p-adic Modular Forms and Arithmetic A conference in honor of *Haruzo Hida*on his 60th birthday

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(I knew the truth in all I heard when I turned sixty. Confucious)

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Ching-Li Chai

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UCLA, June 22, 2012

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I. An overview

A PEL type modular variety \mathcal{M} is the moduli space attached to a PEL input datum $\mathcal{D} = (D, *, \mathcal{O}_D, H, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle, h)$, whose points corresponds to abelian varieties with imposed symmetry $(A, \rho : A \to A^t, \iota : \mathcal{O}_D \to \operatorname{End}(A)$, level structure) whose H_1 are modeled on the linear algebra structure \mathcal{D} .

Fix a prime number p, unramified for the PEL datum \mathcal{D} . We will focus on the equal characteristic p situation unless otherwise specified: \mathcal{M} is a moduli space over $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$.

Let $B = \operatorname{End}_D(H)$, with involution $*_B$ induced by *. Let $G = \operatorname{SU}(B, *_B)$ (or $\operatorname{GU}(B, *_B)$.

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Hecke symmetry

Let $\widetilde{\mathscr{M}}$ be the prime-to-p tower for \mathscr{M} ; it is a profinite etale Galois cover of \mathscr{M} with group $G(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}}^{(p)})$. The group $G(\mathbb{A}_f^{(p)})$ operates on $\widetilde{\mathscr{M}}$, inducing Hecke correspondences on \mathscr{M} .

Example: $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{A}_g$ = the moduli space classifying g-dimensional principally polarized abelian varieties, $G = \operatorname{Sp}_{2g}$ (or GSp_{2g})).

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Let $\mathcal{M}^{/x}$ be the formal completion of \mathcal{M} at x.

Let
$$H_x := \mathrm{U}(\mathrm{End}_D^0(A_x), *_{\mathrm{Ros}})(\mathbb{Z}_{(p)})$$
, and let $G_x := \mathrm{U}(\mathrm{End}_D^0(A_x[p^\infty]), *_{\mathrm{Ros}})(\mathbb{Z}_p)$.

The Serre-Tate deformation theorem implies that there is a natural action of the compact p-adic group G_x on $\mathcal{M}^{/x}$, by "changing the marking".

This action can be regarded as a *local version* of the global Hecke symmetries.

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Lemma. If a closed subvariety $Z \subset \mathcal{M}$ is stable under all Hecke symmetries, then $Z^{/x} \subset \mathcal{M}^{/x}$ is stable under the action of the *p*-adic closure of H_x in G_x .

Examples. For a "general" $x \in \mathcal{A}_g(\overline{\mathbb{F}_p})$ " (in particular x is ordinary), the Zariski closure of H_x is a g-dimensional torus, while the Zariski closure of G_x is GL_g .

For a supersingular point $x \in \mathscr{A}_g(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$, H_x is p-adically dense in G_x , and the Zariski closure of G_x is a twist of Sp_{2g} .

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(Oort's Hecke orbit conjecture)

Prediction. Let $Z \subset \mathcal{M}_{/\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p}$ be a reduced closed subset of \mathcal{M} stable under all prime-to-p Hecke correspondences. Then Z contains the leaf C(x) passing through x for every poin $x \in Z(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$.

(Every Hecke-invariant closed subset of $\mathcal{M}_{/\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p}$ is a union of leaves; the latter can be regarded as "generalized Shimura subvarieties in char, p".)

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- A *leaf* C(x) in $\mathcal{M}_{/\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p}$ is the locus in $\mathcal{M}_{/\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p}$ where *all* p-adic invariants have the same "value" as those of x.
- The *ordinary* locus $\mathscr{A}_g^{\operatorname{ord}} \subset \mathscr{A}_{g/\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p}$ is a leaf in $\mathscr{A}_{g\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p}$.
- The leaf passing through a *supersingular* point in \mathcal{A}_g is finite.
- The leaf passing through a point in \mathcal{A}_3 corresponding to a 3-dimensional abelian variety with slopes $\{1/3,2/3\}$ is two-dimensional. Such leaves form a one-dimensional family in the slopes $\{1/3,2/3\}$ locus of \mathcal{A}_3 .

