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Automorphic forms, congruences, and p-adic L-functions

One approach to studying the p-adic behavior of L-functions relies on understanding p-adic properties of certain automorphic forms, for example congruences satisfied by their Fourier coefficients. In this talk, I will provide an introduction to key techniques used in several constructions of p-adic L-functions. I will start with the earliest examples of p-adic L-functions (due to Serre, Leopoldt, and Kubota) and conclude by mentioning a recently completed construction of myself, Harris, Li, and Skinner.