(I knew the truth in all I heard when I turned sixty. Confucious)
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PEL type modular varieties

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 correspond to abelian varieties with imposed symmetry $(A, \rho : A \to A^t, t : \mathcal{O}_D \to \text{End}(A), \text{level structure})$ 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 $B = \text{End}_D(H)$, with involution $*_B$ induced by $*$. Let $G = \text{SU}(B, *_B)$ (or $\text{GU}(B, *_B)$).
Hecke symmetry

Let $\tilde{M}$ be the prime-to-$p$ tower for $\mathcal{M}$; it is a profinite etale Galois cover of $\mathcal{M}$ with group $G(\hat{\mathbb{Z}}(p))$. The group $G(\hat{\mathbb{F}}_p)$ operates on $\tilde{M}$, inducing Hecke correspondences on $\mathcal{M}$.

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

Local Hecke symmetry

Given a point $x \in \mathcal{M}(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$, corresponding to a quadruple $(A_x, \rho_x : A_x \to A_x^t, \iota_x : \mathcal{O}_D \to \text{End}(A_x), \text{level structure})$.

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

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

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

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

We call $G_x$ the local stabilizer subgroup at $x$. The group $H_x$ can be thought of as the “intersection” of $G_x$ with the global Hecke symmetries on $\mathcal{M}$.

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

**Examples.** For a “general” $x \in \mathcal{M}(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$ (in particular $x$ is ordinary), the Zariski closure of $H_x$ is a $g$-dimensional torus, while the Zariski closure of $G_x$ is $\text{GL}_g$.

For a supersingular point $x \in \mathcal{M}(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$, $H_x$ is $p$-adically dense in $G_x$, and the Zariski closure of $G_x$ is a twist of $\text{Sp}_{2g}$.

The global rigidity problem

(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 point $x \in Z(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$.

(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. $p$”.)
Definition and examples of leaves

- A leaf $C(x)$ in $\mathcal{M}/\mathbb{F}_p$ is the locus in $\mathcal{M}/\mathbb{F}_p$ where all $p$-adic invariants have the same “value” as those of $x$.
- The ordinary locus $\mathcal{A}_g^{\text{ord}} \subset \mathcal{A}_g/\mathbb{F}_p$ is a leaf in $\mathcal{A}_g/\mathbb{F}_p$.
- 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.)

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.
Local rigidity problems

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.)

Results on the restricted local rigidity problem

**II. Known results, obstacles and hope**

**Proposition.** 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 \( X_x \).
Restricted local rigidity: an example and consequences

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

Consequence of restricted local rigidity: linearization of the global rigidity problem, helped by considerations of local and global \( p \)-adic monodromy.

Results on global rigidity using the Hilbert trick

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 \( x \in \mathcal{A}_g(\overline{\mathbb{F}_p}) \) is contained in a Hilbert modular subvariety of \( \mathcal{A}_g \).

(Global rigidity is substantially easier for these “small” modular varieties; see below.)

(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 other modular varieties associated to semisimple groups of \( \mathbb{Q} \)-rank one).
A tantalizing dream

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.

A glimpse of a new approach

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 $\mathbb{F}_p$. 
Notation

Let $h$ be a positive integer.
Let $G_1$ be the one-dimensional formal group over $\mathbb{Z}_p$ with logarithm
$$\sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} p^{-j} x^{p^j} = x + \frac{x^{p^h}}{p} + \frac{x^{p^{2h}}}{p^2} + \cdots$$
(so it is a Lubin-Tate formal group for $W(F_{p^h})$.)

Let $G_0$ be the base extension to $\overline{F}_p$ 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 $\text{End}(G_0)$ is the maximal order of $\text{End}^0(G_0) = \text{a central division algebra over } \mathbb{Q}_p$ of dimension $h^2$.

The Lubin-Tate action

Let $\mathcal{M} := \text{Def}(G_0)$; it is a smooth formal scheme over $W(\overline{F}_p)$ of relative dimension $h - 1$.
Let $G_{\text{univ}} \to \mathcal{M}$ be the universal formal group over $\mathcal{M}$.