(The latter locus has dimension three.)

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Strong forms of global rigidity problem

Remark. In application(s) to Iwasawa theory pioneered by Hida, certain strong versions of the global rigidity problem appear naturally:

- The assumption on Z is weakened to: Z is stable under the action of a "not-to-small" subset of Hecke correspondences.
- The desired conclusion is that *Z* is a union of leaves in the reduction of certain Shimura subvarieties

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Restricted local rigidity problem (to make it easier): Assume in addition that $Z \subset C(x)^{/x}$.

Desired conclusion. *Z* has a (very) special form (e.g. defined by a finite collection of Tate cycles.)

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Set-up. $Z \subset \mathcal{M}^{/x}$ is a reduced closed formal subscheme of $\mathcal{M}^{/x}$, stable under the action of a "not-too-small" subgroup of G_x .

Restricted local rigidity problem (to make it easier): Assume in addition that $Z \subset C(x)^{/x}$.

Desired conclusion. *Z* has a (very) special form (e.g. defined by a finite collection of Tate cycles.)

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II. Known results, obstacles and hope

Propostion. Restricted local rigidity holds for \mathcal{A}_g , in the case when A_x has only two slopes.

- $C(x)^{/x}$ has a natural structure as a torsor for an isoclinic p-divisible formal group X_x .
- If $Z \subset C(x)^{/x}$ is stable under a not-too-small subgroup of G_x , then Z_x is a torsor for a p-divisible subgroup of X_x .

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- If $Z \subset C(x)^{/x}$ is stable under a not-too-small subgroup of G_r , then Z_r is a torsor for a p-divisible subgroup of X_r .

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Restricted local rigidity: an example and consequences

An example. Let Z be an irreducible forma subscheme of a formal torus $\hat{\mathbb{G}}_m^r$ over $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$. Suppose that Z is closed under the action of $[1+p^m]$ for some $m \geq 2$. Then Z is a formal subtorus of $\hat{\mathbb{G}}_m^r$ (exercise)

Consequence of restricted local rigidity: linearization of the global rigidity problem, helped by considerations of local and global *p*-adic monodromy

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Theorem. Global rigidity holds for \mathcal{A}_g .

Remarks. (1) Besides the restricted local rigidity and monodromy arguments, the proof uses a trick:

Every point $x \in \mathscr{A}_g(\mathbb{F}_p)$ is contained in a Hilbert modular subvariety of \mathscr{A}_g .

- (2) This "Hilbert trick" fails for PEL modular varieties of type A or D.
- (3) A strong global rigidity statement holds for Hilbert modular varieties (and many othother modular varieties associated to semisimple groups of Q-rank one).

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The **holy grail** for the rigidity problems (don't have better leads):

To pry actionable intelligence out of the action of the local stabilizing subgroup.

Main obstacle: Our poor understanding of this action (so cannot deploy enhanced interrogation techniques).

- Don't have helpful (exact or approximate) formulas (have tried Norman's algorithm).
- Linearization via crystalline techniques leads to formulas with high powers of p in denominators.

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We will explain a method to obtain an approximate (or even asymptotic) formula for the action of the local stabilizer subgroup, in the first non-trivial case,

where $\mathcal{M}^{/x} = \text{Def}(G_0)$ is the Lubin-Tate moduli deformation space for a one-dimensional formal group G_0 of finite height h over $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$.

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Let *h* be a positive integer.

Let G_1 be the one-dimensional formal group over $\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}$ with logarithm

$$\sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} p^{-j} x^{p^{jh}} = x + \frac{x^{p^h}}{p} + \frac{x^{p^{2h}}}{p^2} + \cdots$$

(so it is a Lubin-Tate formal group for $W(\mathbb{F}_{n^h})$.

