

AUTOMORPHY FOR SOME l -ADIC LIFTS OF AUTOMORPHIC MOD l GALOIS REPRESENTATIONS. II

by RICHARD TAYLOR *

ABSTRACT

We extend the results of [CHT] by removing the ‘minimal ramification’ condition on the lifts. That is we establish the automorphy of suitable conjugate self-dual, regular (de Rham with distinct Hodge-Tate numbers), l -adic lifts of certain automorphic mod l Galois representations of any dimension. The main innovation is a new approach to the automorphy of non-minimal lifts which is closer in spirit to the methods of [TW] than to those of [W], which relied on Ihara’s lemma.

1. Introduction

This paper is a sequel to [CHT]. Both papers prove modularity lifting theorems for representations of any dimension. In [CHT] we proved that certain minimally ramified l -adic lifts of automorphic mod l representations are themselves automorphic. We also showed how a conjecture (which we called ‘Ihara’s lemma’) about the space of mod l automorphic forms on definite unitary groups would imply that one could extend these results to lifts which are not minimally ramified. In this paper we prove such a result unconditionally by means of a different approach. Instead of trying to generalise Wiles’ level raising arguments [W], as we did in [CHT], we have found a development of the arguments used in the minimal case (see [TW]), which also applies in the non-minimal setting. Ideas of Kisin (see [K]) were very influential in the development of our arguments. The results of this paper imply that all the theorems of [HSBT] also become unconditional. For instance we prove the Sato-Tate conjecture for an elliptic curve over a totally real field with somewhere multiplicative reduction.

The following is an example of the main modularity lifting theorems proved in this paper. We emphasise that the proof of this theorem depends on the machinery developed in [CHT].

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Theorem A *Let $n \in \mathbf{Z}_{\geq 1}$ be even and let $l > \max\{3, n\}$ be a prime. Let*

$$r : \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}/\mathbf{Q}) \longrightarrow \text{GSp}_n(\mathbf{Z}_l)$$

be a continuous irreducible representation with the following properties.

1. *r ramifies at only finitely many primes.*
2. *$r|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l/\mathbf{Q}_l)}$ is crystalline and $\dim_{\mathbf{Q}_l} \text{gr}^i(r \otimes_{\mathbf{Q}_l} B_{\text{DR}})^{\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l/\mathbf{Q}_l)} = 0$ unless $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$, in which case it has dimension 1.*
3. *There is a prime $q \neq l$ such that the semisimplification $r|_{G_{\mathbf{Q}_q}^{\text{ss}}}$ is unramified and $r|_{G_{\mathbf{Q}_q}^{\text{ss}}}(\text{Frob}_q)$ has eigenvalues $\{\alpha q^i : i = 0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$ for some α .*
4. *The image of $r \bmod l$ contains $\text{Sp}_n(\mathbf{F}_l)$.*
5. *$r \bmod l$ arises from a cuspidal automorphic representation π_0 of $\text{GL}_n(\mathbf{A})$ for which $\pi_{0,\infty}$ has trivial infinitesimal character and $\pi_{0,q}$ is an unramified twist of the Steinberg representation.*

Then r arises from a cuspidal automorphic representation π of $\text{GL}_n(\mathbf{A})$ for which π_∞ has trivial infinitesimal character and π_q is an unramified twist of the Steinberg representation.

Let us comment on the conditions in this theorem. The fourth condition is used to make the Cebotarev argument in the Taylor-Wiles method work. Much weaker conditions are possible. (See theorem 5.4.) One expects to need to assume that r is de Rham at l . The stronger assumption that it be crystalline and that the Hodge-Tate numbers lie in a range which is small compared to l is imposed so that one can use the theory of Fontaine and Laffaille to calculate the relevant local deformation ring at l . The assumptions that r is valued in the symplectic (or similar) group and that the Hodge-Tate numbers are different are needed so that the numerology behind the Taylor-Wiles method works out. This is probably essential to the method. The condition on $r|_{G_{\mathbf{Q}_q}}$ for some prime q says that the representation looks as if it could correspond under the local Langlands correspondence to a Steinberg representation. We need the existence of such a prime q so that we can transfer the relevant automorphic forms to and from unitary groups and so that we can attach Galois representations to them. As the trace formula technology improves one may be able to relax this condition.

As applications the following results proved conditionally in [HSBT] now become unconditional.

Theorem B *Let K be a totally real field and E/K be an elliptic curve with multiplicative reduction at some prime.*

1. *For any odd integer m there is a finite Galois totally real extension L/K such that $\text{Symm}^m H^1(E)$ becomes automorphic over L . (One can choose an L that will work simultaneously for any finite set of odd positive integers.)*

2. *For any positive integer m the L -function $L(\text{Symm}^m H^1(E), s)$ has meromorphic continuation to the whole complex plane and satisfies the expected functional equation. It is holomorphic and non-zero in the region $\text{Re } s \geq 1 + m/2$.*

3. *The Sato-Tate conjecture is true for E , i.e. the numbers*

$$(1 + p - \#E(\mathbf{F}_p))/2\sqrt{p}$$

are equidistributed in $[-1, 1]$ with respect to the measure $(2/\pi)\sqrt{1-t^2} dt$.

The condition that E has multiplicative reduction at some prime results from condition 3 of theorem A (and its generalisations). We hope that this condition could be removed as trace formula technology improves.

Theorem C *Suppose that n is an even, positive integer, and that $t \in \mathbf{Q} - \mathbf{Z}[1/(n+1)]$. Let Y_t denote the projective variety*

$$(X_0^{n+1} + X_1^{n+1} + \dots + X_n^{n+1}) = (n+1)tX_0X_1\dots X_n.$$

It carries an action of

$$H' = \ker(\mu_{n+1}^{n+1} \xrightarrow{\Pi} \mu_{n+1})$$

acting by multiplication on the coordinates. Then the L -function $L(V_t, s)$ of

$$H^{n-1}(Y_{(1:t)} \times \overline{\mathbf{Q}}, \mathbf{Q}_l)^{H'}$$

is independent of l , has meromorphic continuation to the whole complex plane and satisfies the expected functional equation

$$L(V_t, s) = \epsilon(V_t, s)L(V_t, n-s).$$

(See theorem 6.5 for details. A referee asked us to explain the importance of this particular family. It is a family that has been studied quite widely and has some beautiful properties, but for us the main interest of this family is that $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}/\mathbf{Q})$ typically has image $GSp_n(\mathbf{Z}_l)$ in $\text{Aut } H^{n-1}(Y_{(1:t)} \times \overline{\mathbf{Q}}, \mathbf{Q}_l)^{H'}$. Note that $\dim_{\mathbf{Q}_l} H^{n-1}(Y_{(1:t)} \times \overline{\mathbf{Q}}, \mathbf{Q}_l)^{H'} = n$. Thus this theorem is illustrative that our techniques allow one to study the L -function of varieties for which the image of Galois acting on the l -adic cohomology is large.)

Next let us outline our argument for theorem A in the case of one non-minimal prime p . We will assume that $p \equiv 1 \pmod{l}$ and that the representation has unipotent ramification at p . One can use base change arguments to reduce to this case. We consider simultaneously two deformation problems. Let σ denote a generator of the tame inertia in $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_p/\mathbf{Q}_p)$. In the first deformation problem we consider lifts in which σ has characteristic polynomial $(X - 1)^n$. In the second we consider those in which σ has characteristic polynomial $(X - \zeta_1)\dots(X - \zeta_n)$ where the ζ_i are distinct l^{th} roots of 1. We need to use Kisin's framed deformations. Let $R_p^{(1)}$ and $R_p^{(2)}$ denote the two local framed deformation spaces. Then $R_p^{(1)}/\lambda = R_p^{(2)}/\lambda$ (where λ is the prime above l in the coefficient ring) and these rings have dimension $n^2 + 1$. Moreover $R_p^{(2)}$ is irreducible, whereas $R_p^{(1)}$ is reducible, but the irreducible components of $R_p^{(1)}$ and $R_p^{(1)}/\lambda$ are in bijection under the reduction map.

We use a simple variant of the usual Taylor-Wiles patching argument to create two limiting framed, global deformation rings $R^{(1)} = R_p^{(1)}[[Y_1, \dots, Y_r]]$ and $R^{(2)} = R_p^{(2)}[[Y_1, \dots, Y_r]]$ together with two limiting, framed spaces of automorphic forms $H^{(1)}$ and $H^{(2)}$. As usual, the method yields that $H^{(i)}$ has $R^{(i)}$ -depth $\geq n^2 + 1 + r$. (One uses the diamond operators to see this.) Moreover we can compatibly identify $R^{(1)}/\lambda \cong R^{(2)}/\lambda$ and $H^{(1)}/\lambda \cong H^{(2)}/\lambda$. It suffices to prove that all primes of $R^{(1)}$ are in the support of $H^{(1)}$.

As $R^{(2)}$ is irreducible of dimension $n^2 + 1 + r$ and $H^{(2)}$ has $R^{(2)}$ -depth $\geq n^2 + 1 + r$, as usual we conclude that every prime of $R^{(2)}$ is in the support of $H^{(2)}$. Hence every prime of $R^{(2)}/\lambda \cong R^{(1)}/\lambda$ is in the support of $H^{(2)}/\lambda \cong H^{(1)}/\lambda$. Because the irreducible components of $R^{(1)}$ and $R^{(1)}/\lambda$ are in bijection under reduction (because in turn the same is true for the local ring $R_p^{(1)}$ by explicit computation) we can conclude that all primes of $R^{(1)}$ are in the support of $H^{(1)}$, as desired.

The main point is that Kisin's variant of the Taylor-Wiles method works well for the second deformation problem. One would like to use this and the fact that the first and second problems become equal modulo λ , to deduce an $R = T$ theorem for the first problem also. This does not seem to be possible at finite level. It is however possible at 'infinite level' because the 'deformation ring' $R^{(1)}$ has such a simple form. (Specifically it has the property that its irreducible components are in bijection with the irreducible components of its reduction modulo λ .)

The reader of this paper will need to make frequent reference to the first three chapters of [CHT]. However we will make no appeal to the fourth chapter of [CHT], nor to the appendices to that paper.

Section 2 of this paper contains some algebraic background: some simple lemmas in commutative algebra and a discussion of the moduli space of nilpotent matrices. These results may well be well known, but for the lack of a suitable reference we include proofs here. The sole purpose of the second section is to prove proposition 3.1, which describes the structure of certain universal lifting rings for representations of local Galois groups. Because the structure of the maximal tame quotient of the local Galois group is so simple, the arguments in this section are mostly about moduli spaces of pairs of matrices. In earlier versions of this preprint these arguments were unfortunately incomplete. Section 4 starts by reviewing notation and background from [CHT] and then gives the key argument of this paper to prove the equality of a Hecke algebra and of the quotient of a universal deformation ring for a representation of a global Galois group by its nilradical (see theorem 4.1). In section 5 this theorem is combined with the theory of base change to prove more user friendly modularity lifting theorems. The arguments of section 5 are taken directly from [CHT]. Indeed parts of sections 4 and 5 are repeated almost verbatim from [CHT]. We hope that this will make the present paper easier to read. Finally section 6 lists several consequences of our main modularity lifting theorems.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the debt this work owes to the ideas of Skinner and Wiles [SW] and particularly of Kisin [K]. I am also grateful to Brian Conrad and Dennis Gaitsgory for useful conversations concerning section 2. It is a pleasure to thank my collaborators on earlier stages of this project: Laurent Clozel, Michael Harris and Nick Shepherd-Barron. It will be clear to the reader how much the main theorems of this paper owe to our earlier joint work [CHT] and [HSBT]. Finally I would like to thank the referees for their careful and very helpful work. I believe their suggestions have significantly improved the readability of this paper (and of [CHT]).

2. Some commutative algebra.

In this section we will review some results from commutative algebra that we will need. It is possible that these are all clear to experts, but, not myself being an expert, I have chosen to present them in some detail. We start with a definition and two lemmas that will play an important role in our modularity argument.

We will let l denote a prime number and K a finite extension of \mathbf{Q}_l with ring of integers \mathcal{O} , maximal ideal λ and residue field $k = \mathcal{O}/\lambda$.

Definition 2.1 *Let A denote a noetherian local ring. If M is a finitely generated A module the following are equivalent.*

- $\text{Ann}_A(M)$ is nilpotent.
- All minimal primes of A are in the support of M .
- All primes of A are in the support of M .

If these conditions are satisfied we call M a nearly faithful A -module.

If A is reduced then faithful and nearly faithful are synonymous.

Lemma 2.2 *Suppose A is a noetherian local ring and that M is a finitely generated A -module.*

1. *If I is an ideal of A and M is a nearly faithful A -module then M/IM is a nearly faithful A/I -module. In particular, if $J \supset I$ is another ideal and the action of A on M/IM factors through A/J then $J \subset \sqrt{I}$ and M/IM is a nearly faithful A/J -module.*
2. *Suppose that A is an excellent (or just catenary) local \mathcal{O} -algebra, that each irreducible component of $\text{Spec } A$ has the same dimension and that all the generic points of $\text{Spec } A$ have characteristic zero. Suppose also that every prime of A minimal over λA contains a unique minimal prime of A . Suppose finally that M is an A -module which is \mathcal{O} -torsion free. If $M/\lambda M$ is a nearly faithful $A/\lambda A$ -module, then M is a nearly faithful A -module.*

Proof: Consider the first part. If $\wp \supset I$ is a prime ideal we need to show that $(M/IM)_\wp \neq (0)$. If not then

$$M_\wp/I_\wp M_\wp = (M/IM)_\wp = (0)$$

and so by Nakayama's lemma $M_\wp = (0)$, a contradiction to \wp being in the support of M .

Now consider the second part. Let P be a minimal prime of A . Let \wp be a minimal prime containing (λ, P) . As A is catenary (because it is excellent) the Krull dimension of A/\wp is one less than the Krull dimension of A/P . If \mathfrak{q} is any prime properly contained in \wp we see that A/\mathfrak{q} has Krull dimension at least the Krull dimension of A/P . Thus \mathfrak{q} is minimal and so does not contain λA . Thus \wp is a minimal prime containing λA , and so by our assumption the only prime of A properly contained in \wp is P , i.e. A_\wp has only two primes \wp_\wp and P_\wp . As

$$M_\wp/\lambda M_\wp = (M/\lambda M)_\wp \neq (0)$$

we deduce that $M_\wp \neq (0)$ and that $\text{Ann}_{A_\wp} M_\wp \subset \wp_\wp$. Thus $\sqrt{(\text{Ann}_{A_\wp} M_\wp)} = \wp_\wp$ or P_\wp .

Let ϖ denote a generator of λ . For all $r \in \mathbf{Z}_{>0}$ the map $\varpi^r : M \hookrightarrow M$ is injective and hence $\varpi^r : M_\varphi \hookrightarrow M_\varphi$. Thus $\varpi^r \notin \text{Ann}_{A_\varphi} M_\varphi$ and so $\varpi \notin \sqrt{(\text{Ann}_{A_\varphi} M_\varphi)}$. We conclude that $\sqrt{(\text{Ann}_{A_\varphi} M_\varphi)} = P_\varphi$, so that $P_\varphi \supset \text{Ann}_{A_\varphi} M_\varphi$. Thus

$$M_P = (M_\varphi)_{P_\varphi} \neq (0).$$

□

Lemma 2.3 *Suppose that A is a noetherian local ring and that M is a finitely generated A -module. Suppose that the \mathfrak{m}_A -depth of M is greater than or equal to the Krull dimension of A . Then the \mathfrak{m}_A -depth of M equals the Krull dimension of A , and the support of M is equal to a union of irreducible components of $\text{Spec } A$. In particular if $\text{Spec } A$ is irreducible then M is a nearly faithful A -module.*

Proof: By proposition 18.2 of [E] every associated prime of M has dimension at least the \mathfrak{m}_A -depth of M . Thus every minimal prime over $\text{Ann}_A M$ (which will then be an associated prime of M by theorem 3.1a of [E]) has dimension at least the Krull dimension of A , and so must be a minimal prime of A . □

The rest of this section is only required for the proof of proposition 3.1. First we will consider some results about polynomials and matrices. Let Pol_n/\mathcal{O} denote the space of monic polynomials of degree n (i.e. simply affine n -space over \mathcal{O}). There is a finite flat map

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Aff}^n &\longrightarrow \text{Pol}_n \\ (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) &\longmapsto \prod_{i=1}^n (X - \alpha_i). \end{aligned}$$

If $f(t) \in \mathcal{O}[t]$ there is a unique morphism

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Pol}_n &\longrightarrow \text{Pol}_n \\ P &\longmapsto P_f \end{aligned}$$

such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Pol}_n & \longrightarrow & \text{Pol}_n \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \text{Aff}^n & \longrightarrow & \text{Aff}^n \\ (x_i) & \longrightarrow & (f(x_i)) \end{array}$$

commutes, i.e. such that

$$\left(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \alpha_i) \right)_f = \prod_i (X - f(\alpha_i)).$$

Note that if R is a \mathcal{O} -algebra and A is an $n \times n$ matrix over R then

$$\text{char}_{f(A)}(X) = \text{char}_A(X)_f,$$

where char_A denotes the characteristic polynomial of A . (To see this one can reduce to the case of $A = (X_{ij})$ over $\mathcal{O}[X_{ij}]_{i,j=1,\dots,n}$, and then work over the algebraic closure of the field of fractions of $\mathcal{O}[X_{ij}]_{i,j=1,\dots,n}$, where A can be diagonalised.) The following lemma follows easily from this, the Cayley-Hamilton theorem and standard power series identities.

Lemma 2.4 *Suppose that $l \geq n$ and that R is a \mathcal{O} -algebra. If $A \in M_n(R)$ has characteristic polynomial X^n then*

$$\exp(A) = 1_n + A + A^2/2! + \dots + A^{n-1}/(n-1)!$$

has characteristic polynomial $(X-1)^n$. If $B \in M_n(R)$ has characteristic polynomial $(X-1)^n$ then

$$\log(B) = (B-1_n) - (B-1_n)^2/2 + \dots + (-1)^n(B-1_n)^{n-1}/(n-1)$$

has characteristic polynomial X^n . Moreover we have the following well known identities:

- $\exp(CAC^{-1}) = C \exp(A)C^{-1}$ and $\log(CBC^{-1}) = C \log(B)C^{-1}$;
- $\log \exp A = A$ and $\exp \log B = B$;
- $\exp(mA) = \exp(A)^m$ and $\log(B^m) = m \log B$ for any positive integer m .