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

$\forall \gamma \in \text{Aut}(G_0)$, $\exists!$ formal scheme automorphism $\rho(\gamma)$ of $\mathcal{M}$ and a formal group isomorphism
$$\tilde{\rho}(\gamma) : G_{\text{univ}} \to \rho(\gamma)^* G_{\text{univ}}$$
such that $\tilde{\rho}(\gamma)|_{G_0} = \gamma$

Remark. This action $\gamma \mapsto \rho(\gamma)$ of $\text{Aut}(G_0)$ on the Lubin-Tate moduli space $\mathcal{M}$ 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.
The universal $p$-typical formal group law

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

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

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

satisfies

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

Remarks on the formal group law $G_v$

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

(2) Explicitly:

$$a_n(v) = \sum_{\substack{i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_r \geq 1 \\text{ such that } i_1 + \cdots + i_r = n \\text{ and } i_1, \ldots, i_r \geq 1}} p^{-r} \cdot \prod_{s=1}^{r} v_{i_s}^{i_1 + i_2 + \cdots + i_s - 1}$$

$$= \sum_{\substack{i_1, i_2, \ldots, i_r \geq 1 \\text{ such that } i_1 + \cdots + i_r = n \\text{ and } i_1, \ldots, i_r \geq 1}} p^{-r} \cdot v_{i_1}^{i_1} \cdot v_{i_2}^{i_2} \cdot v_{i_3}^{i_1 + i_2} \cdots v_{i_r}^{i_1 + \cdots + i_{r-1}}$$

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

(3) The formal group law $G_v$ over $\tilde{R}$ is “the” universal one-dimensional $p$-typical formal group law.
The universal formal group over $\mathcal{M}_h$ made explicit

Let $R = R_h = W(\overline{F}_p)[[w_1, w_2, \ldots, w_{h-1}]]$. Let $\pi = \pi_h : \bar{R} \to R$ be the ring homomorphism such that

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

The classifying morphism $\text{Spf}(R) \to \mathcal{M}_h$ for the deformation $\pi_* G_\mathbb{L}$ of $G_0$ is an isomorphism.

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

The universal strict isomorphism

Let $\mathbb{Z}(p)[\underline{v}, \underline{t}] = \mathbb{Z}(p)[v_1, v_2, v_3, \ldots; \overline{t}_1, \overline{t}_2, \overline{t}_3, \ldots]$, 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 $G_{\mathbb{L}}(x, y)$ be the one-dimensional formal group law over $\mathbb{Z}(p)[\underline{v}, \underline{t}]$ whose logarithm $g_{\mathbb{L}}(x)$ satisfies

$$g_{\mathbb{L}}(x) = x + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} t_i \cdot x^{p^i} + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \frac{v_j}{p} \cdot g_{\mathbb{L}}^{(p^j)}(x^{p^j})$$
The universal strict isomorphism, continued

It is known that $\alpha_{v,t} := g_{v,t}^{-1} \circ g_v \in \mathbb{Z}_p[[x]]$, and defines a strict isomorphism

$$\alpha_{v,t} : G_v \to G_{v,t}$$

between $p$-typical formal group laws over $\mathbb{Z}_p[[v,t]]$.

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

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

Parameters of $G_{v,t}$

By the universality $G_v$ for $p$-typical formal group laws, there exists a unique ring homomorphism

$$\eta : \mathbb{Z}_p[[v]] \to \mathbb{Z}_p[[v,t]]$$

such that

$$\eta \ast G_v = G_{v,t}.$$

The elements

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

are the parameters of the $p$-typical formal group law $G_{v,t}$. 
A known recursive formula for the parameters of $G_{v,t}$

$$\bar{v}_n = v_n + pt_n + \sum_{i+j=n, \ i,j \geq 1} (v_i \ t_i^p - t_i \ \bar{v}_j^p)$$

$$+ \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} a_{n-j}(v) \cdot (v_j^{p^{n-j}} - \bar{v}_j^{p^{n-j}})$$

$$+ \sum_{k=2}^{n-1} a_{n-k}(v) \cdot \sum_{i+j=k, \ i,j \geq 1} (v_j^{p^{n-k}} t_i^{p^{n-j}} - t_i^{p^{n-k}} \bar{v}_j^{p^{n-j}})$$

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

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

(useful for computing the Lubin-Tate action)

$$\bar{v}_n = v_n + pt_n - \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} t_j \cdot \bar{v}_{n-j} - \sum_{l=1}^{n} \frac{1}{p} \cdot a_{n-l-1}(v) \cdot \left\{ \left( \bar{v}_l^{(p^l)} \right)^{p^{n-l-k}} - \left( \bar{v}_l^{(p^l)} \right)^{p^{n-l-1}} \right\}$$

$$+ \sum_{i+j=k} t_j^{p^{n-i}} \left[ \left( \bar{v}_i^{(p^i)} \right)^{p^{n-l-i}} - \left( \bar{v}_i^{(p^i)} \right)^{p^{n-l-1-i}} \right]$$

$$+ \sum_{l=1}^{n-1} t_l \cdot \left\{ \frac{1}{p} \left( \bar{v}_l^{(p^l)} - \bar{v}_l^{(p^l)} \right) + \sum_{i+j=n-l \ i,j \geq 1} t_i^{p^l} \cdot \frac{1}{p} \left[ \left( \bar{v}_i^{(p^i)} \right)^{p^j} - \left( \bar{v}_i^{(p^i)} \right)^{p^j} \right] \right\}$$

for every $n \geq 1$. 
Step 1

Given an element \( \gamma \in \text{Aut}(G_0) \), 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

\[
\bar{\psi} = \bar{\psi}_{\gamma} : F_R \to G_R
\]

over \( \bar{R} := R/pR = \mathbb{F}_p[[w_1, \ldots, w_{h-1}]] \) whose restriction to the closed fibers is

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

Here \( F_R = F \otimes_R \bar{R}, G_R = G_R \otimes_R \bar{R} \).