Let G_0 be the base extension to $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ of the closed fiber of G_1 ; it is a one-dimensional formal group over \mathbb{F}_p of height h.

It is well-known that $\operatorname{End}(G_0)$ is the maximal order of $\operatorname{End}^0(G_0) = \operatorname{a}$ central division algebra over \mathbb{Q}_p of dimension h^2 .

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Let $\mathcal{M}_h := \text{Def}(G_0)$; it is a smooth formal scheme over $W(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$ of relative dimension h-1.

Let $G_{\text{univ}} \to \mathcal{M}_h$ be the universal formal group over \mathcal{M}_h .

The compact p-adic group $\operatorname{Aut}(G_0) = \operatorname{End}(G_0)^{\times}$ operates on \mathcal{M}_h by functoriality, as follows.

 $\forall \gamma \in \text{Aut}(G_0), \exists !$ formal scheme automorphism $\rho(\gamma)$ of \mathcal{M}_h and a formal group isomorphism

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such that $\tilde{\rho}(\gamma)|_{G_0} = \gamma$

Remark. This action $\gamma \mapsto \rho(\gamma)$ of $\operatorname{Aut}(G_0)$ on the Lubin-Tate moduli space \mathcal{M}_h was first studied by Lubin and Tate in 1966. It is also known as (the essential part of) the *Morava stabilizer subgroup* action in chromatic homotopy theory.

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The universal p-typical formal group law

Let $\tilde{R} = \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[\underline{v}] = \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[v_1, v_2, v_3, \ldots]$, and let $\sigma : \tilde{R} \to \tilde{R}$ be the ring homomorphism such that $\sigma(v_j) = v_j^p$ for all $j \ge 1$

Let $G_{\underline{v}}(x) \in \tilde{R}[[x,y]]$ be the one-dimensional p-typical formal group law over \tilde{R} whose logarithm

$$g_{\underline{v}}(x) \in \tilde{R}[1/p][[x]] = \sum_{n \ge 1} a_n(\underline{v}) \cdot x^{p^n}$$

satisfies

$$g_{\underline{\nu}}(x) = x + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{v_i}{p} \cdot g_{\underline{\nu}}^{(\sigma^i)}(x^{p^i})$$

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The universal p-typical formal group law

Let $\tilde{R} = \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[\underline{v}] = \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[v_1, v_2, v_3, \ldots]$, and let $\sigma : \tilde{R} \to \tilde{R}$ be the ring homomorphism such that $\sigma(v_j) = v_j^p$ for all $j \ge 1$

Let $G_{\underline{v}}(x) \in \tilde{R}[[x,y]]$ be the one-dimensional p-typical formal group law over \tilde{R} whose logarithm

$$g_{\underline{v}}(x) \in \tilde{R}[1/p][[x]] = \sum_{n \ge 1} a_n(\underline{v}) \cdot x^{p^n}$$

satisfies

$$g_{\underline{\nu}}(x) = x + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{\nu_i}{p} \cdot g_{\underline{\nu}}^{(\sigma^i)}(x^{p^i})$$

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Remarks on the formal group law G_v

Remarks. (1) The above "functional equation" is a recursive formula for the coefficients $a_n(\underline{v}) \in p^{-n} \cdot \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n]$ of $g_v(x)$.

(2) Explicitly

$$a_n(\underline{v}) = \sum_{\substack{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_r \ge 1\\i_1 + \dots + i_r = n}} p^{-r} \cdot \prod_{s=1}^r v_{i_s}^{p^{i_1 + i_2 + \dots + i_{s-1}}}$$

$$= \sum_{\substack{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_r \ge 1\\i_1 + \dots + i_r = n}} p^{-r} \cdot v_{i_1} \cdot v_{i_2}^{p^{i_1}} \cdot v_{i_3}^{p^{i_1 + i_2}} \cdots v_{i_r}^{p^{i_1 + \dots + i_{r-1}}}$$

Note that $a_n(\underline{v})$ is a homogeneous polynomial in v_1, \dots, v_n of weight $p^n - 1$ when v_i is given the weight $p^j - 1$ $\forall j \geq 1$.