(This lemma remains true if R is any ring in which $(n-1)!$ is invertible.)

Let \mathcal{P}_n denote the set of partitions $n = n_1 + \dots + n_r$ where the n_i are positive integers and their order does not matter. For any partition $\sigma = \{n_1, \dots, n_r\}$ we set $d_0(\sigma) = 0$ and define recursively $d_i(\sigma)$ to be $d_{i-1}(\sigma)$ plus the number of j for which $n_j \geq i$. This sets up a bijection between \mathcal{P}_n and the set of non-decreasing sequences of integers

$$0 = d_0 \leq d_1 \leq \dots \leq d_{n-1} \leq d_n = n.$$

We define a partial order \geq on \mathcal{P}_n by setting $\sigma \geq \sigma'$ if $d_i(\sigma) \geq d_i(\sigma')$ for all $i = 1, \dots, n$. We write $\sigma > \sigma'$ if $\sigma \geq \sigma'$ and $\sigma \neq \sigma'$. If $\sigma, \sigma' \in \mathcal{P}_n$ we will denote by $\sigma \vee \sigma'$ the partition corresponding to $d_0 \leq d_1 \leq d_2 \leq \dots \leq d_n$ where d_i denotes the maximum of $d_i(\sigma)$ and $d_i(\sigma')$. Thus $\sigma \vee \sigma'$ is the unique \geq -smallest partition greater than or equal to both σ and σ' .

For $\sigma = \{n_1, \dots, n_r\} \in \mathcal{P}_n$ and for $q \in \mathcal{O}$ we will define a reduced closed subscheme $\text{Pol}_n(\sigma, q) \subset \text{Pol}_n$ as follows. Let Λ be the linear subspace of Aff^n defined by

$$X_{i+1} = qX_i$$

for all $i = 1, \dots, n - 1$ except $i = n_1$ or $n_1 + n_2$ or ... or $n_1 + \dots + n_{r-1}$. Let $\text{Pol}_n(\sigma, q)$ denote the reduced subscheme of the scheme theoretic image of Λ in Pol_n . For any field L the L -points of $\text{Pol}_n(\sigma, q)$ are those monic polynomials whose multiset of roots can be partitioned into r sub-multisets each of the form $\{\alpha, q\alpha, \dots, q^{n_j-1}\alpha\}$. If $q^n \neq 1$ in K and if $\sigma = \{n\}$ then over

$$\text{Pol}_n(\sigma, q) \times_{\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}} \text{Spec } K$$

the universal polynomial

$$P(X) = X^n - a_1 X^{n-1} + \dots + (-1)^n a_n$$

satisfies

$$P(X) = \prod_{i=1}^n (X - a_1 q^{i-1} / (1 + q + \dots + q^{n-1})).$$

If m is a positive integer and if $q \in \mathcal{O}^\times$ we will write $N(m)$ for the $m \times m$ matrix with $N(m)_{ij} = 1$ if $j = i+1$ and $= 0$ otherwise; and $\Phi(m, q)$ for the $m \times m$ diagonal matrix with entries $(q^{m-1}, \dots, q, 1)$. If $\sigma = (n_1, \dots, n_r) \in \mathcal{P}_n$ set $N(\sigma) = N(n_1) \oplus \dots \oplus N(n_r)$. If in addition $a = (a_1, \dots, a_r) \in (\mathcal{O}^\times)^r$ set

$$\Phi(\sigma, a, q) = a_1 \Phi(n_1, q) \oplus \dots \oplus a_r \Phi(n_r, q).$$

Thus

$$\Phi(\sigma, a, q) N(\sigma) \Phi(\sigma, a, q)^{-1} = q N(\sigma).$$

We will write $\Phi(\sigma, q)$ for $\Phi(\sigma, (1, \dots, 1), q)$.

Let Nil_n denote the space of $n \times n$ matrices with characteristic polynomial X^n . It is an affine scheme over \mathcal{O} . (Brian Conrad has shown us a proof, due to N. Fakhruddin, that Nil_n is reduced, but we will not need this here.) For $\sigma = \{n_1, \dots, n_r\} \in \mathcal{P}_n$ we define a reduced closed subscheme $\text{Nil}_n(\sigma) \subset \text{Nil}_n$ to be the locus of matrices N for which all $n+1-d_i(\sigma)$ minors of N^i vanish for $i = 1, \dots, n-1$ together with its reduced subscheme structure. Thus the matrix $N(\sigma)$ defines an \mathcal{O} -point of $\text{Nil}_n(\sigma)$. Note that $\text{Nil}_n(\sigma) \supset \text{Nil}_n(\sigma')$ if and only if $\sigma \leq \sigma'$, and that

$$\text{Nil}_n(\sigma) \cap \text{Nil}_n(\sigma') = \text{Nil}_n(\sigma \vee \sigma').$$

Thus the $\text{Nil}_n(\sigma)$ with $\sigma \in \mathcal{P}_n$ form a stratification of Nil_n . We will write

$$\text{Nil}_n(\sigma)^0 = \text{Nil}_n(\sigma) - \bigcup_{\sigma' > \sigma} \text{Nil}_n(\sigma').$$

If L/\mathcal{O} is a field then the L -points of $\text{Nil}_n(\sigma)^0$ correspond to nilpotent matrices over L whose Jordan blocks have size n_1, \dots, n_r , i.e. to $GL_n(L)$ conjugates of $N(\sigma)$.

- Lemma 2.5**
1. $\text{Nil}_n(\sigma)/\mathcal{O}$ is integral, its fibres are irreducible and the open subscheme $\text{Nil}_n(\sigma)^0$ is fibrewise dense in $\text{Nil}_n(\sigma)$. Moreover $\text{Nil}_n(\sigma)^0$ is smooth over $\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}$ of relative dimension $n^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (d_i(\sigma) - d_{i-1}(\sigma))^2$.
 2. $Z_{GL_n}(N(\sigma))$ is a fibrewise dense open subset of the affine space associated to a free \mathcal{O} -module of rank $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (d_i(\sigma) - d_{i-1}(\sigma))^2$.
 3. Locally in the Zariski topology the universal matrix over $\text{Nil}_n(\sigma)^0$ is conjugate, by a section of GL_n , to $N(\sigma)$.

Proof: This is well known over a field. As we are unaware of a reference over a DVR, we give a proof here. We would like to thank Dennis Gaitsgory for help with this.

Let $\text{Grass}(\sigma)$ denote the moduli space of increasing filtrations (denoted $\{\text{Fil}_j\}_{j=0, \dots, n}$) of the free rank n module \mathcal{O}^n by locally direct summands for which Fil_j is locally free of rank $d_j(\sigma)$. Then $\text{Grass}(\sigma)$ is smooth over \mathcal{O} of relative dimension $(n^2 - \sum_i (d_i(\sigma) - d_{i-1}(\sigma))^2)/2$. It is integral with integral fibres. Let $\{\text{Fil}_j^\sigma\}$ denote the standard filtration of \mathcal{O}^n , where Fil_j^σ consists of vectors whose last $n - d_j(\sigma)$ entries are zero. Locally in the Zariski topology on $\text{Grass}(\sigma)$ there is a section g of GL_n such that $\{g\text{Fil}_j^\sigma\}$ is the universal filtration.

Let $Q_\sigma \subset M_{n \times n}$ denote the subscheme of matrices taking Fil_j^σ to Fil_{j-1}^σ for all j . Also let Q_σ^0 denote the open subscheme of Q_σ defined as the locus of matrices which induce maps $\text{gr}_j^\sigma \rightarrow \text{gr}_{j-1}^\sigma$ of rank $d_j(\sigma) - d_{j-1}(\sigma) = \text{rk } \text{gr}_j^\sigma$. Thus $Q_\sigma^0 \subset Q_\sigma$ is the complement of the intersection of the closed subschemes each defined by the vanishing of the determinant of a $(d_j(\sigma) - d_{j-1}(\sigma)) \times (d_j(\sigma) - d_{j-1}(\sigma))$ minor of the $(d_j(\sigma) - d_{j-1}(\sigma)) \times (d_{j-1}(\sigma) - d_{j-2}(\sigma))$ matrix representing the map $\text{gr}_j^\sigma \rightarrow \text{gr}_{j-1}^\sigma$. Let $\text{Nil}_n^{\text{Fil}}(\sigma)$ denote the moduli space of pairs $(\{\text{Fil}_j\}, N)$ where $\{\text{Fil}_j\}$ is a filtration as above and where N is an endomorphism with $N\text{Fil}_j \subset \text{Fil}_{j-1}$ for all j . Let $\text{Nil}_n^{\text{Fil}}(\sigma)^0$ denote the open subspace where, for all j , the map N induces an isomorphism of $\text{Fil}_{j+1}/\text{Fil}_j$ with a locally direct summand of $\text{Fil}_j/\text{Fil}_{j-1}$. There are natural maps

$$\text{Nil}_n^{\text{Fil}}(\sigma)^0 \hookrightarrow \text{Nil}_n^{\text{Fil}}(\sigma) \longrightarrow \text{Grass}(\sigma).$$

Locally in the Zariski topology on $\text{Grass}(\sigma)$ we have $\text{Nil}_n^{\text{Fil}}(\sigma) \cong \text{Grass}(\sigma) \times Q_\sigma$ and $\text{Nil}_n^{\text{Fil}}(\sigma)^0 \cong \text{Grass}(\sigma) \times Q_\sigma^0$. (If on an open set $U \subset \text{Grass}(\sigma)$ there is a section g of GL_n such that $\{g\text{Fil}_j^\sigma\}$ is the universal filtration, then $\text{Nil}_n^{\text{Fil}}(\sigma)|_U$ is just $U \times gQ_\sigma g^{-1}$.) Thus $\text{Nil}_n^{\text{Fil}}(\sigma)$ is integral and smooth over \mathcal{O} of relative dimension $n^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (d_i(\sigma) - d_{i-1}(\sigma))^2$. Also its fibres are integral and $\text{Nil}_n^{\text{Fil}}(\sigma)^0$ is fibrewise dense in $\text{Nil}_n^{\text{Fil}}(\sigma)$.

There is also a forgetful map $\text{Nil}_n^{\text{Fil}}(\sigma) \rightarrow \text{Nil}_n$, which factors through $\text{Nil}_n(\sigma)$. Using the valuative criterion one sees that this map is proper. Also

it is surjective on points. Thus $\text{Nil}_n(\sigma)$ is irreducible (and, as it is reduced by definition, also integral) and all its fibres are irreducible. Moreover $\text{Nil}_n^{\text{Fil}}(\sigma)^0$ maps isomorphically to $\text{Nil}_n(\sigma)^0$. (To see that the map is an isomorphism, note that over $\text{Nil}_n(\sigma)^0$ the sheaf $\ker N^j$ is a local direct summand of dimension $d_j(\sigma)$ of the free sheaf of rank n . The map $N \mapsto (\{\ker N^j\}, N)$ gives a two sided inverse to the forgetful map $\text{Nil}_n^{\text{Fil}}(\sigma)^0 \rightarrow \text{Nil}_n(\sigma)^0$.) Thus $\text{Nil}_n(\sigma)^0$ is connected and smooth over \mathcal{O} of relative dimension $n^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (d_i(\sigma) - d_{i-1}(\sigma))^2$. Moreover $\text{Nil}_n(\sigma)^0$ is fibrewise dense in $\text{Nil}_n(\sigma)$.

The centraliser $Z_{GL_n}(N(\sigma))$ is the open subscheme of $Z_{M_{n \times n}}(N(\sigma))$ on which \det is non-zero. The latter centraliser is the affine space associated to a finite, free \mathcal{O} -module. (The subscheme $Z_{M_{n \times n}}(N(\sigma)) \subset M_{n \times n}$ is the locus where some entries of the $n \times n$ matrix are 0 and certain others equal each other.) Moreover $Z_{GL_n}(N(\sigma))$ is fibrewise dense in $Z_{M_{n \times n}}(N(\sigma))$ because if one adds a generic multiple of the identity matrix to a point of $Z_{M_{n \times n}}(N(\sigma))$ one obtains a point of $Z_{GL_n}(N(\sigma))$. Over K the natural map

$$GL_n/Z_{GL_n}(N(\sigma)) \longrightarrow \text{Nil}_n(\sigma)^0$$

is a bijection on points and hence an isomorphism. Thus $Z_{M_{n \times n}}(N(\sigma))$ has dimension $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (d_i(\sigma) - d_{i-1}(\sigma))^2$.

Zariski locally on $\text{Nil}_n(\sigma)^0 = \text{Nil}_n^{\text{Fil}}(\sigma)^0$ we may assume that each graded piece of the universal filtration is free. Choose a basis of the free rank n module as follows. Choose a basis of the top graded piece of the universal filtration and lift these elements to elements f_1, \dots, f_a of the free rank n module. Add to these all non-zero images of these elements under powers of N . Now extend Nf_1, \dots, Nf_a to a basis of the penultimate graded piece of the universal filtration and lift the new basis elements to f_{a+1}, \dots, f_{a+b} . Add these and all their non-zero images under powers of N to our putative basis and continue in this way. We will end up with (a permutation of) a basis with respect to which N has matrix $N(\sigma)$. Thus we can find a section g of GL_n over this open set such that $N = gN(\sigma)g^{-1}$. \square

Next we turn to a couple of results about complete local rings.

Lemma 2.6 *Suppose that A is a complete noetherian local \mathcal{O} -algebra (so that λA is contained in the maximal ideal \mathfrak{m} of A).*

1. *Suppose that l is not nilpotent in A and that \wp is a maximal ideal of $A[1/l]$. Then $A[1/l]/\wp$ is a finite field extension of K and A/\wp^c is a finite free \mathcal{O} -module (and hence an order in $A[1/l]/\wp$).*
2. *Any prime ideal of $A[1/l]$ equals the intersection of the maximal ideals containing it.*

Proof: The first part follows by the proof of lemma 5.1.1 of [BM]. (That is, we may suppose that $\wp^c = (0) \subset A$. Then A is an integral domain which is flat over \mathcal{O} , and $A[1/l]$ is a field. Theorem 15.3 of [M] tells us that the Krull dimension of A/λ is also zero, so that A/λ is a finite \mathcal{O} -module. It follows that A is also a finite \mathcal{O} -module, from which the desired result follows.) The second part is a special case of corollary 10.5.8 of [EGA]. \square

Lemma 2.7 *Let $X/\mathrm{Spec}\mathcal{O}$ be a scheme of finite type. Write X_1, \dots, X_r for the irreducible components of X with their reduced subscheme structure. Assume that the distinct irreducible components of $X \times_{\mathrm{Spec}\mathcal{O}} \mathrm{Spec}k$ are the $X_i \times_{\mathrm{Spec}\mathcal{O}} \mathrm{Spec}k$ and that each is (non-empty and) generically reduced. Also assume that all the $X_i \times_{\mathrm{Spec}\mathcal{O}} \mathrm{Spec}K$ are non-empty and have the same dimension d .*

Let x be a closed point of $X \times_{\mathrm{Spec}\mathcal{O}} \mathrm{Spec}k$. Then

- no minimal prime of the completion $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$ contains $\lambda\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$;*
- all maximal chains of prime ideals in $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$ have length $d + 2$;*
- every minimal prime of $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$ is contained in a prime minimal over $\lambda\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$; and*
- every prime of $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$ which is minimal over $\lambda\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$ contains a unique minimal prime of $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$.*

Proof: We may assume that X is reduced. Then X is flat over $\mathrm{Spec}\mathcal{O}$ (because it is reduced and all its generic points have characteristic 0) and hence $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$ is flat over \mathcal{O} , i.e. has no λ -torsion. Any minimal prime of $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$ is also an associated prime of $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$ and so can not contain $\lambda\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$. (Else $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$ would have λ -torsion.)

Let \tilde{X} denote the normalisation of X and let \tilde{X}_i denote the pull back of X_i to \tilde{X} . Then \tilde{X}_i is simply the normalisation of X_i and \tilde{X} is the disjoint union of the \tilde{X}_i . As X is excellent each \tilde{X}_i is finite over X_i . If d denotes the common dimension of the $X_i \times_{\mathrm{Spec}\mathcal{O}} \mathrm{Spec}K$, then we see that each $\tilde{X}_i \times_{\mathrm{Spec}\mathcal{O}} \mathrm{Spec}K$ also has dimension d . By [EGA] IV.13.1.3 and [EGA] IV.14.3.10 we conclude that each $X_i \times_{\mathrm{Spec}\mathcal{O}} \mathrm{Spec}k$ and each irreducible component of each $\tilde{X}_i \times_{\mathrm{Spec}\mathcal{O}} \mathrm{Spec}k$ also has dimension d . (We thank Brian Conrad for this reference.) Thus each irreducible component of $\tilde{X}_i \times_{\mathrm{Spec}\mathcal{O}} \mathrm{Spec}k$ dominates $X_i \times_{\mathrm{Spec}\mathcal{O}} \mathrm{Spec}k$. Let \mathcal{Q} denote the coherent sheaf on X which is the quotient of the push forward of $\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}}$ by \mathcal{O}_X .

Let $\bar{\eta}_i$ denote the generic point of $X_i \times_{\mathrm{Spec}\mathcal{O}} \mathrm{Spec}k$. Then $\mathcal{O}_{X_i, \bar{\eta}_i}/\lambda$ is a field and so $\mathcal{O}_{X_i, \bar{\eta}_i} = \mathcal{O}_{X, \bar{\eta}_i}$ is a DVR with maximal ideal generated by λ . But $\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}_i, \bar{\eta}_i}$ is just the integral closure $\mathcal{O}_{X_i, \bar{\eta}_i}$, so that

$$\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}_i, \bar{\eta}_i} = \mathcal{O}_{X_i, \bar{\eta}_i} = \mathcal{O}_{X, \bar{\eta}_i}.$$

In particular there is a unique point of \tilde{X}_i above $\bar{\eta}_i$ and we conclude that $\tilde{X}_i \times_{\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}} \text{Spec } k$ is irreducible. Moreover we see that $Q_{\bar{\eta}_i} = (0)$.

