

is a \overline{k} -linearly independent set.

Proof. Since we know that the k -rational torsion elements $\mathbf{C}^{\otimes s_{ir_i}}(k)_{\text{tor}} = \{0\}$ unless $q - 1$ divides s_{ir_i} according to [AT90, Prop. 1.11.2], the assumption s_{ir_i} is not divisible by $q - 1$ implies that $\mathfrak{Q}_i = (Q_{i1}, \dots, Q_{ir_i}) \in k[t]^r$ such that \mathfrak{Q}_i satisfying (2.2) automatically satisfies (2.3). Thus, we complete the first assertion.

For the second assertion, we first note that P being q -admissible implies that s_{ir_i} is not divisible by $q - 1$. Additionally, it is clear that $S = \{\mathfrak{s}_0 = (w), \mathfrak{s}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{s}_m\} \subset I(w)$ forms a g -independent set. Thus, the desired \overline{k} -linearly independent result of ∞ -adic MZVs follows directly from Proposition 2.12, Theorem 3.1, and the first assertion. \square

REMARK 3.4. For $w \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, let S be the collection of all indices of depth less than or equal to two and of weight w such that the last entry of each index in S is not divisible by $q - 1$. Then, the same argument as that in the proof of Proposition 3.3 recovers Theorem 1.1.

Next, we present another application of Theorem 3.1. Recall that for $r, w \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, \mathcal{Z}_w^r (resp. $\overline{\mathcal{Z}}_w^r$) is the k -vector space (resp. \overline{k} -vector space) spanned by ∞ -adic MZVs of weight w and depth r , and $\mathcal{Z}_w^{1,r} = \mathcal{Z}_w^1 + \mathcal{Z}_w^r$ (resp. $\overline{\mathcal{Z}}_w^{1,r} = \overline{\mathcal{Z}}_w^1 + \overline{\mathcal{Z}}_w^r$). Then, we have the following:

COROLLARY 3.5. *Let $w \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ and $r \in \mathbb{Z}_{>1}$ be given. Then, we have*

$$\dim_k \mathcal{Z}_w^{1,r} = \dim_{\overline{k}} \overline{\mathcal{Z}}_w^{1,r} \geq 1 + \lfloor \frac{w - 1 - \lfloor \frac{w-1}{q-1} \rfloor}{r - 1} \rfloor.$$

In particular,

$$\dim_k \mathcal{Z}_w^r = \dim_{\overline{k}} \overline{\mathcal{Z}}_w^r \geq \lfloor \frac{w - 1 - \lfloor \frac{w-1}{q-1} \rfloor}{r - 1} \rfloor.$$

Proof. Consider the set

$$\mathcal{S} := \{n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0} \mid 1 \leq n \leq w - 1, n \text{ is not divisible by } q - 1\}.$$

Clearly, the cardinality of \mathcal{S} is

$$|\mathcal{S}| := w - 1 - \lfloor \frac{w - 1}{q - 1} \rfloor.$$

Let $\ell := \lfloor |\mathcal{S}|/(r-1) \rfloor$. Then, it is clear that we can find ℓ many subsets $\mathcal{S}_1, \dots, \mathcal{S}_\ell$ of \mathcal{S} with cardinality $r - 1$ and $\mathcal{S}_i \cap \mathcal{S}_j = \emptyset$ for all $i \neq j$. Now, we set $\mathfrak{s}_i := g^{-1}(\mathcal{S}_i)$ for all $1 \leq i \leq \ell$. Then, $\text{dep}(\mathfrak{s}_i) = r$ and $\{\mathfrak{s}_0 := (w), \mathfrak{s}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{s}_\ell\}$ forms a g -independent set. Thus, Theorem 3.1 together with the second part of Proposition 2.12 shows that $\{\zeta_A(w), \zeta_A(\mathfrak{s}_1), \dots, \zeta_A(\mathfrak{s}_\ell)\}$ is a \overline{k} -linearly independent set. The desired lower bound of $\dim_k \mathcal{Z}_w^{1,r}$ and $\dim_{\overline{k}} \overline{\mathcal{Z}}_w^{1,r}$ follows immediately. \square

We obtain the following linearly independent set between the same-weight ∞ -adic MZVs and the CMPLs at rational points using Proposition 3.3.

EXAMPLE 3.6. Let $q = 5, w = 6, \mathcal{P}_1 = \{1, 3, 5\}$ and $\mathcal{P}_2 = \{2, 4\}$. Then, $P = \{\mathcal{P}_1, \mathcal{P}_2\}$ is a q -admissible partition of $\{1, \dots, 5\}$. Let $\mathfrak{s}_1 = g^{-1}(\mathcal{P}_1) = (1, 2, 2, 1)$ and $\mathfrak{s}_2 = g^{-1}(\mathcal{P}_2) = (2, 2, 2)$. Let $u \in k$ such that $\text{Li}_6(z)$ converges at $z = u$ and $\text{Li}_6(u) \neq 0$. Then,

$$\{\text{Li}_6(u), \zeta_A(1, 2, 2, 1), \zeta_A(2, 2, 2)\}$$

is a \overline{k} -linearly independent set.

We end our exposition by noting some further studies on the algebraic independence of ∞ -adic MZVs by Chang and Yu [CY07] and Mishiba [Mi15a, Mi17].

REMARK 3.7. In [CY07], Chang and Yu proved that the following elements are algebraically independent over \bar{k} :

$$\tilde{\pi}, \zeta_A(n_1), \zeta_A(n_2), \dots, \zeta_A(n_d)$$

where n_1, \dots, n_d are d distinct positive integers such that n_i is not divisible by $q-1$ for each i and n_i/n_j is not an integral power of p for each $i \neq j$. In [Mi15a], Mishiba showed that $\tilde{\pi}, \zeta(n), \zeta(n, n)$ with $2n$ not divisible by $q-1$ are algebraically independent and in [Mi17], showed that the following $1+d(d+1)/2$ elements are algebraically independent over \bar{k} :

$$\{\tilde{\pi}\} \cup \{\zeta_A(n_i) \mid 1 \leq i \leq d\} \cup \{\zeta_A(n_i, n_{i+1}) \mid 1 \leq i \leq d-1\} \cup \dots \cup \{\zeta_A(n_1, \dots, n_d)\}$$

where n_1, \dots, n_d satisfy the same condition as that in Chang and Yu's result. Moreover, Mishiba proved a refined version of [Mi17]; we refer the reader to [Mi15b] for details.

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