(3) The formal group law $G_{\underline{\nu}}$ over \tilde{R} is "the" universal one-dimensional p-typical formal group law.

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Let
$$R = R_h = W(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)[[w_1, w_2, ..., w_{h-1}]].$$

Let $\pi = \pi_h : \tilde{R} \to R$ be the ring homomorphism such that

$$\pi(v_i) = \begin{cases} w_i & \text{if} \quad 1 \le i \le h-1\\ 1 & \text{if} \quad i = h\\ 0 & \text{if} \quad i \ge h+1 \end{cases}$$

The classifying morphism $\operatorname{Spf}(R) \to \mathcal{M}_h$ for the deformation π_*G_v of G_0 is an isomorphism.

We will identify \mathcal{M}_h with $\operatorname{Spf}(R)$ and the universal deformation G_{univ} of G_0 with the formal group underlying the formal group law $G_R := \pi_* G_{\nu}$.

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The universal strict isomorphism

Let $\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[\underline{v},\underline{t}] = \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[v_1,v_2,v_3,\ldots;t_1,t_2,t_3,\ldots]$, and let $\sigma: \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[\underline{v},\underline{t}] \to \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[\underline{v},\underline{t}]$ be the obvious Frobenius lifting as before, with $\sigma(v_i) = v_i^p$ and $\sigma(t_i) = t_i^p \ \forall i \geq 1$.

Let $G_{\underline{v},\underline{t}}(x,y)$ be the one-dimensional formal group law over $\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[\underline{v},\underline{t}]$ whose logarithm $g_{\underline{v},\underline{t}}(x)$ satisfies

$$g_{\nu,t}(x) = x + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} t_i \cdot x^{p^i} + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{v_j}{p} \cdot g_{\nu,t}^{(\sigma^j)}(x^{p^j})$$

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The universal strict isomorphism, continued

It is known that $\alpha_{\underline{v},\underline{t}} := g_{\underline{v},\underline{t}}^{-1} \circ g_{\underline{v}} \in \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[\underline{v},\underline{t}][[x]]$, and defines a *strict isomorphism*

$$lpha_{\underline{
u},\underline{t}}:G_{\underline{
u}} o G_{\underline{
u},\underline{t}}$$

between *p*-typical formal group laws over $\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[\underline{v},\underline{t}]$.

(A *strict* isomorphism is an isomorphism between formal group laws which is $\equiv x$ modulo higher degree terms in x.)

Moreover $\alpha_{\underline{v},\underline{t}}$ is "the" universal strict isomorphism between one-dimensional *p*-typical formal group laws.

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Parameters of $G_{\underline{v},\underline{t}}$

By the universality $G_{\underline{\nu}}$ for p-typical formal group laws, there exists a unique ring homomorphism

$$\eta: \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[\underline{v}] \to \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[\underline{v},\underline{t}]$$

such that

$$\eta_* G_{\underline{v}} = G_{\underline{v},\underline{t}}.$$

The elements

$$\overline{v}_n = \overline{v}_n(\underline{v},\underline{t}) \in \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[\underline{v},\underline{t}], \quad n \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 1}$$

are the parameters of the p-typical formal group law $G_{\underline{v},t}$.

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A known recursive formula for the parameters of $G_{v,t}$

$$\overline{v}_n = v_n + p t_n + \sum_{\substack{i+j=n\\i,j\geq 1}} \left(v_j t_i^{p^j} - t_i \overline{v}_j^{p^i} \right) \\
+ \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} a_{n-j}(\underline{v}) \cdot \left(v_j^{p^{n-j}} - \overline{v}_j^{p^{n-j}} \right) \\
+ \sum_{k=2}^{n-1} a_{n-k}(\underline{v}) \cdot \sum_{\substack{i+j=k\\i \neq j}} \left(v_j^{p^{n-k}} t_i^{p^{n-i}} - t_i^{p^{n-k}} \overline{v}_j^{p^{n-j}} \right)$$

(This formula contains high power of p in the denominators. Consequently it is not very useful for our purpose.)