As \tilde{X}/X is finite we have

$$\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X},x}^\wedge = \bigoplus_{i,y} \mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}_i,y}^\wedge$$

where y runs over the points of \tilde{X}_i above x . Thus there is an exact sequence

$$(0) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{i,y} \mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}_i,y}^\wedge \longrightarrow Q_x^\wedge \longrightarrow (0).$$

As \tilde{X}_i is excellent, reduced and normal, we deduce that each $\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}_i,y}^\wedge$ is reduced and integrally closed and hence (as it is also local) an integral domain. Let $\mathfrak{p}_{i,y}$ denote the prime ideal which is the kernel of the map $\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}_i,y}^\wedge \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}_i,y}^\wedge / \mathfrak{p}_{i,y}$. If \wp is a prime of $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$ above a generic point of some X_i or of some $X_i \times_{\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}} \text{Spec } k$ then $(Q_x^\wedge)_\wp = (0)$ and so

$$(\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge)_\wp \xrightarrow{\sim} \bigoplus_{i,y} (\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}_i,y}^\wedge)_\wp.$$

(The module Q_x is killed by some element $f \in \mathcal{O}_{X,x} - \wp$, and f will also kill Q_x^\wedge .) As $(\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge)_\wp$ is local we see that \wp contains $\mathfrak{p}_{i,y}$ for a unique pair (i,y) .

Suppose first that \wp is a minimal prime of $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$. Then \wp lies above the generic point of one of the X_i (by the going down theorem, because $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$ is flat over $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}$). Thus $\wp \supset \mathfrak{p}_{i,y}$ for a unique pair (i,y) . As each $\mathfrak{p}_{i,y}$ contains some minimal prime ideal of $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$ we deduce that the $\mathfrak{p}_{i,y}$ are minimal, distinct and in fact exhaust the minimal primes of $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$.

As $\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}_i,y}^\wedge \supset \mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge / \mathfrak{p}_{i,y}$ is a finite extension of domains, they both have the same dimension (see section 4.4 of [E]). On the other hand $\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}_i,y}^\wedge$ has the same dimension as $\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}_i,y}$ (corollary 12.5 of [E]), which equals one plus $\dim \mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}_i \times_{\text{Spec } k}, y}$ (theorem 10.10 of [E]), which in turn equals $1 + \dim(\tilde{X}_i \times_{\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}} \text{Spec } k)$ (theorem A of section 13.1 of [E]). We have already seen that this number is just $1 + d$. As $\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}_i,y}^\wedge$ is catenary, the second part of the lemma follows.

Suppose that \wp is a prime of $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$ which is minimal over $(\lambda, \mathfrak{p}_{i,y})$. We claim that \wp is a minimal prime over $\lambda \mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$, from which the third part of the lemma would follow. If not we can find a prime \mathfrak{q} with $\wp \supset \mathfrak{q} \supset \lambda \mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$, but $\mathfrak{q} \neq \wp$. Then \mathfrak{q} must contain a minimal prime $\mathfrak{p}_{i',y'} \neq \mathfrak{p}_{i,y}$. It would follow that

$$\dim \mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge / \mathfrak{p}_{i,y} = 1 + \dim \mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge / \wp > 1 + \dim \mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge / \mathfrak{p}_{i',y'}$$

(see theorem 10.1 of [E]), which would contradict the second part of this lemma.

Suppose now that \wp is any prime of $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$ minimal over $\lambda\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$. As the quotient $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge/\lambda\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge = \mathcal{O}_{X \times \text{Spec } k,x}^\wedge$ is flat over $\mathcal{O}_{X \times \text{Spec } k,x}$ we deduce (by the going down theorem) that \wp lies over the generic point of one of the $X_i \times_{\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}} \text{Spec } k$. Thus \wp contains a unique $\mathfrak{p}_{i,y}$, i.e. a unique minimal prime of $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\wedge$. This proves the fourth part of the lemma. \square

3. Some more local deformation problems

This section may be considered a continuation of section 2.4 of [CHT]. We will study some further local deformation problems which are of key importance to the main strategy of this paper.

Fix a positive integer n and a prime number $l > n$. Let K denote a finite extension of \mathbf{Q}_l with ring of integers \mathcal{O} , maximal ideal λ and residue field k . Let $p \neq l$ be a second prime and $F_{\tilde{v}}$ be a finite extension of \mathbf{Q}_p with residue field $k(\tilde{v})$. We will suppose that

$$\#k(\tilde{v}) \equiv 1 \pmod{l}.$$

Further we will let

$$\bar{r} : G_{F_{\tilde{v}}} \longrightarrow \{1_n\} \subset GL_n(k)$$

denote the trivial representation.

We will let $G_{F_{\tilde{v}}}$ denote the absolute Galois group of $F_{\tilde{v}}$. Also $I_{F_{\tilde{v}}}$ will denote its inertia subgroup and $\text{Frob}_{\tilde{v}}$ the geometric Frobenius in $G_{F_{\tilde{v}}}/I_{F_{\tilde{v}}}$. Choose a lifting $\phi_{\tilde{v}} \in G_{F_{\tilde{v}}}$ of $\text{Frob}_{\tilde{v}}^{-1}$. In addition $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}^f$ will denote the category of Artinian local \mathcal{O} -algebras with residue field k and $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$ the category of topological local \mathcal{O} -algebras which are isomorphic to inverse limits of objects in $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}^f$.

Suppose that

$$\chi_{v,1}, \dots, \chi_{v,n} : G_{F_{\tilde{v}}} \rightarrow (1 + \lambda) \subset \mathcal{O}^\times$$

are continuous characters. Thus

$$\chi_{v,i}|_{I_{F_{\tilde{v}}}}^{\#k(\tilde{v})-1} = 1.$$

We will let $\mathcal{D}_v^{(\chi_{v,1}, \dots, \chi_{v,n})}$ denote the set of liftings r of \bar{r} to objects of $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}$ such that for all $\sigma \in I_{F_{\tilde{v}}}$

$$\text{char}_{r(\sigma)}(X) = \prod_{i=1}^n (X - \chi_{v,i}(\sigma)).$$

The collection $\mathcal{D}_v^{(\chi_{v,1}, \dots, \chi_{v,n})}$ is a local deformation problem in the sense of definition 2.2.2 of [CHT]. Let $\mathcal{I}_v^{(\chi_{v,1}, \dots, \chi_{v,n})}$ denote the corresponding ideal of the universal local lifting ring R_v^{loc} for \bar{r} . We will also let $\mathcal{D}_v^{\text{Stein},1} \subset \mathcal{D}_v^{(1,1,\dots,1)}$ denote the subset consisting of liftings r such that

$$\text{char}_{r(\phi_{\bar{v}})}(X) \in \text{Pol}_n(\{n\}, \#k(v)).$$

It is again local deformation problem and we will write $\mathcal{I}_v^{\text{Stein},1}$ for the corresponding ideal of R_v^{loc} . Then we let $\mathcal{I}_v^{\text{Stein}} \supset \mathcal{I}_v^{\text{Stein},1}$ denote the preimage in R_v^{loc} of the ideal of $R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{\text{Stein},1}$ consisting of all elements killed by a power of λ . We also let $\mathcal{D}^{\text{Stein}}$ denote the corresponding deformation problem. Note that $R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{\text{Stein}}$ is by definition flat over \mathcal{O} . (It seems likely that $\mathcal{D}^{\text{Stein}} = \mathcal{D}^{\text{Stein},1}$ and $\mathcal{I}_v^{\text{Stein}} = \mathcal{I}_v^{\text{Stein},1}$. However we won't need this, so we haven't tried to prove it.) The sole purpose of this (and most of the previous) section is to prove the following proposition.

Proposition 3.1 *1. If all the $\chi_{v,i}|_{I_{F_{\bar{v}}}}$ are distinct characters then the spectrum $\text{Spec } R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{(\chi_{v,1}, \dots, \chi_{v,n})}$ is irreducible and its generic point has characteristic zero. Moreover $R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{(\chi_{v,1}, \dots, \chi_{v,n})}$ has Krull dimension $n^2 + 1$.*
2. $R_v^{\text{loc}}/(\lambda, \mathcal{I}_v^{(\chi_{v,1}, \dots, \chi_{v,n})}) = R_v^{\text{loc}}/(\lambda, \mathcal{I}_v^{(1,1,\dots,1)})$.
3. All irreducible components of $\text{Spec } R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{(1,1,\dots,1)}$ have dimension $n^2 + 1$ and their generic points all have characteristic zero. Moreover every prime of $R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{(1,1,\dots,1)}$ which is minimal over $\lambda(R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{(1,1,\dots,1)})$ contains a unique minimal prime.
4. $\text{Spec } R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{\text{Stein}}$ is irreducible and the generic point has characteristic zero. Moreover $R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{\text{Stein}}$ has Krull dimension $n^2 + 1$.

Note that any lifting of \bar{r} to an Artinian local \mathcal{O} -algebra will factor through

$$T_{F_{\bar{v}}} = G_{F_{\bar{v}}}/P_{F_{\bar{v}}},$$

where $P_{F_{\bar{v}}}$ denotes the kernel of any (and hence all) non-trivial maps from $I_{F_{\bar{v}}}$ to \mathbf{Z}_l . Fix a topological generator $\sigma_{\bar{v}}$ of $I_{F_{\bar{v}}}/P_{F_{\bar{v}}}$. Then $T_{F_{\bar{v}}}$ is topologically generated by $\sigma_{\bar{v}}$ and $\phi_{\bar{v}}$ subject only to $\sigma_{\bar{v}}$ generating a pro- l -group and to

$$\phi_{\bar{v}}\sigma_{\bar{v}}\phi_{\bar{v}}^{-1} = \sigma_{\bar{v}}^{\#k(v)}.$$

If $P \in \mathcal{O}[X]$ is a monic polynomial of degree n and if q is a positive integer not divisible by l we will let $\mathcal{M}(P, q)/\mathcal{O}$ denote the moduli space of pairs of $n \times n$ -matrices (Φ, Σ) such that

- Φ is invertible;
- Σ has characteristic polynomial P ;

$$- \Phi \Sigma \Phi^{-1} = \Sigma^q.$$

Thus $\mathcal{M}(P, q)$ is an affine scheme over \mathcal{O} . Also write $\mathcal{M}_n^{\text{Stein}}(q)$ for the closed subscheme of $\mathcal{M}((X-1)^n, q)$ defined by

$$\text{char}_{\Phi}(X) \in \text{Pol}_n(\{n\}, q).$$

Then $R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{(\chi_{v,1}, \dots, \chi_{v,n})}$ (resp. $R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{\text{Stein}}$) is the formal completion of the structure sheaf of

$$\mathcal{M}\left(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \chi_{v,i}(\sigma_{\bar{v}})), \#k(v)\right)$$

(resp. $\mathcal{M}_n^{\text{Stein}}(\#k(v))$) at the closed point $(1_n, 1_n)$ (in the special fibre). We will first prove the following global result.

Lemma 3.2 *Let q be a positive integer with $q \equiv 1 \pmod{l}$.*

1. *Let \mathcal{M}_i denote the irreducible components of $\mathcal{M}((X-1)^n, q)$ with their reduced subscheme structure. Then each $\mathcal{M}_i \times_{\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}} \text{Spec } K$ is non-empty of dimension n^2 . Moreover the distinct irreducible components of $\mathcal{M}((X-1)^n, q) \times_{\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}} \text{Spec } k$ are the $\mathcal{M}_i \times_{\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}} \text{Spec } k$ and each is (non-empty and) generically reduced.*

2. *Suppose $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ are distinct $(q-1)^{\text{st}}$ roots of unity in $1 + \lambda \subset \mathcal{O}$. (If $q = 1$ we allow any $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in 1 + \lambda$, not necessarily distinct.) Then $\mathcal{M}(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \alpha_i), q)^{\text{red}}$ is flat over \mathcal{O} .*

Proof: We first give another model for $\mathcal{M}((X-1)^n, q)$. To this end let $\mathcal{N}(q)/\mathcal{O}$ denote the moduli space of pairs of $n \times n$ -matrices (Φ, N) such that

- Φ is invertible;
- N has characteristic polynomial X^n ;
- $\Phi N \Phi^{-1} = qN$.

Then $\mathcal{N}(q)$ is an affine scheme over \mathcal{O} . It follows from lemma 2.4 that

$$\mathcal{M}((X-1)^n, q) \cong \mathcal{N}(q).$$

The map sends (Φ, Σ) to $(\Phi, \log \Sigma)$. (In the original version of the paper we only showed that the reduced subschemes were isomorphic, and this is all we actually need in the sequel. We thank Brian Conrad for suggesting we include this slightly stronger result and for showing us a proof due to N. Fakhruddin. This is not, however, the proof we have presented here.)

There are natural maps

$$\mathcal{N}(q) \longrightarrow \text{Nil}_n$$

(taking (Φ, N) to N) and

$$\mathcal{N}(q) \longrightarrow \text{Pol}_n$$

(taking (Φ, N) to the characteristic polynomial of Φ). For $\sigma \in \mathcal{P}_n$ let

- $\mathcal{N}(q, \sigma)^0$ denote the locally closed preimage of $\text{Nil}_n(\sigma)^0$ under the first of these maps ;
- $\mathcal{N}(q, \sigma)$ denote the reduced subscheme of the closure of $\mathcal{N}(q, \sigma)^0$ in $\mathcal{N}(q)$;
- and $\mathcal{N}(q, \sigma)'$ denote the reduced subscheme of the intersection of the preimage under the first map of $\text{Nil}_n(\sigma)$ with the preimage under the second map of $\text{Pol}_n(\sigma, q)$.

Suppose that L is a field and that $(\Phi, N) \in M_{n \times n}(L)^2$ defines an L -point of $\mathcal{N}(q, \sigma)^0$. Then Φ acts on $\ker N^i / \ker N^{i-1}$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$ and

$$\text{char}_{\Phi|_{(\ker N^{i+1} / \ker N^i)}}(X) | \text{char}_{\Phi|_{(\ker N^i / \ker N^{i-1})}}(qX).$$

Thus $\text{char}_{\Phi}(X) \in \text{Pol}(\sigma, q)(L)$. It follows that

$$\mathcal{N}(q, \sigma)' \supset \mathcal{N}(q, \sigma) \supset (\mathcal{N}(q, \sigma)^0)^{\text{red}}.$$

Locally in the Zariski topology the map

$$\mathcal{N}(q, \sigma)^0 \longrightarrow \text{Nil}_n(\sigma)^0$$

is isomorphic to the projection

$$\text{Nil}_n(\sigma)^0 \times Z_{GL_n}(N(\sigma)) \longrightarrow \text{Nil}_n(\sigma)^0.$$

(If over an open subset $U \subset \text{Nil}_n(\sigma)^0$ the universal matrix is $gN(\sigma)g^{-1}$ with g a section of GL_n over U , then the preimage of U in $\mathcal{N}(q, \sigma)^0$ is just $U \times g\Phi(\sigma, q)Z_{GL_n}(N(\sigma))g^{-1}$.) In particular $\mathcal{N}(q, \sigma)^0$ is smooth over \mathcal{O} and fibrewise integral of pure relative dimension n^2 . Suppose that $a_1, \dots, a_r \in \bar{k}^\times$ are such that $a_i q^j \neq a_{i'} q^{j'}$ for $i \neq i'$ and $0 \leq j \leq n_i$ and $0 \leq j' \leq n_{i'}$. Then $(\Phi(\sigma, a, q), N(\sigma))$ is a point of

$$\left(\mathcal{N}(q, \sigma) - \bigcup_{\sigma' \neq \sigma} \mathcal{N}(q, \sigma')' \right) (\bar{k}) \subset \left(\mathcal{N}(q, \sigma) - \bigcup_{\sigma' \neq \sigma} \mathcal{N}(q, \sigma') \right) (\bar{k}).$$

We conclude that the $\mathcal{N}(q, \sigma)$ (resp. $(\mathcal{N}(q, \sigma) \times \text{Spec } k)^{\text{red}}$) are the reduced irreducible components of $\mathcal{N}(q)$ (resp. $\mathcal{N}(q) \times \text{Spec } k$). Each irreducible component of $\mathcal{N}(q) \times \text{Spec } k$ is contained in a unique irreducible component of $\mathcal{N}(q)$. The first part of the lemma follows.

Notice that if $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \in 1 + \lambda$ then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \alpha_i), 1) \times_{\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}} \text{Spec } k &= \mathcal{M}((X - 1)^n, 1) \times_{\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}} \text{Spec } k \\ &\cong \mathcal{N}(q) \times_{\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}} \text{Spec } k. \end{aligned}$$

Over the generic point of $\mathcal{N}(q, \sigma) \times_{\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}} \text{Spec } k$ the pair (Φ, N) is of the form $(A\Phi(\sigma, a, q)A^{-1}, AN(\sigma)A^{-1})$ for some a and A . Thus over the generic point

of the corresponding component of $\mathcal{M}(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \alpha_i), 1) \times_{\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}} \text{Spec } k$ the pair (Φ, Σ) is of the form $(A\Phi(\sigma, a, 1)A^{-1}, A(\exp N(\sigma))A^{-1})$. Choosing liftings \tilde{a} of a and \tilde{A} of A to characteristic 0 we can lift this to the characteristic zero pair

$$(\tilde{A}\Phi(\sigma, \tilde{a}, 1)\tilde{A}^{-1}, \tilde{A}\text{diag}(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)(\exp N(\sigma))\tilde{A}^{-1}).$$

Thus all generic points of $\mathcal{M}(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \alpha_i), 1)$ have characteristic zero and $\mathcal{M}(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \alpha_i), 1)^{\text{red}}$ is flat over \mathcal{O} .

If $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ are distinct $(q-1)^{\text{st}}$ roots of unity in \mathcal{O} and if Σ is an $n \times n$ matrix with

$$\text{char}_{\Sigma}(X) = \prod_{i=1}^n (X - \alpha_i) | (X^{q-1} - 1),$$

then $\Sigma^{q-1} = 1_n$. Thus

$$\mathcal{M}\left(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \alpha_i), q\right) = \mathcal{M}\left(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \alpha_i), 1\right)$$

and the second part of the lemma follows. \square

Lemma 3.3 *Suppose that all the $\chi_{v,i}|_{I_{F_v}}$ are distinct characters. Then the formal completion of $(R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{(\chi_{v,1}, \dots, \chi_{v,n})})[1/l]$ at any maximal ideal is formally smooth over K . Similarly the formal completion of*

$$(R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{\text{Stein}})[1/l] = (R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{\text{Stein},1})[1/l]$$

at any maximal ideal is formally smooth over K .