Note that both the formal group law \( F \) over \( R \) and the isomorphism \( \psi \) over \( \bar{R} \) depends on the given element \( \gamma \in \text{Aut}(G_0) \).

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

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

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

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

Let

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

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

\[\xi_\gamma G_{\tilde{F}} = F,\]

where

\[\xi = \xi_\gamma : \tilde{R} \to R\]

is the ring homomorphism such that

\[\xi(v_i) = u_i \quad \forall i \geq 1.\]

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

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

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

where \(w_h = 1, w_m = 0 \forall m \geq h + 1\) by convention.
Remark. The above recursive formula for the parameters $u_n(c; w)$ can be turned into an explicit “path sum” formula for $u_n(c, w)$, with terms indexed by “paths”.

Step 3

Find/compute the uniquely determined element

$$\tau_n \in m_R, \quad n \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 1}$$

and

$$\hat{u}_1 \in m_R, \ldots, \hat{u}_{h-1} \in m_R, \hat{u}_h \in 1 + m_R$$

such that

$$\nu_n(\hat{u}_1, \hat{u}_2, \ldots, \hat{u}_h, 0, 0, \ldots ; \tau) = u_n \quad \forall n \geq 1.$$
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 $\tau_j$ variables is often good enough for our application.

A congruence formula for $\bar{v}_n$

The follow formula helps to explain the last remark.

$$
\bar{v}_n \equiv v_n - \sum_{j=1}^{n} t_j \cdot v_{n-j}^{p^j} 
+ \sum_{i,j,s_1,s_2,\ldots,s_t \geq 1} \sum_{s_1 + \ldots + s_t + i + j = n} (-1)^{t-1} t_i \cdot v_j^{p^j} \cdot v_1^{(p^{s_1}+p^{s_2}+\ldots+p^{s_t}-t)/(p-1)} 
\cdot v_{n-s_1}^{p^{s_1}-1} \cdot v_{n-s_1-s_2}^{p^{s_2}-1} \cdots v_{n-s_1-\ldots-s_t}^{p^{s_t}-1} 
\mod (pt_a, t_a \cdot t_b)_{a,b \geq 1} \mathbb{Z}[v,t]
$$
Step 4

**Rescale** \( \hat{u}_1, \hat{u}_2, \ldots, \hat{u}_h \) as follows:

\[ \exists! \, \tau_0 \in m_R \text{ such that} \]

\[ (1 + \tau_0)^{\rho^h - 1} \cdot \hat{u}_h = 1. \]

Let

\[ \hat{v}_i := (1 + \tau_0)^{\rho^i - 1} \cdot \hat{u}_i \quad \text{for} \quad i = 1, \ldots, h - 1. \]

Let \( \omega : \tilde{R} \rightarrow R \) be the ring homomorphism such that

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

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

\[ \rho(w_i) = \hat{v}_i \quad \forall i \geq 1. \]

The meaning of Steps 3 and 4

The universal strict isomorphism \( \alpha_{v, t} \) specializes to a strict isomorphism

\[ \alpha = \alpha_{\hat{u}, \tau} : F \rightarrow \omega_\ast G_{\overline{L}} \]

with \( \alpha|_{G_0} = \text{Id}_{G_0} \).

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

\[ \beta : \omega_\ast G_{\overline{L}} \rightarrow \rho_\ast G_R \]

with \( \beta|_{G_0} = \text{Id}_{G_0} \).
Conclusion

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

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

whose restriction to the closed fiber $G_0$ is equal to the given element $\gamma \in \text{Aut}(G_0)$. (Here $\overline{\alpha} = \alpha \otimes_R \overline{R}$ and $\overline{\beta} = \beta \otimes_R \overline{R}$.)

**Conclusion.** The given element $\gamma \in \text{Aut}(G_0)$ operates on the equi-characteristic deformation space $\text{Spf}(\overline{R})$ of $G_0$ via the ring automorphism $\rho$. (Notice that $\overline{\psi}$, $\alpha$ and $\beta$ all depend on $\gamma$.)

Local rigidity for the Lubin-Tate moduli space: the first non-trivial case

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