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A known recursive formula for the parameters of $G_{v,t}$

$$\overline{v}_n = v_n + p t_n + \sum_{\substack{i+j=n\\i,j\geq 1}} (v_j t_i^{p^j} - t_i \overline{v}_j^{p^i})
+ \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} a_{n-j}(\underline{v}) \cdot \left(v_j^{p^{n-j}} - \overline{v}_j^{p^{n-j}} \right)
+ \sum_{k=2}^{n-1} a_{n-k}(\underline{v}) \cdot \sum_{\substack{i+j=k\\i+j=k}} \left(v_j^{p^{n-k}} t_i^{p^{n-i}} - t_i^{p^{n-k}} \overline{v}_j^{p^{n-j}} \right)$$

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An *integral* recursion formula for $\bar{v}_n(\underline{v},\underline{t})$

(useful for computing the Lubin-Tate action)

$$\begin{split} \bar{v}_n &= v_n + p \, t_n - \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} t_j \cdot \bar{v}_{n-j}^{p^j} + \\ &+ \sum_{l=1}^{n-1} v_l \sum_{k=1}^{n-l-1} \frac{1}{p} \cdot a_{n-k-l}(\underline{v})^{(p^l)} \cdot \left\{ (\bar{v}_k^{(p^l)})^{p^{n-l-k}} - (\bar{v}_k^{p^l})^{p^{n-l-k}} \right. \\ &+ \sum_{\substack{i+j=k \\ i,j \geq 1}} t_j^{p^{n-k}} \left[(\bar{v}_i^{(p^l)})^{p^{n-l-i}} - (\bar{v}_i^{p^l})^{p^{n-l-i}} \right] \right\} \\ &+ \sum_{l=1}^{n-1} v_l \cdot \left\{ \frac{1}{p} (\bar{v}_{n-l}^{(p^l)} - \bar{v}_{n-l}^{p^l}) + \sum_{\substack{i+j=n-l \\ i,j \geq 1}} t_j^{p^l} \cdot \frac{1}{p} \cdot \left[(\bar{v}_i^{(p^l)})^{p^j} - (\bar{v}_i^{p^l})^{p^j} \right] \right\} \end{split}$$

for every $n \ge 1$.

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Sketch of the steps

Given an element $\gamma \in Aut(G_0)$, construct

- a *p*-typical one-dimensional formal group $law F = F_{\gamma}$ over R whose closed fiber is equal to G_0 , and
- an isomorphism

$$\overline{\psi} = \overline{\psi}_{\gamma} : F_{\overline{R}} \to G_{\overline{R}}$$

over $\overline{R} := R/pR = \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p[[w_1, \dots, w_{h-1}]]$ whose restriction to the closed fibers is

$$(\psi|_{G_0}:G_0\to G_0)=\gamma.$$

Here
$$F_{\overline{R}} = F \otimes_R \overline{R}$$
, $G_{\overline{R}} = G_R \otimes_R \overline{R}$.

Note that both the formal group law F over R and the isomorphism ψ over \overline{R} depends on the given element $\gamma \in \operatorname{Aut}(G_0)$.

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Note that both the formal group law F over R and the isomorphism ψ over \overline{R} depends on the given element $\gamma \in \operatorname{Aut}(G_0)$.