Proof: Consider first the case of

$$R = R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{(\chi_{v,1}, \dots, \chi_{v,n})} = \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{M}(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \chi_{v,i}(\sigma_{\bar{v}})), \#k(v)), (1_n, 1_n)}^{\wedge}.$$

Let \wp be a maximal ideal of $R[1/l]$. The residue field $k(\wp)$ is a finite extension of K . Let $\mathcal{O}'_{k(\wp)}$ denote the subring of $\mathcal{O}_{k(\wp)}$ consisting of elements which reduce modulo the maximal ideal to an element of k . Then R/\wp^c is a subring of $\mathcal{O}'_{k(\wp)}$. (See lemma 2.6.)

Suppose that A is a K -algebra with an ideal I satisfying $I^2 = (0)$. Suppose also that

$$f : R[1/l]/\wp^r \longrightarrow A/I$$

is a map of K -algebras. We must show that f can be lifted to a map

$$\tilde{f} : R[1/l]/\wp^{2r} \longrightarrow A.$$

First of all we may replace A by the preimage in A of the image of f in A/I . Thus we may suppose that A is local with nilpotent maximal ideal. Secondly we may replace A by a finitely generated K -subalgebra, so we may suppose that A is in fact an Artinian local ring. In particular the homomorphism $A \rightarrow k(\wp)$ has a section (because A contains the field K) and we can consider A as a $k(\wp)$ -algebra. (For instance, by theorem 7.7 of [E].)

Let $(\Phi, \Sigma) \in GL_n(A/I)^2$ denote the image of the universal matrices over $\mathcal{M}(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \chi_{v,i}(\sigma_{\bar{v}})), \#k(v))$. As the roots of the characteristic polynomial of Σ are distinct elements of K we may find a basis e_1, \dots, e_n of $(A/I)^n$ so that

$$\Sigma e_i = \chi_{v,i}(\sigma_{\bar{v}}) e_i.$$

As $\Sigma \#k(v) = \Sigma$, we must have $\Sigma \Phi = \Phi \Sigma$ and so

$$\Phi e_i = \alpha_i e_i$$

for some $\alpha_i \in A/I$. Choose a lifting of $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ to a basis $\{\tilde{e}_1, \dots, \tilde{e}_n\}$ of A^n and a lifting $\tilde{\alpha}_i$ to A of each α_i . Define a lifting $(\tilde{\Phi}, \tilde{\Sigma})$ of (Φ, Σ) to A by

$$\tilde{\Sigma} \tilde{e}_i = \chi_{v,i}(\sigma_{\bar{v}}) \tilde{e}_i$$

and

$$\tilde{\Phi} \tilde{e}_i = \tilde{\alpha}_i \tilde{e}_i.$$

Then $\tilde{\Sigma}$ has characteristic polynomial

$$\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \chi_{v,i}(\sigma_{\bar{v}}))$$

and

$$\tilde{\Phi} \tilde{\Sigma} \tilde{\Phi}^{-1} = \tilde{\Sigma} \#k(v).$$

Note that the reductions $\bar{\Phi}$ and $\bar{\Sigma}$ of Φ and Σ modulo the maximal ideal of A lie in $\mathcal{O}'_{k(\wp)}$. The entries of $\tilde{\Phi} - \bar{\Phi}$ and $\tilde{\Sigma} - \bar{\Sigma}$ are in the maximal ideal of A and hence nilpotent. Let A^0 denote the $\mathcal{O}'_{k(\wp)}$ -subalgebra of A generated by the entries of $\tilde{\Phi} - \bar{\Phi}$ and $\tilde{\Sigma} - \bar{\Sigma}$. Then A^0 is a complete noetherian local \mathcal{O} -algebra with residue field k . Thus we can find a map of \mathcal{O} -algebras

$$R \longrightarrow A^0$$

so that the universal matrices over $\mathcal{M}(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \chi_{v,i}(\sigma_{\bar{v}})), \#k(v))$ map to $(\tilde{\Phi}, \tilde{\Sigma})$. This map extends to the desired map

$$\tilde{f} : R[1/l] \longrightarrow A.$$

The proof in the case

$$R = R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{\text{Stein}} = \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{M}^{\text{Stein}}(\#k(v)), (1_n, 1_n)}^\wedge$$

is very similar. The key point is to show that $(\Phi, \Sigma) \in GL_n(A/I)^2$ lifts to $(\tilde{\Phi}, \tilde{\Sigma}) \in GL_n(A)^2$ such that $\tilde{\Sigma}$ has characteristic polynomial $(X-1)^n$, while $\tilde{\Phi}$ has characteristic polynomial in $\text{Pol}_n(\{n\}, \#k(v))$ and $\tilde{\Phi}\tilde{\Sigma}\tilde{\Phi}^{-1} = \tilde{\Sigma}^{\#k(v)}$. The characteristic polynomial

$$\text{char}_\Phi(X) = \prod_{i=1}^n (X - \alpha q^{i-1}),$$

where

$$\alpha = (\text{tr } \Phi)/(1 + q + \dots + q^{n-1}).$$

As the roots of $\text{char}_\Phi(X)$ are distinct modulo the maximal ideal of A/I , we can choose a basis e_1, \dots, e_n of $(A/I)^n$ such that

$$\Phi e_i = \alpha q^{i-1} e_i.$$

Then we must have

$$\Sigma e_i = \beta_i e_{i-1}$$

where $\beta_i \in A/I$ and where we set $e_0 = 0$. Choose a lifting of $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ to a basis $\{\tilde{e}_1, \dots, \tilde{e}_n\}$ of A^n , a lifting $\tilde{\alpha}$ of α to A and a lifting $\tilde{\beta}_i$ of each β_i to A . Define liftings $(\tilde{\Phi}, \tilde{\Sigma})$ of (Φ, Σ) to A by

$$\tilde{\Phi} \tilde{e}_i = \tilde{\alpha} q^{i-1} \tilde{e}_i$$

and

$$\tilde{\Sigma} \tilde{e}_i = \tilde{\beta}_i \tilde{e}_{i-1}$$

(with $\tilde{e}_0 = 0$). This lifting has the desired properties, and allows one to complete the proof of the lemma in the second case. \square

Lemma 3.4 $\text{Spec}(R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{(\chi_{v,1}, \dots, \chi_{v,n})})[1/l]$ and $\text{Spec}(R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{\text{Stein}})[1/l]$ are connected.

Proof: Consider first the case of

$$R = R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{(\chi_{v,1}, \dots, \chi_{v,n})} = \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{M}(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \chi_{v,i}(\sigma_{\tilde{v}})), \#k(v)), (1_n, 1_n)}^\wedge.$$

Let \wp_0 be the maximal ideal of $R[1/l]$ corresponding to

$$(\Phi_0, \Sigma_0) = (1_n, \text{diag}(\chi_{v,n}(\sigma_{\tilde{v}}), \dots, \chi_{v,1}(\sigma_{\tilde{v}}))) \in M_n(K)^2.$$

We will show that any other maximal ideal \wp of $R[1/l]$ is in the same connected component. The result will then follow from lemma 2.6.

The residue field $k(\wp)$ is a finite extension of K . Let $\mathcal{O}_{k(\wp)}$ denote its ring of integers and $\mathfrak{m}_{k(\wp)}$ the maximal ideal of $\mathcal{O}_{k(\wp)}$. Then $R/\wp^c \hookrightarrow \mathcal{O}_{k(\wp)}$, and this corresponds to some $(\Phi, \Sigma) \in M_n(\mathcal{O}_{k(\wp)})^2$. (See lemma 2.6.) Let A denote the complete topological domain

$$\mathcal{O}_{k(\wp)} \langle X_{ij}, Y \rangle_{i,j=1,\dots,n} / (Y \det(X_{ij}) - 1),$$

where $\langle \rangle$ denotes power series whose coefficients tend to zero. (The topology being the $\mathfrak{m}_{k(\wp)}$ topology.) Consider the pair

$$((X_{ij})^{-1} \Phi(X_{ij}), (X_{ij})^{-1} \Sigma(X_{ij})).$$

This defines a map

$$\text{Spec } A \longrightarrow \mathcal{M} \left(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \chi_{v,i}(\sigma_{\bar{v}})), \#k(v) \right)$$

such that $\text{Spec } A / \mathfrak{m}_{k(\wp)} A$ maps to the point

$$(1_n, 1_n) \in \mathcal{M} \left(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \chi_{v,i}(\sigma_{\bar{v}})), \#k(v) \right) (k).$$

Thus we get a (continuous) homomorphism

$$R \cong \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{M}(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \chi_{v,i}(\sigma_{\bar{v}})), \#k(v)), (1_n, 1_n)} \longrightarrow A.$$

We conclude that \wp is in the same connected component of $\text{Spec } R[1/l]$ as the maximal ideal corresponding to $(E^{-1} \Phi E, E^{-1} \Sigma E)$ for any $E \in GL_n(\mathcal{O}_{k(\wp)})$.

We can choose a decreasing filtration Fil^i of $k(\wp)^n$ such that

- each Fil^i is preserved by Φ and Σ and
- for $i = 1, \dots, n$ the graded piece gr^i is one dimensional and Σ acts on it by $\chi_{v,i}(\sigma_{\bar{v}})$.

(As $\chi_{v,i}(\sigma_{\bar{v}})^{\#k(\bar{v})} = \chi_{v,i}(\sigma_{\bar{v}})$ we see that Φ preserves $\ker(\Sigma - \chi_{v,i}(\sigma_{\bar{v}}))^a$ for all positive integers a .) Let e_1, \dots, e_n be a basis of $\mathcal{O}_{k(\wp)}^n$ such that e_i, \dots, e_n is a $k(\wp)$ -basis of Fil^i for all $i = 1, \dots, n$, and let

$$E = (e_n e_{n-1} \dots e_1) \in GL_n(\mathcal{O}).$$

Then $E^{-1} \Phi E \in GL_n(\mathcal{O}_{k(\wp)})$ is upper triangular and $E^{-1} \Sigma E \in GL_n(\mathcal{O}_{k(\wp)})$ is upper triangular with diagonal entries $\chi_{v,n}(\sigma_{\bar{v}}), \dots, \chi_{v,1}(\sigma_{\bar{v}})$ (reading from top left to bottom right).

Thus we are reduced to the case that Φ is upper triangular and Σ is upper triangular with diagonal entries $\chi_{v,n}(\sigma_{\bar{v}}), \dots, \chi_{v,1}(\sigma_{\bar{v}})$ (reading from top left to bottom right). Let

$$B = \mathcal{O}_{k(\wp)} \langle X \rangle .$$

Let $\Lambda = \text{diag}(1, X, \dots, X^{n-1})$ and consider the pair

$$(\Lambda^{-1}\Phi\Lambda, \Lambda^{-1}\Sigma\Lambda).$$

This defines a map

$$\text{Spec } B \longrightarrow \mathcal{M}\left(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \chi_{v,i}(\sigma_{\bar{v}})), \#k(v)\right)$$

such that $\text{Spec } B/\mathfrak{m}_{k(w)}$ maps to the point

$$(1_n, 1_n) \in \mathcal{M}\left(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \chi_{v,i}(\sigma_{\bar{v}})), \#k(v)\right)(k).$$

(Although Λ^{-1} is not defined over B , the products $\Lambda^{-1}\Phi\Lambda$ and $\Lambda^{-1}\Sigma\Lambda$ are defined over B .) Thus we get a (continuous) homomorphism

$$R \cong \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{M}(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \chi_{v,i}(\sigma_{\bar{v}})), \#k(v)), (1_n, 1_n)} \longrightarrow B.$$

The point of $R[1/l]$ corresponding to the map $B \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{k(\wp)}$ sending X to 1 is \wp . The point of $R[1/l]$ corresponding to the map $B \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{k(\wp)}$ sending X to 0 corresponds to a pair

$$(\text{diag}(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n), \text{diag}(\chi_{v,n}(\sigma_{\bar{v}}), \dots, \chi_{v,1}(\sigma_{\bar{v}}))).$$

These two points are in the same connected component of $\text{Spec } R[1/l]$.

Thus we are reduced to the case that $\Sigma = \text{diag}(\chi_{v,n}(\sigma_{\bar{v}}), \dots, \chi_{v,1}(\sigma_{\bar{v}}))$ and $\Phi = \text{diag}(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$. Let

$$C = \mathcal{O}_{k(\wp)}[[X_1, \dots, X_n]].$$

Consider the pair

$$(\text{diag}(1 + X_1, \dots, 1 + X_n)^{-1}\Phi, \Sigma).$$

This defines a map

$$\text{Spec } C \longrightarrow \mathcal{M}\left(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \chi_{v,i}(\sigma_{\bar{v}})), \#k(v)\right)$$

such that $\text{Spec } C/(X_1, \dots, X_n, \lambda)$ maps to the point

$$(1_n, 1_n) \in \mathcal{M}\left(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \chi_{v,i}(\sigma_{\bar{v}})), \#k(v)\right)(k).$$

Thus we get a (continuous) homomorphism

$$R \cong \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{M}(\prod_{i=1}^n (X - \chi_{v,i}(\sigma_{\bar{v}})), \#k(v)), (1_n, 1_n)}^\wedge \longrightarrow C.$$

The point \wp corresponds to the map $C \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{k(\wp)}$ sending $X_i \mapsto 0$ for all i ; while the point \wp_0 corresponds to the map $C \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{k(\wp)}$ sending $X_i \mapsto \alpha_i - 1$ for all i . Thus \wp and \wp_0 are in the same connected component of $\text{Spec } R[1/l]$, and the lemma follows.

Consider now the case

$$R = R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{\text{Stein}} = \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{M}^{\text{Stein}}(\#k(v)), (1_n, 1_n)}^\wedge.$$

Let \wp_0 be the maximal ideal of $R[1/l]$ corresponding to

$$(\Phi, \Sigma) = (\text{diag}((\#k(v))^{n-1}, \dots, (\#k(v)), 1), 1_n) \in M_n(K)^2.$$

We will show that any other maximal ideal \wp of $R[1/l]$ is in the same connected component. The argument is much the same as the previous case, so we will simply sketch it. We first reduce to the case that Σ is upper triangular with 1's on the diagonal and Φ is upper triangular with entries $\alpha(\#k(v))^{n-1}, \dots, \alpha(\#k(v)), \alpha$ (reading from top left to bottom right). Then one reduces to the case that Σ and Φ are diagonal of the same form and finally to the case $\alpha = 1$. \square

Finally we complete the proof of proposition 3.1.

Proof of proposition 3.1: Consider the first part of the proposition. Lemma 3.3 tells us that for any maximal ideal \wp of $(R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{(\chi_{v,1}, \dots, \chi_{v,n})})[1/l]$ the localisation $(R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{(\chi_{v,1}, \dots, \chi_{v,n})})[1/l]_\wp$ is a domain. Combining this with lemma 3.4 and the fact that the maximal ideals are dense in the spectrum $\text{Spec}(R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{(\chi_{v,1}, \dots, \chi_{v,n})})[1/l]$, we see that $(R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{(\chi_{v,1}, \dots, \chi_{v,n})})[1/l]$ is an integral domain. Lemma 3.2 implies that $(R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{(\chi_{v,1}, \dots, \chi_{v,n})})^{\text{red}}$ is flat over \mathcal{O} and we deduce that this ring is also an integral domain.

The second part of the proposition follows from the definitions. The third part follows from lemmas 2.7 and 3.2. The fourth part follows from lemmas 3.3 and 3.4 in the same way that the first part did. (Except in this case $R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v^{\text{Stein}}$ is flat over \mathcal{O} by definition.) \square

4. An $R^{\text{red}} = \mathbf{T}$ theorem.

Fix a positive integer $n \geq 2$ and a prime $l > n$.

Fix an imaginary quadratic field E in which l splits and a totally real field F^+ such that

- $F = F^+E/F^+$ is unramified at all finite primes, and
- F^+/\mathbf{Q} is unramified at l .

Fix a finite non-empty set of places $S(B)$ of places of F^+ with the following properties:

- Every element of $S(B)$ splits in F .
- $S(B)$ contains no place above l .
- If n is even then

$$n[F^+ : \mathbf{Q}]/2 + \#S(B) \equiv 0 \pmod{2}.$$

Choose a division algebra B with centre F with the following properties:

- $\dim_F B = n^2$.
- $B^{\text{op}} \cong B \otimes_{E,c} E$.
- B splits outside $S(B)$.
- If w is a prime of F above an element of $S(B)$, then B_w is a division algebra.

also choose an involution \dagger on B and define an algebraic group G/F^+ by

$$G(A) = \{g \in B \otimes_{F^+} A : g^{\dagger \otimes 1} g = 1\},$$

such that

- $\dagger|_F = c$,
- for a place $v|\infty$ of F^+ we have $G(F_v^+) \cong U(n)$, and
- for every finite place $v \notin S(B)$ of F^+ the group $G(F_v^+)$ is quasi-split.

Because of the first and third itemized assumptions on $S(B)$, it is always possible to choose such a B and then such a \dagger . (The argument is exactly analogous to the proof of lemma 1.7.1 of [HT].) The purpose of the assumption that $S(B) \neq \emptyset$ is to simplify the use of the trace formula in relating automorphic forms on G to automorphic forms on GL_n/F and in attaching Galois representations to automorphic forms on G .

Choose an order \mathcal{O}_B in B such that $\mathcal{O}_B^\dagger = \mathcal{O}_B$ and $\mathcal{O}_{B,w}$ is maximal for all primes w of F which are split over F^+ . (See section 3.3 of [CHT].) This gives a model of G over \mathcal{O}_{F^+} . If $v \notin S(B)$ is a prime of F^+ which splits

in F choose an isomorphism $i_v : \mathcal{O}_{B,v} \xrightarrow{\sim} M_n(\mathcal{O}_{F_v})$ such that $i_v(x^\dagger) = {}^t i_v(x)^c$. The choice of a prime w of F above v then gives us an identification

$$\begin{aligned} i_w : G(F_v^+) &\xrightarrow{\sim} GL_n(F_w) \\ i_v^{-1}(x, {}^t x^{-c}) &\longmapsto x \end{aligned}$$

with $i_w G(\mathcal{O}_{F^+,v}) = GL_n(\mathcal{O}_{F,w})$ and $i_{w^c} = {}^t(c \circ i_w)^{-1}$. If $v \in S(B)$ and w is a prime of F above v choose isomorphisms $i_w : G(F_v^+) \xrightarrow{\sim} B_w^\times$ such that $i_{w^c} = i_w^{-\dagger}$ and $i_w G(\mathcal{O}_{F^+,v}) = \mathcal{O}_{B,w}^\times$.

If w is a finite place of F which is split over a place $v \notin S(B)$ of F^+ , then write $\text{Iw}(w)$ for the inverse image under i_w of the group of matrices in $GL_n(\mathcal{O}_{F,w})$ which reduce modulo w to an upper triangular matrix. There is a natural homomorphism

$$\text{Iw}(w) \twoheadrightarrow (k(w)^\times)^n,$$

which takes g to the diagonal entries of the reduction modulo w of $i_w(g)$. Denote the kernel of this map by $\text{Iw}_1(w)$. Similarly write $U_0(w)$ (resp. $U_1(w)$) for the inverse image under i_w of the group of matrices in $GL_n(\mathcal{O}_{F,w})$ whose reduction modulo w has last row $(0, \dots, 0, *)$ (resp. $(0, \dots, 0, 1)$). Then $U_1(w)$ is a normal subgroup of $U_0(w)$ and we have a natural isomorphism

$$U_0(w)/U_1(w) \xrightarrow{\sim} k(w)^\times.$$

(It sends g to the lower right entry of the reduction modulo w of $i_w(g)$.)

Let S_l denote the set of primes of F^+ above l . Let S_a denote a non-empty set, disjoint from $S_l \cup S(B)$, of primes of F^+ such that

- if $v \in S_a$ then v splits in F , and
- if $v \in S_a$ lies above a rational prime p then $[F(\zeta_p) : F] > n$.

(The only role played by the primes in S_a will be to ensure that certain open compact subgroups of $G(\mathbf{A}_{F^+}^\infty)$ are sufficiently small.) Let R denote a set, disjoint from $S_l \cup S(B) \cup S_a$, of primes of F^+ such that

- if $v \in R$ then v splits in F , and
- if $v \in R$ then $\mathbf{N}v \equiv 1 \pmod{l}$.

(The set R is to allow us to prove modularity of l -adic representations ramified at more primes than their mod l reduction. These extra primes of ramification will be the elements of R .) Fix a decomposition

$$S(B) = S(B)_1 \coprod S(B)_2.$$

(This will correspond to two different sort of discrete series deformations we will allow.) Let $T = R \cup S(B) \cup S_l \cup S_a$. Let \tilde{T} denote a set of primes of F

above T such that $\tilde{T} \amalg \tilde{T}^c$ is the set of all primes of F above T . If $v \in T$ we will let \tilde{v} denote the prime of \tilde{T} above v . If $S \subset T$ we will let \tilde{S} denote the set of \tilde{v} for $v \in S$.

Let $U = \prod_v U_v$ denote an open compact subgroup of $G(\mathbf{A}_{F^+}^\infty)$ such that

- if v is not split in F then U_v is a hyperspecial maximal compact subgroup of $G(F_v^+)$,
- if $v \notin S_a \cup R$ splits in F then $U_v = G(\mathcal{O}_{F^+,v})$,
- if $v \in R$ then $U_v = \text{Iw}(\tilde{v})$, and
- if $v \in S_a$ then $U_v = i_v^{-1} \ker(GL_n(\mathcal{O}_{F,\tilde{v}}) \rightarrow GL_n(k(\tilde{v})))$.

Then U is sufficiently small in the sense that for some place v its projection to $G(F_v^+)$ contains only one element of finite order, namely 1. (In fact for $v \in S_a$.)

If Q is a finite set of primes of F^+ which split in F and if Q is disjoint from T , then we will write $T(Q)$ for $T \cup Q$ and $\tilde{T}(Q) \supset \tilde{T}$ for a set consisting of one place of F above each place in $T(Q)$. We will also write $U_0(Q)$ for $\prod_{v \notin Q} U_v \times \prod_{v \in Q} U_0(\tilde{v})$, and $U_1(Q)$ for $\prod_{v \notin Q} U_v \times \prod_{v \in Q} U_1(\tilde{v})$.

Let K/\mathbf{Q}_l be a finite extension which contains a primitive l^{th} root of unity and contains the image of every embedding $F^+ \hookrightarrow \overline{K}$. Let \mathcal{O} denote its ring of integers, λ the maximal ideal of \mathcal{O} and k the residue field \mathcal{O}/λ .

For $v \in R$ let

$$\chi_v = \chi_{v,1} \times \dots \times \chi_{v,n} : \text{Iw}(\tilde{v})/\text{Iw}_1(\tilde{v}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}^\times$$

denote a character of order dividing l . We will be particularly interested in the case $\chi_v = 1$ and the case $\chi_{v,i} \neq \chi_{v,j}$ for all $i \neq j$. (Recall that $l > n$.)

For each $\tau : F \hookrightarrow K$ choose integers $a_{\tau,1}, \dots, a_{\tau,n}$ such that

- $a_{\tau,i} = -a_{\tau,n+1-i}$, and
- if τ gives rise to a place in \tilde{S}_l then

$$l - 1 - n \geq a_{\tau,1} \geq \dots \geq a_{\tau,n} \geq 0.$$

We get a K -vector space W_a and an irreducible representation

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_a : G(F_l^+) &\longrightarrow GL(W_a) \\ g &\longmapsto \otimes_{\tau \in \tilde{I}_l} \xi_{a_\tau}(\tau i_\tau g) \end{aligned}$$

coming from the algebraic representation with highest weight a . (See section 3.3 of [CHT].) The representation ξ_a contains a $G(\mathcal{O}_{F^+,l})$ -invariant \mathcal{O} -lattice M_a .

For each $v \in S(B)$ let $\rho_v : G(F_v^+) \rightarrow GL(M_{\rho_v})$ denote a representation of $G(F_v^+)$ on a finite free \mathcal{O} -module such that ρ_v has open kernel and $M_{\rho_v} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \overline{K}$ is irreducible. For $v \in S(B)$, define m_v , $\pi_{\tilde{v}}$ and $\tilde{r}_{\tilde{v}}$ by

$$\text{JL}(\rho_v \circ i_{\tilde{v}}^{-1}) = \text{Sp}_{m_v}(\pi_{\tilde{v}})$$

and

$$\tilde{r}_{\tilde{v}} = r_l(\pi_{\tilde{v}} |_{|(n/m_v-1)(1-m_v)/2}).$$

(Here we let JL denote the Jacquet-Langlands map and $\text{Sp}_m(\sigma)$ a generalised Steinberg representation as in section I.3 of [HT]. We also let r_l denote the reciprocity map with its ‘arithmetic normalisation’ as in section VII.1 of [HT].) We will suppose that

$$\tilde{r}_{\tilde{v}} : \text{Gal}(\overline{F}_{\tilde{v}}/F_{\tilde{v}}) \rightarrow GL_{n/m_v}(\mathcal{O})$$

(as opposed to $GL_{n/m_v}(\overline{K})$). If $v \in S(B)_1$ we will further suppose that $Nv \equiv 1 \pmod{l}$, that $m_v = n$ and that $\pi_{\tilde{v}}$ is unramified. If $v \in S(B)_2$ we will further suppose that the reduction of $\tilde{r}_{\tilde{v}} \pmod{\lambda}$ is absolutely irreducible and

$$\tilde{r}_{\tilde{v}} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} k \not\cong \tilde{r}_{\tilde{v}} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} k(\epsilon^j)$$

for $j = 1, \dots, m_v$. (It should be possible to treat the common generalisation of these two extreme cases, but we will not do so here.)

Set

$$M_{a, \{\rho_v\}, \{\chi_v\}} = M_a \otimes \bigotimes_{v \in S(B)} M_{\rho_v} \otimes \bigotimes_{v \in R} \mathcal{O}(\chi_v).$$

Suppose that either A is a K -algebra or that the projection of U to $G(F_l^+)$ is contained in $G(\mathcal{O}_{F^+, l})$. Then we define a space of automorphic forms

$$S_{a, \{\rho_v\}, \{\chi_v\}}(U, A)$$

to be the space of functions

$$f : G(F^+) \backslash G(\mathbf{A}_{F^+}^{\infty}) \rightarrow A \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} M_{a, \{\rho_v\}, \{\chi_v\}}$$

such that

$$f(gu) = u_{S(B) \cup R \cup S_l}^{-1} f(g)$$

for all $u \in U$ and $g \in G(\mathbf{A}_{F^+}^{\infty})$. Here $u_{S(B) \cup R \cup S_l}$ denotes the projection of u to $G(F_l^+) \times \prod_{v \in S(B)} G(F_v^+) \times \prod_{v \in R} \text{Iw}(\tilde{v})$. If A is a \mathcal{O} -module we have

$$S_{a, \{\rho_v\}, \{\chi_v\}}(U, A) = S_{a, \{\rho_v\}, \{\chi_v\}}(U, \mathcal{O}) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} A$$

(because U is sufficiently small). We make an exactly analogous definition with $U_0(Q)$ or $U_1(Q)$ replacing U . These spaces satisfy the same base change

property as $U_0(Q)$ and $U_1(Q)$ are also sufficiently small. (See section 3.3 of [CHT] for details.)

We will denote by

$$\mathbf{T}_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}^T(U)$$

the \mathcal{O} -subalgebra of $\text{End}(S_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}(U, \mathcal{O}))$ generated by the Hecke operators

$$T_w^{(j)} = i_w^{-1} \left(GL_n(\mathcal{O}_{F,w}) \begin{pmatrix} \varpi_w 1_j & 0 \\ 0 & 1_{n-j} \end{pmatrix} GL_n(\mathcal{O}_{F,w}) \right) \times U^v$$

for $j = 1, \dots, n$ and $(T_w^{(n)})^{-1}$, where w runs over places of F which are split over a place $v \notin T$ of F^+ . (Note that $T_w^{(j)} = (T_w^{(n)})^{-1} T_w^{(n-j)}$, so we need only consider one place w above a given place v of F^+ .) The algebra $\mathbf{T}_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}^T(U)$ is reduced (see corollary 3.3.3 of [CHT]) and finite, free as a \mathcal{O} -module. Again we make an exactly analogous definition with U replaced by $U_0(Q)$ or $U_1(Q)$ and T replaced by $T(Q)$. The algebras $\mathbf{T}_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}^T(U_0(Q))$ and $\mathbf{T}_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}^{T(Q)}(U_1(Q))$ are also reduced and finite free as \mathcal{O} -modules.

We now turn to some Galois theory. Recall that in [CHT] we defined a group scheme \mathcal{G}_n over \mathbf{Z} to be the semi-direct product of $GL_n \times GL_1$ by the group $\{1, j\}$ acting on $GL_n \times GL_1$ by

$$j(g, \mu)j^{-1} = (\mu^t g^{-1}, \mu).$$

There is a homomorphism $\nu : \mathcal{G}_n \rightarrow GL_1$ which sends (g, μ) to μ and j to -1 . We also defined a subgroup $H \subset \mathcal{G}_n(k)$ to be *big* if the following conditions are satisfied.

- $H \cap \mathcal{G}_n^0(k)$ has no l -power order quotient.
- $H^0(H, \mathfrak{g}_n(k)) = (0)$.
- $H^1(H, \mathfrak{g}_n(k)) = (0)$.
- For all irreducible $k[H]$ -submodules W of $\mathfrak{g}_n(k)$ we can find $h \in H \cap \mathcal{G}_n^0(k)$ and $\alpha \in k$ with the following properties. The α generalised eigenspace $V_{h,\alpha}$ of h in k^n is one dimensional. Let $\pi_{h,\alpha} : k^n \rightarrow V_{h,\alpha}$ (resp. $i_{h,\alpha}$) denote the h -equivariant projection of k^n to $V_{h,\alpha}$ (resp. h -equivariant injection of $V_{h,\alpha}$ into k^n). Then $\pi_{h,\alpha} \circ W \circ i_{h,\alpha} \neq (0)$.

(See section 2.5 of [CHT] for this and for some examples of big subgroups.)

Let \mathfrak{m} be a maximal ideal of $\mathbf{T}_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{1\}}^T(U)$ with residue field k and let

$$\bar{r}_{\mathfrak{m}} : \text{Gal}(\bar{F}/F) \longrightarrow GL_n(k)$$

be a continuous homomorphism associated to \mathfrak{m} as in proposition 3.4.2 of [CHT]. Thus if w is a prime of F split over a prime $v \notin T$ of F^+ then $\bar{r}_{\mathfrak{m}}$ is unramified at w and $\bar{r}_{\mathfrak{m}}(\text{Frob}_w)$ has characteristic polynomial

$$X^n - T_w^{(1)} X^{n-1} + \dots + (-1)^j (\mathbf{N}w)^{j(j-1)/2} T_w^{(j)} X^{n-j} + \dots + (-1)^n (\mathbf{N}w)^{n(n-1)/2} T_w^{(n)}.$$

We will assume that the representation \bar{r}_m is absolutely irreducible, i.e. that m is *non-Eisenstein*. Then by proposition 3.4.4 of [CHT] \bar{r}_m extends to a continuous homomorphism

$$\bar{r}_m : \text{Gal}(\bar{F}/F^+) \longrightarrow \mathcal{G}_n(k)$$

with

$$\nu \circ \bar{r}_m = \epsilon^{1-n} \delta_{F/F^+}^{\mu_m}$$

where δ_{F/F^+} is the non-trivial character of $\text{Gal}(F/F^+)$ and where $\mu_m \in \mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z}$. We will *assume* that \bar{r}_m has the following properties.

- $\bar{r}_m(\text{Gal}(\bar{F}/F^+(\zeta_l)))$ is big.
- If $v \in R$ then $\bar{r}_m(G_{F_{\tilde{v}}}) = \{1_n\}$.
- If $v \in S_a$ then \bar{r}_m is unramified at v and

$$H^0(\text{Gal}(\bar{F}_{\tilde{v}}/F_{\tilde{v}}), (\text{ad } \bar{r}_m)(1)) = (0).$$

- If $v \in S(B)_1$ then $\bar{r}_m(\text{Gal}(\bar{F}_{\tilde{v}}/F_{\tilde{v}})) = \{1\}$.

Set $\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{T}_{a, \{\rho_v\}, \{1\}}^T(U)_m$ and $H = S_{a, \{\rho_v\}, \{1\}}(U, \mathcal{O})_m$. By proposition 3.4.4 of [CHT] there is a continuous representation

$$r_m : G_{F^+} \longrightarrow \mathcal{G}_n(\mathbf{T})$$

lifting \bar{r}_m and such that if w is a prime of F split over a prime $v \notin T$ of F^+ then r_m is unramified at w and $r_m(\text{Frob}_w)$ has characteristic polynomial $X^n - T_w^{(1)} X^{n-1} + \dots + (-1)^j (\mathbf{N}w)^{j(j-1)/2} T_w^{(j)} X^{n-j} + \dots + (-1)^n (\mathbf{N}w)^{n(n-1)/2} T_w^{(n)}$.

For $v \in T$ we write

$$r_v^{\text{univ}} : G_{F_{\tilde{v}}} \longrightarrow GL_n(R_v^{\text{loc}})$$

for the universal lifting (not deformation, i.e. it parametrises lifts not conjugacy classes of lifts) of $\bar{r}_m|_{G_{F_{\tilde{v}}}}$. (See section 2.2 of [CHT].) Consider the deformation problem \mathcal{S} given by

$$(F/F^+, T, \tilde{T}, \mathcal{O}, \bar{r}_m, \epsilon^{1-n} \delta_{F/F^+}^{\mu_m}, \{\mathcal{D}_v\}_{v \in T})$$

and the ideals \mathcal{I}_v of R_v^{loc} corresponding to \mathcal{D}_v , where:

- For $v \in S_a$, \mathcal{D}_v will consist of all lifts of $\bar{r}_m|_{\text{Gal}(\bar{F}_{\tilde{v}}/F_{\tilde{v}})}$ and $\mathcal{I}_v = (0)$.
- For $v \in S_l$, \mathcal{D}_v and \mathcal{I}_v will be as described in section 2.4.1 of [CHT] (i.e. consists of crystalline deformations).
- If $v \in S(B)_1$ then \mathcal{D}_v will correspond to $\mathcal{I}_v = \mathcal{I}_v^{\text{Stein}}$.
- If $v \in S(B)_2$ then \mathcal{D}_v will consist of lifts which are $\tilde{r}_{\tilde{v}}$ -discrete series as described in section 2.4.5 of [CHT].

- For $v \in R$ then \mathcal{D}_v corresponds to the ideal $\mathcal{I}_v = \mathcal{I}_v^{(1, \dots, 1)}$ of R_v^{loc} .

Also let

$$r_{\mathcal{S}}^{\text{univ}} : \text{Gal}(\overline{F}/F^+) \longrightarrow \mathcal{G}_n(R_{\mathcal{S}}^{\text{univ}})$$

denote the universal deformation of $\overline{r}_{\mathfrak{m}}$ of type \mathcal{S} . (Again see section 2.2 of [CHT].) By proposition 3.4.4 of [CHT] the representation $r_{\mathfrak{m}}$ gives rise to a surjection

$$R_{\mathcal{S}}^{\text{univ}} \twoheadrightarrow \mathbf{T}$$

which makes H an $R_{\mathcal{S}}^{\text{univ}}$ -module.

We can now state our main result.

Theorem 4.1 *Keep the notation and assumptions of the start of this section. Then*

$$(R_{\mathcal{S}}^{\text{univ}})^{\text{red}} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbf{T}.$$

Moreover $\mu_{\mathfrak{m}} \equiv n \pmod{2}$.

Proof: The proof will involve the consideration of various other deformation problems and the corresponding Hecke algebras and spaces of modular forms. More specifically we will consider sets of characters

$$\{\chi_v : \text{Iw}(\tilde{v})/\text{Iw}_1(\tilde{v}) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}^\times\}_{v \in R}$$

of order dividing l , and finite sets Q of primes of F^+ disjoint from T and such that if $v \in Q$ then

- v splits ww^c in F ,
- $\mathbf{N}v \equiv 1 \pmod{l}$, and
- $\overline{r}_{\mathfrak{m}}|_{G_{F_w}} = \overline{\psi}_w \oplus \overline{s}_w$, with $\dim \overline{\psi}_w = 1$ and $\overline{\psi}_w$ not isomorphic to any subquotient of \overline{s}_w .