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The formal group law F_c , $c \in W(\mathbb{F}_{p^h})^{\times}$

For $\gamma = [c] \in W(\mathbb{F}_{p^h})^{\times} = \operatorname{Aut}(G_1)$, we can take F_c to be the formal group over R whose logarithm $g_c(x)$ satisfies

$$f_c(x) = x + \sum_{i=1}^h \frac{c^{-1+\sigma^i} \cdot w_i}{p} \cdot f_c^{(\sigma^i)}(x^{p^i})$$

 $(w_h=1 \text{ by convention}).$

Lei

$$\psi_c(x) = \log_{G_R}^{-1} \circ (c \cdot f_c)$$

We have $\psi_c(x) \in R[[x]]$ and ψ_c defines an isomorphism from F_c to G_R over R (not just over $\overline{R}!$) with $\psi_c|_{G_0} = [c]$.

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Step 2

Compute the parameters

$$(u_i = u_i(w_1, \ldots, w_{h-1}))_{i \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 1}}$$

for the *p*-typical group law $F = F_{\gamma}$ over R.

The above condition means that

$$\xi_* G_{\tilde{v}} = F,$$

where

$$\xi = \xi_{\gamma} : \tilde{R} \to R$$

is the ring homomorphism such that

$$\xi(v_i) = u_i \quad \forall i \ge 1$$

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Parameters for F_c , $c \in W(\mathbb{F}_{p^h})^{\times}$

In the case when $\gamma \in \operatorname{Aut}(G_0)$ lifts to an element [c] with $c \in W(\mathbb{F}_{p^h})^{\times} \simeq \operatorname{Aut}(G_1)$, we have the following integral recursive formula for the parameters $u_n = u_n(c; \underline{w})$.

$$\begin{split} u_n(c;\underline{w}) &= c^{-1+\sigma^n} w_n \\ &+ \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} c^{-1+\sigma^j} \cdot \frac{1}{p} \left[u_{n-j}(c;\underline{w})^{(p^j)} - u_{n-j}(c;\underline{w})^{p^j} \right] \cdot w_j \\ &+ \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n-j-1} \frac{1}{p} a_{n-i-j}(\underline{w})^{(p^j)} \cdot c^{-1+\sigma^{n-i}} \cdot \\ & \left[(u_i(c;\underline{w})^{(p^j)})^{p^{n-i-j}} - (u_i(c;\underline{w})^{p^j})^{p^n-i-j} \right] \cdot w_j \end{split}$$

where $w_h = 1$, $w_m = 0 \ \forall m \ge h+1$ by convention.

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Parameters for F_c , continued

Remark. The above recursive formula for the parameters $u_n(c;\underline{w})$ can be turned into an explicit "path sum" formula for $u_n(c,\underline{w})$, with terms indexed by "paths".

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Step 3

Find/compute the uniquely determined element

$$\tau_n \in \mathfrak{m}_R$$
, $n \in \mathbb{N}_{>1}$

and

$$\hat{u}_1 \in \mathfrak{m}_R, \dots, \hat{u}_{h-1} \in \mathfrak{m}_R, \hat{u}_h \in 1 + \mathfrak{m}_R$$

such that

$$\overline{v}_n(\hat{u}_1, \hat{u}_2, \dots, \hat{u}_h, 0, 0, \dots; \underline{\tau}) = u_n \quad \forall n \ge 1.$$

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Remark. (1) The existence and uniqueness statement above is an application the implicit function theorem for an infinite dimensional space over \tilde{R} , applied to the "vector-valued" function with components \bar{v}_n in the integral recursion formula discussed before.

- (2) This step is a substitute for the operation taking the quotient of the group "changes of coordinates" in a space of formal group laws.
- (3) The approximate solution coming from the linear term in the τ_i variables is often good enough for our application.