We must first assemble some notations.

Consider the deformation problem $\mathcal{S}_{\{\chi_v\}, Q}$ given by

$$(F/F^+, T(Q), \tilde{T}(Q), \mathcal{O}, \overline{r}_{\mathfrak{m}}, \epsilon^{1-n} \delta_{F/F^+}^{\mu_{\mathfrak{m}}}, \{\mathcal{D}_v\}_{v \in T(Q)})$$

and the ideals \mathcal{I}_v of R_v^{loc} corresponding to \mathcal{D}_v , where:

- For $v \in S_a$, \mathcal{D}_v will consist of all lifts of $\overline{r}_{\mathfrak{m}}|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}_{\tilde{v}}/F_{\tilde{v}})}$ and $\mathcal{I}_v = (0)$.
- For $v \in S_l$, \mathcal{D}_v and \mathcal{I}_v will be as described in section 2.4.1 of [CHT] (i.e. consists of crystalline deformations).
- If $v \in S(B)_1$ then \mathcal{D}_v will correspond to $\mathcal{I}_v = \mathcal{I}_v^{\text{Stein}}$.
- If $v \in S(B)_2$ then \mathcal{D}_v will consist of lifts which are $\tilde{r}_{\tilde{v}}$ -discrete series as described in section 2.4.5 of [CHT].
- For $v \in R$ then \mathcal{D}_v corresponds to the ideal $\mathcal{I}_v = \mathcal{I}_v^{(\chi_{v,1}, \dots, \chi_{v,n})}$ of R_v^{loc} .

– For $v \in Q$ then \mathcal{D}_v corresponds to the maximal quotient $R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v$ of R_v^{loc} over which r_v^{univ} becomes equivalent to $\psi_v \oplus s_v$ where ψ lifts $\bar{\psi}_v$ and where s is unramified and lifts \bar{s}_v . (See section 2.4.6 of [CHT].)

(For $v \in R$ the sets \mathcal{D}_v and the ideals \mathcal{I}_v depend on χ_v , but we suppress this in the notation.) Let

$$r_{\mathcal{S}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\text{univ}} : \text{Gal}(\bar{F}/F^+) \longrightarrow \mathcal{G}_n(R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\text{univ}})$$

denote the universal deformation of \bar{r}_m of type $\mathcal{S}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}$, and let

$$r_{\mathcal{S}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\square_T} : \text{Gal}(\bar{F}/F^+) \longrightarrow \mathcal{G}_n(R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\square_T})$$

denote the universal deformation of \bar{r}_m of type $\mathcal{S}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}$ framed at all $v \in T$. Thus $R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{1\},\emptyset}}^{\text{univ}} = R_{\mathcal{S}}^{\text{univ}}$. (See section 2.2 of [CHT].) Note that

$$R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\text{univ}}/\lambda \cong R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{1\},Q}}^{\text{univ}}/\lambda$$

and

$$R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\square_T}/\lambda \cong R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{1\},Q}}^{\square_T}/\lambda$$

compatibly with the natural maps

$$\begin{array}{ccc} R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\text{univ}} & \twoheadrightarrow & R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{\chi_v\},\emptyset}}^{\text{univ}} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\square_T} & \twoheadrightarrow & R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{\chi_v\},\emptyset}}^{\square_T} \end{array}$$

and

$$\begin{array}{ccc} R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{1\},Q}}^{\text{univ}} & \twoheadrightarrow & R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{1\},\emptyset}}^{\text{univ}} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{1\},Q}}^{\square_T} & \twoheadrightarrow & R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{1\},\emptyset}}^{\square_T}. \end{array}$$

Let

$$R_{\{\chi_v\},T}^{\text{loc}} = \bigotimes_{v \in T} R_v^{\text{loc}}/\mathcal{I}_v,$$

so that again

$$R_{\{\chi_v\},T}^{\text{loc}}/\lambda \cong R_{\{1\},T}^{\text{loc}}/\lambda.$$

There are natural maps

$$R_{\{\chi_v\},T}^{\text{loc}} \longrightarrow R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\square_T}$$

which modulo λ are compatible with the identifications $R_{\{\chi_v\},T}^{\text{loc}}/\lambda \cong R_{\{1\},T}^{\text{loc}}/\lambda$ and $R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\square_T}/\lambda \cong R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{1\},Q}}^{\square_T}/\lambda$. (See section 2.2 of [CHT].)

(The sets Q will be the auxiliary primes needed for the Taylor-Wiles method (see [TW]). To handle non-minimal deformations we will work simultaneously with R_S^{univ} and $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},\emptyset}}$ for suitably chosen characters $\{\chi_v\}_{v \in S}$. The Taylor-Wiles method as modified by Kisin [K] will work for $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},\emptyset}}$. By making the argument simultaneously for R_S^{univ} and $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},\emptyset}}$ we will be able to finesse the result for R_S^{univ} from the $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},\emptyset}}$ case.)

Write

$$\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{O}[[X_{v,i,j} : v \in T, i, j = 1, \dots, n]].$$

A choice of lifting $r_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\text{univ}}$ of \bar{r}_m over $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\text{univ}}$ representing the universal deformation of type $\mathcal{S}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}$ gives rise to an isomorphism of $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\text{univ}}$ -algebras

$$R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\square T} \xrightarrow{\sim} R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\text{univ}} \widehat{\otimes}_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{T}$$

so that

$$(r_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\text{univ}}; \{1_n + (X_{v,i,j})\}_{v \in T})$$

is the universal framed deformation. (See section 2.2 of [CHT].) We can, and will, choose the lifting $r_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\text{univ}}$ so that

$$r_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\text{univ}} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} k = r_{S_{\{1\},Q}}^{\text{univ}} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} k$$

under the natural identification $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\text{univ}}/\lambda \cong R_{S_{\{1\},Q}}^{\text{univ}}/\lambda$. Then the isomorphisms

$$R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\square T} \xrightarrow{\sim} R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\text{univ}} \widehat{\otimes}_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{T}$$

and

$$R_{S_{\{1\},Q}}^{\square T} \xrightarrow{\sim} R_{S_{\{1\},Q}}^{\text{univ}} \widehat{\otimes}_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{T}$$

are compatible with the identification $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\square T}/\lambda \cong R_{S_{\{1\},Q}}^{\square T}/\lambda$ and the identification $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\text{univ}}/\lambda \cong R_{S_{\{1\},Q}}^{\text{univ}}/\lambda$.

Also write Δ_Q for the maximal l -power quotient of $\prod_{v \in Q} k(v)^\times$ and let \mathfrak{a}_Q denote the ideal of $\mathcal{T}[\Delta_Q]$ generated by the augmentation ideal of $\mathcal{O}[\Delta_Q]$ and by the $X_{v,i,j}$ for $v \in T$ and $i, j = 1, \dots, n$. Then

$$\prod_{v \in Q} (\psi_v \circ \text{Art}_{F_{\bar{v}}}) : \Delta_Q \longrightarrow (R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\text{univ}})^\times$$

makes $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\text{univ}}$ an $\mathcal{T}[\Delta_Q]$ -algebra. This $\mathcal{T}[\Delta_Q]$ -algebra structure is compatible with the identification $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\text{univ}}/\lambda \cong R_{S_{\{1\},Q}}^{\text{univ}}/\lambda$, because the liftings $r_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\square T}$ and $r_{S_{\{1\},Q}}^{\square T}$ were chosen compatibly. We also obtain isomorphisms of $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\text{loc},T}$ -algebras

$$R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\square T}/\mathfrak{a}_Q \xrightarrow{\sim} R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},\emptyset}}^{\text{univ}},$$

compatibly with the identifications $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\square T}/\lambda \cong R_{S_{\{1\},Q}}^{\square T}/\lambda$ and $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},\emptyset}}^{\text{univ}}/\lambda \cong R_{S_{\{1\},\emptyset}}^{\text{univ}}/\lambda$.

We have

$$S_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{1\}}(U,k) = S_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}(U,k) \hookrightarrow S_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}(U_1(Q),k).$$

Thus there is a maximal ideal $\mathfrak{m}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}$ of $\mathbf{T}_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}^{T(Q)}(U_1(Q))$ with residue field k such that for a prime w of F split over a prime $v \notin T(Q)$ of F^+ the Hecke operators $T_w^{(i)}$ have the same image in $\mathbf{T}_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}^{T(Q)}(U_1(Q))/\mathfrak{m}_{\{\chi_v\},Q} = k$ as in $\mathbf{T}_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{1\}}^{T(Q)}(U)/\mathfrak{m} = k$. By proposition 3.4.4 of [CHT] there is a continuous representation

$$r_{\mathfrak{m}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}} : G_{F^+} \longrightarrow \mathcal{G}_n(\mathbf{T}_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}^{T(Q)}(U_1(Q))_{\mathfrak{m}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}})$$

lifting $\bar{r}_{\mathfrak{m}}$ and such that if w is a prime of F split over a prime $v \notin T(Q)$ of F^+ then $r_{\mathfrak{m}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}$ is unramified at w and $r_{\mathfrak{m}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}(\text{Frob}_w)$ has characteristic polynomial

$$X^n - T_w^{(1)} X^{n-1} + \dots + (-1)^j (\mathbf{N}w)^{j(j-1)/2} T_w^{(j)} X^{n-j} + \dots + (-1)^n (\mathbf{N}w)^{n(n-1)/2} T_w^{(n)}.$$

Set $\mathbf{T}_{\{\chi_v\}} = \mathbf{T}_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}^T(U)_{\mathfrak{m}_{\{\chi_v\},\emptyset}}$ and $H_{\{\chi_v\}} = S_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}(U, \mathcal{O})_{\mathfrak{m}_{\{\chi_v\},\emptyset}}$. By corollary 3.4.5 of [CHT] we see that we have

$$\mathbf{T}_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}^{T(Q)}(U_1(Q))_{\mathfrak{m}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}} \rightarrow \mathbf{T}_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}^{T(Q)}(U_0(Q))_{\mathfrak{m}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}} \rightarrow \mathbf{T}_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}^{T(Q)}(U)_{\mathfrak{m}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}} = \mathbf{T}_{\{\chi_v\}}.$$

For $v \in Q$ choose $\phi_{\tilde{v}} \in \text{Gal}(\bar{F}_{\tilde{v}}/F_{\tilde{v}})$ lifting $\text{Frob}_{\tilde{v}}$ and $\varpi_{\tilde{v}} \in F_{\tilde{v}}^{\times}$ with $\phi_{\tilde{v}} = \text{Art}_{F_{\tilde{v}}}\varpi_{\tilde{v}}$ on the maximal abelian extension of $F_{\tilde{v}}$. Let

$$P_{\tilde{v}} \in \mathbf{T}_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}^{T(Q)}(U_1(Q))_{\mathfrak{m}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}[X]$$

denote the characteristic polynomial of $r_{\mathfrak{m}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}(\phi_{\tilde{v}})$. By Hensel's lemma we have a unique factorisation

$$P_{\tilde{v}}(X) = (X - A_{\tilde{v}})Q_{\tilde{v}}(X)$$

over $\mathbf{T}_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}^{T(Q)}(U_1(Q))_{\mathfrak{m}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}$, where $A_{\tilde{v}}$ lifts $\bar{\psi}_v(\phi_{\tilde{v}})$ and

$$Q_{\tilde{v}}(A_{\tilde{v}}) \in \mathbf{T}_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}^{T(Q)}(U_1(Q))_{\mathfrak{m}_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\times}.$$

If $v \in Q$ and $\alpha \in F_{\tilde{v}}$ write

$$V_{\alpha} = i_{\tilde{v}}^{-1} \left(U_1(\tilde{v}) \begin{pmatrix} 1_{n-1} & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha \end{pmatrix} U_1(\tilde{v}) \right) \times U^v.$$

(See section 3.4 of [CHT] for details.) Using lemmas 3.1.3 and 3.1.5 of [CHT] we see that $P_{\tilde{v}}(V_{\varpi_{\tilde{v}}}) = 0$ on $S_{a, \{\rho_v\}, \{\chi_v\}}(U_1(Q), \mathcal{O})_{\mathfrak{m}_{\{\chi_v\}, Q}}$. Set

$$H_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q} = \left(\prod_{v \in Q} Q_{\tilde{v}}(V_{\varpi_{\tilde{v}}}) \right) S_{a, \{\rho_v\}, \{\chi_v\}}(U_1(Q), \mathcal{O})_{\mathfrak{m}_{\{\chi_v\}, Q}}$$

and

$$H_{0, \{\chi_v\}, Q} = \left(\prod_{v \in Q} Q_{\tilde{v}}(V_{\varpi_{\tilde{v}}}) \right) S_{a, \{\rho_v\}, \{\chi_v\}}(U_0(Q), \mathcal{O})_{\mathfrak{m}_{\{\chi_v\}, Q}}$$

We see that $H_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q}$ is a $\mathbf{T}_{a, \{\rho_v\}, \{\chi_v\}}^{T(Q)}(U_1(Q))$ -direct summand of the module $S_{a, \{\rho_v\}, \{\chi_v\}}(U_1(Q), \mathcal{O})$. Also lemmas 3.1.5 and 3.2.2 of [CHT] tell us that

$$\left(\prod_{v \in Q} Q_{\tilde{v}}(V_{\varpi_{\tilde{v}}}) \right) : H_{\{\chi_v\}} \xrightarrow{\sim} H_{0, \{\chi_v\}, Q}.$$

Write $\mathbf{T}_{0, \{\chi_v\}, Q}$ (resp. $\mathbf{T}_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q}$) for the image of $\mathbf{T}_{a, \{\rho_v\}, \{\chi_v\}}^{T(Q)}(U_1(Q))$ in the endomorphism ring of $H_{0, \{\chi_v\}, Q}$ (resp. $H_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q}$). For all $v \in Q$, $V_{\varpi_{\tilde{v}}} = A_{\tilde{v}}$ on $H_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q}$. By part 8 of proposition 3.4.4 of [CHT] we see that for each $v \in Q$ there is a character

$$V_{\tilde{v}} : F_{\tilde{v}}^{\times} \longrightarrow \mathbf{T}_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q}^{\times}$$

such that

- if $\alpha \in F_{\tilde{v}}^{\times} \cap \mathcal{O}_{F_{\tilde{v}}}$ then $V_{\tilde{v}}(\alpha) = V_{\alpha}$ on $H_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q}$, and
- $(r_{\mathfrak{m}_{\{\chi_v\}, Q}} \otimes \mathbf{T}_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q})|_{W_{F_{\tilde{v}}}} = s \oplus (V_{\tilde{v}} \circ \text{Art}_{F_{\tilde{v}}}^{-1})$ where s is unramified.

The representation $r_{\mathfrak{m}_{\{\chi_v\}, Q}}$ gives rise to a surjection

$$R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{\chi_v\}, Q}}^{\text{univ}} \twoheadrightarrow \mathbf{T}_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q},$$

and the composite

$$\prod_{v \in Q} \mathcal{O}_{F_{\tilde{v}}}^{\times} \twoheadrightarrow \Delta_{Q_N} \longrightarrow (R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{\chi_v\}, Q}}^{\text{univ}})^{\times} \longrightarrow \mathbf{T}_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q}^{\times}$$

coincides with $\prod_v V_{\tilde{v}}$. Thus $H_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q}$ becomes an $R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{\chi_v\}, Q}}^{\text{univ}}$ -module and we set

$$H_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q}^{\square_T} = H_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q} \otimes_{R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{\chi_v\}, Q}}^{\text{univ}}} R_{\mathcal{S}_{\{\chi_v\}, Q}}^{\square_T} = H_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{T}.$$

As $H_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q}$ is a direct summand of $S_{a, \{\rho_v\}, \{\chi_v\}}(U_1(Q), \mathcal{O})$ as modules for $\mathbf{T}_{a, \{\rho_v\}, \{\chi_v\}}^{T(Q)}(U_1(Q))$ and as $\ker(\prod_{v \in Q} k(v)^{\times} \rightarrow \Delta_Q)$ acts trivially on $H_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q}$, lemma 3.3.1 of [CHT] tells us that $H_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q}$ is a free $\mathcal{O}[\Delta_Q]$ -module and that

$$(H_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q})_{\Delta_Q} \xrightarrow{\sim} H_{0, \{\chi_v\}, Q} \cong H_{\{\chi_v\}}.$$

As U is sufficiently small we get isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} S_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}(U, \mathcal{O}) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} k &\cong S_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}(U, k) = S_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{1\}}(U, k) \\ &\cong S_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{1\}}(U, \mathcal{O}) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} k \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} S_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}(U_1(Q), \mathcal{O}) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} k &\cong S_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{\chi_v\}}(U_1(Q), k) = S_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{1\}}(U_1(Q), k) \\ &\cong S_{a,\{\rho_v\},\{1\}}(U_1(Q), \mathcal{O}) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} k. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we get identifications

$$H_{\{\chi_v\}}/\lambda \cong H_{\{1\}}/\lambda$$

and

$$H_{1,\{\chi_v\},Q}/\lambda \cong H_{1,\{1\},Q}/\lambda$$

compatible with the actions of $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},\emptyset}}^{\text{univ}}/\lambda \cong R_{S_{\{1\},\emptyset}}^{\text{univ}}/\lambda$ and of $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\text{univ}}/\lambda \cong R_{S_{\{1\},Q}}^{\text{univ}}/\lambda$, and also compatible with the maps $H_{1,\{\chi_v\},Q}/\lambda \rightarrow H_{\{\chi_v\}}/\lambda$ and $H_{1,\{1\},Q}/\lambda \rightarrow H_{\{1\}}/\lambda$. Similarly we get an identification

$$H_{1,\{\chi_v\},Q}^{\square_T}/\lambda \cong H_{1,\{1\},Q}^{\square_T}/\lambda$$

compatible both with the isomorphism $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},Q}}^{\square_T}/\lambda \cong R_{S_{\{1\},Q}}^{\square_T}/\lambda$ and with the maps $H_{1,\{\chi_v\},Q}^{\square_T}/\lambda \rightarrow H_{\{\chi_v\}}/\lambda$ and $H_{1,\{1\},Q}^{\square_T}/\lambda \rightarrow H_{\{1\}}/\lambda$.

Proposition 1.5.9 of [CHT] tells us that there is a non-negative integer q , such that for any positive integer N there is a set Q_N (and $\bar{\psi}_w$ for $w|v \in Q_N$) as above such that

- $\#Q_N = q \geq [F^+ : \mathbf{Q}]n(n-1)/2 + [F^+ : \mathbf{Q}]n(1 - (-1)^{\mu_m-n})/2$;
- if $v \in Q_N$ then $Nv \equiv 1 \pmod{l^N}$; and
- $R_{S_{\{1\},Q_N}}^{\square_T}$ can be topologically generated over $R_{\{1\},T}^{\text{loc}}$ by

$$q - [F^+ : \mathbf{Q}]n(n-1)/2 - [F^+ : \mathbf{Q}]n(1 - (-1)^{\mu_m-n})/2$$

elements.

Set

- $q' = q - [F^+ : \mathbf{Q}]n(n-1)/2 - [F^+ : \mathbf{Q}]n(1 - (-1)^{\mu_m-n})/2 \geq 0$
- and $R_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T} = R_{\{\chi_v\},T}^{\text{loc}}[[Y_1, \dots, Y_{q'}]]$.

Suppose that either $\chi_v = 1$ for all $v \in R$ or that $\chi_{v,i} \neq \chi_{v,j}$ for all $v \in R$ and all $i \neq j$. Then all irreducible components of $\text{Spec } R_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T}$ have dimension

$$1 + q + n^2 \#T - [F^+ : \mathbf{Q}]n(1 - (-1)^{\mu_m-n})/2$$

and their generic points have characteristic 0. If for all $v \in R$ the characters $\chi_{v,i}$ are all distinct for $i = 1, \dots, n$ then $\text{Spec } R_{\{\chi_v\}, \infty}^{\square_T}$ is irreducible. Every prime of $R_{\{1\}, \infty}^{\square_T}$, which is minimal over $\lambda R_{\{1\}, \infty}^{\square_T}$, contains a unique minimal prime of $R_{\{1\}, \infty}^{\square_T}$. (See proposition 3.1 and section 2.4 of [CHT].)

Note that we have a natural identification

$$R_{\{\chi_v\}, \infty}^{\square_T} / \lambda \cong R_{\{1\}, \infty}^{\square_T} / \lambda.$$

Choose a surjection

$$R_{\{1\}, \infty}^{\square_T} \twoheadrightarrow R_{S_{\{1\}, Q_N}^{\square_T}}$$

extending the natural map $R_{\{1\}, T}^{\text{loc}} \rightarrow R_{S_{\{1\}, Q_N}^{\square_T}}$. Reducing modulo λ and applying the natural comparisons, this gives rise to a surjection

$$R_{\{\chi_v\}, \infty}^{\square_T} / \lambda \twoheadrightarrow R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, Q_N}^{\square_T}} / \lambda$$

extending the natural map $R_{\{\chi_v\}, T}^{\text{loc}} / \lambda \rightarrow R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, Q_N}^{\square_T}} / \lambda$. This in turn can be lifted to a surjection

$$R_{\{\chi_v\}, \infty}^{\square_T} \twoheadrightarrow R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, Q_N}^{\square_T}}$$

extending the natural map $R_{\{\chi_v\}, T}^{\text{loc}} \rightarrow R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, Q_N}^{\square_T}}$.

Also set

- $\Delta_\infty = \mathbf{Z}_l^q$;
- $S_\infty = \mathcal{T}[[\Delta_\infty]]$;
- and $\mathfrak{a} = \ker(S_\infty \rightarrow \mathcal{O})$, where the map sends each element of Δ_∞ to 1 and each $X_{v,i,j}$ to 0.

Thus S_∞ is isomorphic to a power series ring in $q + n^2 \# T$ variables over \mathcal{O} in such a way that \mathfrak{a} is the ideal generated by these variables. Choose continuous surjections

$$\Delta_\infty \twoheadrightarrow \Delta_{Q_N}$$

for all N and let \mathfrak{c}_N denote the kernel of the corresponding map

$$\mathcal{O}[[\Delta_\infty]] \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{O}[\Delta_{Q_N}].$$

Note that any open ideal of $\mathcal{O}[[\Delta_\infty]]$ contains \mathfrak{c}_N for all sufficiently large N . The choice of $\Delta_\infty \twoheadrightarrow \Delta_{Q_N}$ gives rise to a map

$$S_\infty \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{T}[\Delta_{Q_N}] \twoheadrightarrow R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, Q_N}^{\square_T}}.$$

We see that

$$- R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, Q_N}^{\square_T}} / \mathfrak{a} \xrightarrow{\sim} R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, \emptyset}^{\text{univ}}},$$

- $H_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q_N}^{\square_T}$ is finite free over S_∞/\mathfrak{c}_N ,
- $H_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q_N}^{\square_T}/\mathfrak{a} \xrightarrow{\sim} H_{\{\chi_v\}}$.

Our aim is to ‘patch’ the $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, Q_N}}^{\square_T}$ to form in the limit a copy of $R_{\{\chi_v\}, \infty}^{\square_T}$ and simultaneously patch the $H_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q_N}^{\square_T}$ to produce a $R_{\{\chi_v\}, \infty}^{\square_T}$ -module, which is also finite and free over S_∞ . To do this patching it is better to work with finite cardinality quotients of the $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, Q_N}}^{\square_T}$. We will next construct suitable quotients of this sort.

Choose open ideals \mathfrak{b}_N in S_∞ such that

- $\mathfrak{b}_N \supset \mathfrak{a}_N$,
- $\mathfrak{b}_N \supset \mathfrak{b}_{N+1}$,
- and $\bigcap_N \mathfrak{b}_N = (0)$.

Also choose open ideals $\mathfrak{d}_{\{\chi_v\}, N}$ in $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, \emptyset}}^{\text{univ}}$ such that

- $\ker(R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, \emptyset}}^{\text{univ}} \rightarrow \mathbf{T}_{\{\chi_v\}}) + \mathfrak{b}_N R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, \emptyset}}^{\text{univ}} \supset \mathfrak{d}_{\{\chi_v\}, N} \supset \mathfrak{b}_N R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, \emptyset}}^{\text{univ}}$;
- $\mathfrak{d}_{\{\chi_v\}, N} \supset \mathfrak{d}_{\{\chi_v\}, N+1}$;
- $\bigcap_N \mathfrak{d}_{\{\chi_v\}, N} = (0)$;
- $(\mathfrak{d}_{\{\chi_v\}, N} \bmod \lambda) = (\mathfrak{d}_{\{1\}, N} \bmod \lambda)$ in $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, \emptyset}}^{\text{univ}}/\lambda = R_{S_{\{1\}, \emptyset}}^{\text{univ}}/\lambda$.

(Set

$$\mathfrak{d}'_{\{\chi_v\}, N} = (\ker(R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, \emptyset}}^{\text{univ}} \rightarrow \mathbf{T}_{\{\chi_v\}}) + \mathfrak{b}_N R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, \emptyset}}^{\text{univ}}) \cap (\mathfrak{m}_{R_{\{\chi_v\}, \emptyset}}^N + \mathfrak{b}_N R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, \emptyset}}^{\text{univ}}).$$

As $\mathbf{T}_{\{1\}}$ is finite over \mathcal{O} , the ideal $\mathfrak{b}_N \mathbf{T}_{\{1\}}$ is open in $\mathbf{T}_{\{1\}}$ and so $\mathfrak{d}'_{\{\chi_v\}, N}$ will be open in $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, \emptyset}}^{\text{univ}}$. Thus $\mathfrak{d}'_{\{\chi_v\}, N}$ satisfies the first three of the required properties. Then define $\mathfrak{d}_{\{\chi_v\}, N}$ to be the intersection of $\mathfrak{d}'_{\{\chi_v\}, N}$ and the preimages in $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, \emptyset}}^{\text{univ}}$ of $\mathfrak{d}'_{\{\chi_v\}, N} \bmod \lambda$ in $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, \emptyset}}^{\text{univ}}/\lambda = R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, \emptyset}}^{\text{univ}}/\lambda$ for all (the finite number of) $\{\chi_v\}$.)

Thus we obtain maps

$$R_{\{\chi_v\}, \infty}^{\square_T} \twoheadrightarrow R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, Q_N}}^{\square_T}/\mathfrak{b}_N \twoheadrightarrow R_{S_{\{\chi_v\}, \emptyset}}^{\text{univ}}/\mathfrak{d}_N$$

which agree modulo λ . If $M \geq N$ then

$$H_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q_M}^{\square_T}/\mathfrak{b}_N$$

becomes an $R_{\{\chi_v\}, \infty}^{\square_T} \widehat{\otimes}_{\mathcal{O}} S_\infty/\mathfrak{b}_N$ -module which is finite free over S_∞/\mathfrak{b}_N and such that the image of S_∞ in $\text{End}(H_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q_M}^{\square_T}/\mathfrak{b}_N)$ is contained in the image of $R_{\{\chi_v\}, \infty}^{\square_T}$. Moreover

$$H_{1, \{\chi_v\}, Q_M}^{\square_T}/(\mathfrak{b}_N + \lambda) \cong (H_{1, \{1\}, Q_M}^{\square_T})/(\mathfrak{b}_N + \lambda)$$

as $R_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T}/\lambda = (R_{\{1\},\infty}^{\square_T})/\lambda$ -modules. Finally we have isomorphisms of $R_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T}$ -modules

$$H_{1,\{\chi_v\},Q_M}^{\square_T}/(\mathfrak{b}_N + \mathfrak{a}) \xrightarrow{\sim} H_{\{\chi_v\}}/\mathfrak{b}_N$$

which are compatible modulo λ . ($R_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T}$ acts on the right hand module via the map $R_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T} \rightarrow R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},\emptyset}}^{\text{univ}}/\mathfrak{d}_N$.)

Because $R_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T} \widehat{\otimes}_{\mathcal{O}} S_{\infty}$ is topologically finitely generated and because the module $H_{1,\{\chi_v\},Q_M}^{\square_T}/\mathfrak{b}_N$ and the ring $R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},\emptyset}}^{\text{univ}}/\mathfrak{d}_N$ have finite cardinality independent of $M \geq N$ we can find an infinite sequence of pairs of integers (M_i, N_i) with $M_i \geq N_i$ such that

- $N_{i+1} > N_i$ and $M_{i+1} > M_i$;
- the reduction modulo \mathfrak{d}_{N_i} of the maps $R_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T} \rightarrow R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},\emptyset}}^{\text{univ}}/\mathfrak{d}_{N_{i+1}}$ equals the map $R_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T} \rightarrow R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},\emptyset}}^{\text{univ}}/\mathfrak{d}_{N_i}$ for all (the finite number of choices for) $\{\chi_v\}$;
- there are isomorphisms of $R_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T} \widehat{\otimes}_{\mathcal{O}} S_{\infty}$ -modules

$$H_{1,\{\chi_v\},Q_{M_{i+1}}}^{\square_T}/\mathfrak{b}_{N_i} \xrightarrow{\sim} H_{1,\{\chi_v\},Q_{M_i}}^{\square_T}/\mathfrak{b}_{N_i}$$

compatible both with the isomorphisms

$$H_{1,\{\chi_v\},Q_{M_{i+1}}}^{\square_T}/(\lambda + \mathfrak{b}_{N_i}) \cong (H_{1,\{1\},Q_{M_{i+1}}}^{\square_T})/(\lambda + \mathfrak{b}_{N_i})$$

and

$$H_{1,\{\chi_v\},Q_{M_i}}^{\square_T}/(\lambda + \mathfrak{b}_{N_i}) \cong (H_{1,\{1\},Q_{M_i}}^{\square_T})/(\lambda + \mathfrak{b}_{N_i});$$

and with the maps

$$H_{1,\{\chi_v\},Q_{M_{i+1}}}^{\square_T}/\mathfrak{b}_{N_i} \rightarrow H_{\{\chi_v\}}/\mathfrak{b}_{N_i}$$

and

$$H_{1,\{\chi_v\},Q_{M_i}}^{\square_T}/\mathfrak{b}_{N_i} \rightarrow H_{\{\chi_v\}}/\mathfrak{b}_{N_i}.$$

Taking the limit as $i \rightarrow \infty$ we get maps

$$R_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T} \rightarrow R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},\emptyset}}^{\text{univ}}$$

which agree modulo λ .

Set

$$H_{1,\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T} = \varprojlim_{\leftarrow} H_{1,\{\chi_v\},Q_{M_i}}^{\square_T}/\mathfrak{b}_{N_i}.$$

Thus $H_{1,\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T}$ is an $R_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T} \widehat{\otimes}_{\mathcal{O}S_\infty}$ -module. The action of S_∞ can be factored through $R_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T}$. (As S_∞ is formally smooth.) The lifts

$$S_\infty \rightarrow R_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T}$$

can be chosen to agree modulo λ . There is a natural isomorphism

$$H_{1,\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T}/\lambda \cong H_{1,\{1\},\infty}^{\square_T}/\lambda$$

of $R_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T}/\lambda \widehat{\otimes}_{\mathcal{O}S_\infty} \cong R_{\{1\},\infty}^{\square_T}/\lambda \widehat{\otimes}_{\mathcal{O}S_\infty}$ -modules. There are also isomorphisms

$$H_{1,\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T}/\mathfrak{a} \xrightarrow{\sim} H_{\{\chi_v\}}$$

which agree modulo λ and are compatible with the maps

$$R_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T} \twoheadrightarrow R_{S_{\{\chi_v\},\emptyset}}^{\text{univ}} \twoheadrightarrow \mathbf{T}_{\{\chi_v\}}.$$

Now choose characters χ_v for $v \in R$ such that $\chi_{v,i} \neq \chi_{v,j}$ for $i \neq j$. (This is possible as $l > n$.) As $H_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T}$ is finite, free over S_∞ and $H_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T}/\mathfrak{a} \cong H_{\{\chi_v\}}$ we see that $H_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T}$ has $R_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T}$ -depth at least $1 + q + n^2 \#T$. Thus $R_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T}/\text{Ann } H_{1,\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T}$ has dimension at least $1 + q + n^2 \#T$. However $R_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T}$ has dimension

$$1 + q + n^2 \#T - [F^+ : \mathbf{Q}]n(1 - (-1)^{\mu_m - n})/2$$

and a unique minimal ideal. Thus (see lemma 2.3) $\mu_m \equiv n \pmod{2}$ and $H_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T}$ is a nearly faithful $R_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T}$ -module.

We also deduce that $H_{1,\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T}/\lambda \cong H_{1,\{1\},\infty}^{\square_T}/\lambda$ is a nearly faithful as a module over $R_{\{\chi_v\},\infty}^{\square_T}/\lambda \cong R_{\{1\},\infty}^{\square_T}/\lambda$. (See section 2 for the definition of ‘nearly faithful’.) Recall that all generic points of $\text{Spec } R_{\{1\},\infty}^{\square_T}$ have characteristic zero and every prime of $R_{\{1\},\infty}^{\square_T}$, which is minimal over $\lambda R_{\{1\},\infty}^{\square_T}$, contains a unique minimal prime of $R_{\{1\},\infty}^{\square_T}$. Thus lemma 2.2 implies that $H_{1,\{1\},\infty}^{\square_T}$ is a nearly faithful $R_{\{1\},\infty}^{\square_T}$ -module. Finally this implies that H is a nearly faithful R_S^{univ} -module. As \mathbf{T} is reduced, the theorem follows. \square

5. Modularity lifting theorems.

In this section we combine theorem 4.1 with the theory of base change to deduce more explicit and useful modularity lifting theorems.

Let F be a CM field. By a *RACSDC* (regular, algebraic, conjugate self dual, cuspidal) automorphic representation π of $GL_n(\mathbf{A}_F)$ we mean a cuspidal automorphic representation such that

- $\pi^\vee \cong \pi^c$, and
- π_∞ has the same infinitesimal character as some irreducible algebraic representation of the restriction of scalars from F to \mathbf{Q} of GL_n .

Let $a \in (\mathbf{Z}^n)^{\text{Hom}(F, \mathbf{C})}$ satisfy

- $a_{\tau,1} \geq \dots \geq a_{\tau,n}$, and
- $a_{\tau c, i} = -a_{\tau, n+1-i}$.

Let Ξ_a denote the irreducible algebraic representation of $GL_n^{\text{Hom}(F, \mathbf{C})}$ which is the tensor product over τ of the irreducible representations of GL_n with highest weights a_τ . We will say that a RACSDC automorphic representation π of $GL_n(\mathbf{A}_F)$ has *weight* a if π_∞ has the same infinitesimal character as Ξ_a^\vee .

Let S be a finite set of finite places of F . For $v \in S$ let ρ_v be an irreducible square integrable representation of $GL_n(F_v)$. We will say that a RACSDC automorphic representation π of $GL_n(\mathbf{A}_F)$ has *type* $\{\rho_v\}_{v \in S}$ if for each $v \in S$, π_v is an unramified twist of ρ_v^\vee .

The following is a restatement of theorem VII.1.9 of [HT].

Proposition 5.1 *Let $\iota : \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_\iota \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbf{C}$. Let F be an imaginary CM field, S a finite non-empty set of finite places of F and, for $v \in S$, ρ_v a square integrable representation of $GL_n(F_v)$. Let $a \in (\mathbf{Z}^n)^{\text{Hom}(F, \mathbf{C})}$ be as above. Suppose that π is a RACSDC automorphic representation of $GL_n(\mathbf{A}_F)$ of weight a and type $\{\rho_v\}_{v \in S}$. Then there is a continuous semisimple representation*

$$r_{l, \iota}(\pi) : \text{Gal}(\overline{F}/F) \longrightarrow GL_n(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_\iota)$$

with the following properties.

1. For every prime $v \nmid l$ of F we have

$$r_{l, \iota}(\pi)|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}_v/F_v)}^{\text{ss}} = r_l(\iota^{-1}\pi_v)^\vee(1-n)^{\text{ss}}.$$

2. $r_{l, \iota}(\pi)^c = r_{l, \iota}(\pi)^\vee \epsilon^{1-n}$.