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A congruence formula for \overline{v}_n

The follow formula helps to explain the last remark.

$$\begin{split} \overline{v}_n &\equiv v_n - \sum_{j=1}^n t_j \cdot v_{n-j}^{p^j} \\ &+ \sum_{\substack{i,j,t,s_1,s_2,\dots,s_t \geq 1\\s_1+\dots+s_t+i+j=n}} (-1)^{t-1} t_i \cdot v_j^{p^i} \cdot v_1^{(p^{s_1}+p^{s_2}+\dots+p^{s_t}-t)/(p-1)} \\ &\cdot v_{n-s_1}^{p^{s_1}-1} \cdot v_{n-s_1-s_2}^{p^{s_2}-1} \cdots v_{n-s_1-\dots-s_t}^{p^{s_t}-1} \\ &\quad \mod (pt_a,t_a\cdot t_b)_{a,b\geq 1} \mathbb{Z}[\underline{v},\underline{t}] \end{split}$$

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$$(1+\tau_0)^{p^n-1}\cdot\hat{u}_h=1.$$

$$\hat{v}_i := (1 + \tau_0)^{p^i - 1} \cdot \hat{u}_i \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, h - 1.$$

$$\omega(v_i) = \hat{u}_i \quad \forall i \geq 1.$$

$$\rho(w_i) = \hat{v_i} \quad \forall i \ge 1.$$

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Rescale $\hat{u}_1, \hat{u}_2, \dots, \hat{u}_h$ as follows:

 $\exists ! \ \tau_0 \in \mathfrak{m}_R \text{ such that }$

$$(1+\tau_0)^{p^h-1}\cdot\hat{u}_h=1.$$

Lei

$$\hat{v}_i := (1 + \tau_0)^{p^i - 1} \cdot \hat{u}_i \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, h - 1$$

Let $\omega : \tilde{R} \to R$ be the ring homomorphism such that

$$\omega(v_i) = \hat{u}_i \quad \forall i \ge 1.$$

Let $\rho: R \to R$ be the $W(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$ -linear ring homomorphism such that

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Step 4

Rescale $\hat{u}_1, \hat{u}_2, \dots, \hat{u}_h$ as follows:

 $\exists ! \ \tau_0 \in \mathfrak{m}_R \text{ such that }$

$$(1+\tau_0)^{p^h-1}\cdot\hat{u}_h=1.$$

Let

$$\hat{v}_i := (1 + \tau_0)^{p^i - 1} \cdot \hat{u}_i \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, h - 1.$$

Let $\omega : \tilde{R} \to R$ be the ring homomorphism such that

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The meaning of Steps 3 and 4

The universal strict isomorphism $\alpha_{\underline{\nu},\underline{t}}$ specializes to a strict isomorphism

$$\alpha = \alpha_{\hat{u},\tau} : F \to \omega_* G_v$$

with
$$\alpha|_{G_0} = \mathrm{Id}_{G_0}$$
.

The rescaling in step 4 gives an isomorphism (not necessarily a strict isomorphism)

$$\beta:\omega_*G_{\underline{\nu}}\to\rho_*G_R$$

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Conclusion

Combined with $\overline{\Psi}$, we obtain an isomorphism

$$\overline{\psi} \circ \overline{\alpha}^{-1} \circ \overline{\beta}^{-1} : \overline{\rho}_* G_{\overline{R}} \to G_{\overline{R}}$$

whose restriction to the closed fiber G_0 is equal to the given element $\gamma \in Aut(G_0)$.

(Here
$$\overline{\alpha} = \alpha \otimes_R \overline{R}$$
 and $\overline{\beta} = \beta \otimes_R \overline{R}$.)

Conclusion. The given element $\gamma \in \operatorname{Aut}(G_0)$ operates on the equi-characteristic deformation space $\operatorname{Spf}(\overline{R})$ of G_0 via the ring automorphism ρ .

(Notice that $\overline{\psi}$, α and β all depend on γ .)

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Proposition. Let $Z \subset \mathcal{M}_{3\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p} = \operatorname{Spf}(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p[[w_1, w_2]])$ be an irreducible closed formal subscheme of \mathcal{M}_3 over $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ corresponding to a hight one prime ideal of $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p[[w_1, w_2]]$. If Z is stable under the action of an open subgroup of $W(\mathbb{F}_{p^3})^{\times}$, then $Z = \operatorname{Spf}(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p[[w_1, w_2]]/(w_1))$

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