3. If $v \mid l$ is a prime of F then $r_{l, \iota}(\pi)|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}_v/F_v)}$ is potentially semistable, and if π_v is unramified then it is crystalline.

4. If $v|l$ is a prime of F and if $\tau : F \hookrightarrow \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l$ lies above v then

$$\dim_{\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l} \mathrm{gr}^i(r_{l,i}(\pi) \otimes_{\tau, F_v} B_{\mathrm{DR}})^{\mathrm{Gal}(\overline{F}_v/F_v)} = 0$$

unless $i = a_{\tau,j} + n - j$ for some $j = 1, \dots, n$ in which case

$$\dim_{\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l} \mathrm{gr}^i(r_{l,i}(\pi) \otimes_{\tau, F_v} B_{\mathrm{DR}})^{\mathrm{Gal}(\overline{F}_v/F_v)} = 1.$$

Proof: We can take $r_{l,i}(\pi) = R_l(\pi^\vee)(1-n)$ in the notation of [HT]. Note that the definition of highest weight we use here differs from that in [HT].
□

The representation $r_{l,i}(\pi)$ can be taken to be valued in $GL_n(\mathcal{O})$ where \mathcal{O} is the ring of integers of some finite extension of \mathbf{Q}_l . Thus we can reduce it modulo the maximal ideal of \mathcal{O} and semisimplify to obtain a continuous semisimple representation

$$\bar{r}_{l,i}(\pi) : \mathrm{Gal}(\overline{F}/F) \longrightarrow GL_n(\overline{\mathbf{F}}_l)$$

which is independent of the choices made.

Let $\iota : \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbf{C}$. Suppose that $a \in (\mathbf{Z}^n)^{\mathrm{Hom}(F, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)}$ satisfies

- $a_{\tau,1} \geq \dots \geq a_{\tau,n}$, and
- $a_{\tau c, i} = -a_{\tau, n+1-i}$.

Then we define $\iota_* a$ by

$$(\iota_* a)_{\iota\tau, i} = a_{\tau, i}.$$

Suppose also that S is a finite set of finite places of F not containing any prime above l and that ρ_v is a discrete series representation of $GL_n(F_v)$ over $\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l$ for all $v \in S$. We will call a continuous semisimple representation

$$r : \mathrm{Gal}(\overline{F}/F) \longrightarrow GL_n(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)$$

(resp.

$$\bar{r} : \mathrm{Gal}(\overline{F}/F) \longrightarrow GL_n(\overline{\mathbf{F}}_l)$$

automorphic of weight a and type $\{\rho_v\}_{v \in S}$ if there is an isomorphism $\iota : \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbf{C}$ and a RACSDC automorphic representation π of $GL_n(\mathbf{A}_F)$ of weight $\iota_* a$ and type $\{\iota\rho_v\}_{v \in S}$ (resp. and with π_l unramified) such that $r \cong r_{l,i}(\pi)$ (resp. $\bar{r} \cong \bar{r}_{l,i}(\pi)$). We will say that r is automorphic of weight a and type $\{\rho_v\}_{v \in S}$ and level prime to l if there is an isomorphism $\iota : \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbf{C}$ and a RACSDC automorphic representation π of $GL_n(\mathbf{A}_F)$ of weight $\iota_* a$ and type $\{\iota\rho_v\}_{v \in S}$ and with π_l unramified such that $r \cong r_{l,i}(\pi)$.

Recall that (see definition 2.5.1 of [CHT]) we call a subgroup $H \subset GL_n(k)$ big if the following conditions are satisfied.

- H has no l -power order quotient.
- $H^i(H, \mathfrak{gl}_n^0(k)) = (0)$ for $i = 0, 1$.
- For all irreducible $k[H]$ -submodules W of $\mathfrak{gl}_n^0(k)$ we can find $h \in H$ and $\alpha \in k$ with the following properties. The α generalised eigenspace $V_{h,\alpha}$ of h in k^n is one dimensional. Let $\pi_{h,\alpha} : k^n \rightarrow V_{h,\alpha}$ (resp. $i_{h,\alpha}$) denote the h -equivariant projection of k^n to $V_{h,\alpha}$ (resp. h -equivariant injection of $V_{h,\alpha}$ into k^n). Then $\pi_{h,\alpha} \circ W \circ i_{h,\alpha} \neq (0)$.

(Recall that \mathfrak{gl}_n^0 denotes the trace zero subspace of $\mathfrak{gl}_n = \text{Lie } GL_n$.)

Theorem 5.2 *Let F be an imaginary CM field and let F^+ denote its maximal totally real subfield. Let $n \in \mathbf{Z}_{\geq 1}$ and let $l > n$ be a prime which is unramified in F . Let*

$$r : \text{Gal}(\overline{F}/F) \longrightarrow GL_n(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)$$

be a continuous irreducible representation with the following properties. Let \bar{r} denote the semisimplification of the reduction of r .

1. $r^c \cong r^\vee \epsilon^{1-n}$.
2. r is unramified at all but finitely many primes.
3. For all places $v|l$ of F , $r|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}_v/F_v)}$ is crystalline.
4. There is an element $a \in (\mathbf{Z}^n)^{\text{Hom}(F, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)}$ such that
 - for all $\tau \in \text{Hom}(F, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)$ we have

$$l - 1 - n \geq a_{\tau,1} \geq \dots \geq a_{\tau,n} \geq 0$$

or

$$l - 1 - n \geq a_{\tau c,1} \geq \dots \geq a_{\tau c,n} \geq 0;$$

- for all $\tau \in \text{Hom}(F, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)$ and all $i = 1, \dots, n$

$$a_{\tau c,i} = -a_{\tau, n+1-i};$$

- for all $\tau \in \text{Hom}(F, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)$ above a prime $v|l$ of F ,

$$\dim_{\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l} \text{gr}^i(r \otimes_{\tau, F_v} B_{\text{DR}})^{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}_v/F_v)} = 0$$

unless $i = a_{\tau,j} + n - j$ for some $j = 1, \dots, n$ in which case

$$\dim_{\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l} \text{gr}^i(r \otimes_{\tau, F_v} B_{\text{DR}})^{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}_v/F_v)} = 1.$$

5. There is a non-empty finite set $S = S_1 \amalg S_2$ of places of F not dividing l and for each $v \in S$ a square integrable representation ρ_v of $GL_n(F_v)$ over $\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l$ such that

$$r|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}_v/F_v)}^{\text{ss}} = r_l(\rho_v)^\vee (1-n)^{\text{ss}}.$$

If $\rho_v = \mathrm{Sp}_{m_v}(\rho'_v)$ then set

$$\tilde{r}_v = r_l((\rho'_v)^\vee | \cdot|^{(n/m_v-1)(1-m_v)/2}).$$

Note that $r|_{\mathrm{Gal}(\overline{F}_v/F_v)}$ has a unique filtration Fil_v^j such that

$$\mathrm{gr}_v^j r|_{\mathrm{Gal}(\overline{F}_v/F_v)} \cong \tilde{r}_v \epsilon^j$$

for $j = 0, \dots, m_v - 1$ and equals (0) otherwise.

For $v \in S_1$ we assume that $m_v = n$.

For $v \in S_2$ we assume that \tilde{r}_v has irreducible reduction \bar{r}_v . Then the restriction $\bar{r}|_{\mathrm{Gal}(\overline{F}_v/F_v)}$ inherits a filtration $\overline{\mathrm{Fil}}_v^j$ with

$$\overline{\mathrm{gr}}_v^j \bar{r}|_{\mathrm{Gal}(\overline{F}_v/F_v)} \cong \bar{r}_v \epsilon^j$$

for $j = 0, \dots, m_v - 1$. We also suppose that for $v \in S_2$ and for $j = 1, \dots, m_v$ we have

$$\bar{r}_v \not\cong \bar{r}_v \epsilon^i.$$

6. $\overline{F}^{\ker \mathrm{ad} \bar{r}}$ does not contain $F(\zeta_l)$.
7. The image $\bar{r}(\mathrm{Gal}(\overline{F}/F(\zeta_l)))$ is big in the sense recalled above.
8. The representation \bar{r} is irreducible and automorphic of weight a and type $\{\rho_v\}_{v \in S}$ with $S \neq \emptyset$.

Then r is automorphic of weight a and type $\{\rho_v\}_{v \in S}$ and level prime to l .

Proof: Choose a CM field L/F with the following properties

- $L = L^+E$ with E an imaginary quadratic field and L^+ totally real.
- L/F is Galois and soluble.
- L is linearly disjoint from $\overline{F}^{\ker \bar{r}}(\zeta_l)$ over F .
- l splits in E and is unramified in L .
- All primes in S split completely in L/F and in L/L^+ .

By lemma 4.1.5 of [CHT] we can find an embedding $\tau_E : E \hookrightarrow \mathbf{Q}_l$, an algebraic character $\psi : \mathrm{Gal}(\overline{L}/L) \rightarrow \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l^\times$ and an element $a' \in (\mathbf{Z}^n)^{\mathrm{Hom}(L, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)}$ such that

- $\psi^c = \psi^{-1}$;
- ψ is crystalline at all places above l ;
- for all $\tau \in \mathrm{Hom}(L, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)$ extending τ_E we have

$$l - 1 - n \geq a'_{\tau,1} \geq \dots \geq a'_{\tau,n} \geq 0;$$

– for all $\tau \in \text{Hom}(F, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)$ and all $i = 1, \dots, n$

$$a'_{\tau c, i} = -a'_{\tau, n+1-i};$$

– for all $\tau \in \text{Hom}(F, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)$ above a prime $v|l$ of F ,

$$\dim_{\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l} \text{gr}^i((r \otimes \psi) \otimes_{\tau, F_v} B_{\text{DR}})^{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}_v/F_v)} = 0$$

unless $i = a'_{\tau, j} + n - j$ for some $j = 1, \dots, n$ in which case

$$\dim_{\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l} \text{gr}^i((r \otimes \psi) \otimes_{\tau, F_v} B_{\text{DR}})^{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}_v/F_v)} = 1.$$

Using lemmas 4.1.3 and 4.2.2 of [CHT] and theorem 4.2 of [AC] we see that we may reduce to the case where F contains an imaginary quadratic field E with an embedding $\tau_E : E \hookrightarrow \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l$, such that

$$l - 1 - n \geq a_{\tau, 1} \geq \dots \geq a_{\tau, n} \geq 0$$

for all $\tau : F \hookrightarrow \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l$ extending τ_E . (Replace F by L .) We may also assume that $S_1 \cup cS_1$ and $S_2 \cup cS_2$ are disjoint.

Now suppose that $\bar{r} = \bar{r}_{l, \iota}(\pi)$, where $\iota : \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbf{C}$ and where π is a RACSDC automorphic representation of $GL_n(\mathbf{A}_F)$ of weight $\iota_* a$ and type $\{\iota \rho_v\}_{v \in S}$ and with π_l unramified. Let S_l denote the primes of F above l . Let R denote the primes of F outside $S^c \cup S \cup S_l$ at which r or π is ramified. Because $\overline{F}^{\ker \text{ad } \bar{r}}$ does not contain $F(\zeta_l)$, we can choose a prime v_1 of F with the following properties

- $v_1 \notin R \cup S_l \cup S \cup S^c$,
- v_1 is unramified over a rational prime p for which $[F(\zeta_p) : F] > n$,
- v_1 does not split completely in $F(\zeta_l)$,
- $\text{ad } \bar{r}(\text{Frob}_{v_1}) = 1$.

(We will use primes above v_1 as auxiliary primes to augment the level so that the open compact subgroups of the finite adelic points of certain unitary groups we consider will be sufficiently small. The properties of v_1 will ensure that the Galois deformation problems we consider will not change when we allow ramification at primes above v_1 .)

Choose a totally real field L^+/F^+ with the following properties

- $4 \mid [L^+ : F^+]$.
- L^+/F^+ is Galois and soluble.
- $L = L^+E$ is everywhere unramified over L^+ .
- L is linearly disjoint from $\overline{F}^{\ker \bar{r}}(\zeta_l)$ over F .
- l is unramified in L .
- All primes of L above $R \cup S \cup \{v_1\}$ are split over L^+ .

- All primes of $S_2 \cup cS_2 \cup \{v_1, cv_1\}$ split completely in L/F .
- Let π_L denote the base change of π to L . If v is a place of L above $R \cup S_1 \cup cS_1$ then $\mathbf{N}v \equiv 1 \pmod{l}$ and $\bar{r}\text{Gal}(\bar{L}/L) = \{1_n\}$ and $r|_{\text{Gal}(\bar{L}/L)}^{\text{ss}} = 1$ and $\pi_{L,v}^{\text{Iw}(v)} \neq (0)$.
- If $S(L^+)$ denotes the set of primes of L^+ whose restriction to F^+ lies below an element of S , then $2|\#S(L)$.

Let $a_L \in (\mathbf{Z}^n)^{\text{Hom}(L, \bar{\mathbf{Q}}_l)}$ be defined by $a_{L,\tau} = a_{\tau|_F}$. Choose a division algebra B/L and an involution \dagger of B as at the start of section 4, with $S(B) = S(L^+)$. Let $S_l(L^+)$ denote the primes of L^+ above l , let $R(L^+)$ denote the primes of L^+ lying above the restriction to F^+ of an element of R and let $S_a(L^+)$ denote the primes of L^+ above $v_1|_{F^+}$. Let $T(L^+) = S(L^+) \cup S_l(L^+) \cup R(L^+) \cup S_a(L^+)$. It follows from proposition 3.3.2 of [CHT] and theorem 4.1 of this paper that $r|_{\text{Gal}(\bar{F}/L)}$ is automorphic of weight a_L and type $\{\rho_{v|_F}\}_{v \in S(L)}$ and level prime to l . The theorem now follows from lemma 4.2.2 of [CHT]. \square

As in section 4.4 of [CHT] we will say a few words about the conditions in this theorem. The first condition ensures that r is conjugate self-dual. Only for such representations will the numerology behind the Taylor-Wiles argument work. Also it is only for such representations that one can work on a unitary group. Indeed whenever one has a cuspidal automorphic representation of $GL_n(\mathbf{A}_F)$ for which one knows how to construct a Galois representation, that Galois representation will have this property. The second condition should be necessary, i.e. it should hold for any Galois representation associated to an automorphic form. A weakened form of the third condition which required only that these restrictions are de Rham is also expected to be necessary. The stronger form here (requiring the restrictions to be crystalline), the assumption that l is unramified in F and the bounds on the Hodge-Tate numbers in condition four are all needed so that we can apply the theory of Fontaine and Laffaille to calculate the local deformation rings at primes above l . Condition four also requires the Hodge-Tate numbers to be distinct. Otherwise the numerology behind the Taylor-Wiles method would again fail. The fifth condition is there to ensure that the corresponding automorphic form will be discrete series at some places (ie those in S). With the current state of the trace formula this is necessary to move automorphic forms between unitary groups and GL_n and also to construct Galois representations for automorphic forms on GL_n . There is some choice for the exact form of condition five. At the primes in S_2 we impose conditions to make the local deformation problem as simple as possible. At primes in S_1 we allow more complicated local deformation rings, but only in a special case. Some common

generalisation of these two cases is probably possible, but we have not spent the time to work this out. The sixth condition is to allow us to choose auxiliary primes which can be used to augment the level and ensure that certain level structures we work with are sufficiently small. The seventh condition is to make the Cebotarev argument used in the Taylor-Wiles argument work. It seems to be often satisfied in practice.

Now we turn to the case of a totally real field. Let F^+ be a totally real field. By a *RAESDC* (regular, algebraic, essentially self dual, cuspidal) automorphic representation π of $GL_n(\mathbf{A}_{F^+})$ we mean a cuspidal automorphic representation such that

- $\pi^\vee \cong \chi\pi$ for some character $\chi : (F^+)^\times \backslash \mathbf{A}_{F^+}^\times \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^\times$ with $\chi_v(-1)$ independent of $v|\infty$, and
- π_∞ has the same infinitesimal character as some irreducible algebraic representation of the restriction of scalars from F^+ to \mathbf{Q} of GL_n .

(If $n = 2$ or if n is odd then one does not require the condition that $\chi_v(-1)$ is independent of $v|\infty$, in the sense that, if the definition is satisfied with some χ it will also be satisfied for another χ' with $\chi'_v(-1)$ independent of $v|\infty$. We do not know if it is required for even $n > 2$. See the start of section 4.3 of [CHT].)

Let $a \in (\mathbf{Z}^n)^{\text{Hom}(F^+, \mathbf{C})}$ satisfy

$$a_{\tau,1} \geq \dots \geq a_{\tau,n}$$

Let Ξ_a denote the irreducible algebraic representation of $GL_n^{\text{Hom}(F^+, \mathbf{C})}$ which is the tensor product over τ of the irreducible representations of GL_n with highest weights a_τ . We will say that a RAESDC automorphic representation π of $GL_n(\mathbf{A}_F)$ has *weight* a if π_∞ has the same infinitesimal character as Ξ_a^\vee .

Let S be a finite set of finite places of F^+ . For $v \in S$ let ρ_v be an irreducible square integrable representation of $GL_n(F_v^+)$. We will say that a RAESDC automorphic representation π of $GL_n(\mathbf{A}_{F^+})$ has *type* $\{\rho_v\}_{v \in S}$ if for each $v \in S$, π_v is an unramified twist of ρ_v^\vee .

We recall proposition 4.3.1 of [CHT].

Proposition 5.3 *Let $\iota : \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbf{C}$. Let F^+ be a totally real field, S a finite non-empty set of finite places of F^+ and, for $v \in S$, ρ_v a square integrable representation of $GL_n(F_v^+)$. Let $a \in (\mathbf{Z}^n)^{\text{Hom}(F^+, \mathbf{C})}$ be as above. Suppose that π is a RAESDC automorphic representation of $GL_n(\mathbf{A}_{F^+})$ of weight a and type $\{\rho_v\}_{v \in S}$. Specifically suppose that $\pi^\vee \cong \pi\chi$ where $\chi : \mathbf{A}_{F^+}^\times / (F^+)^\times \rightarrow \mathbf{C}^\times$. Then there is a continuous semisimple representation*

$$r_{l,\iota}(\pi) : \text{Gal}(\overline{F^+}/F^+) \longrightarrow GL_n(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)$$

with the following properties.

1. For every prime $v \nmid l$ of F^+ we have

$$r_{l,i}(\pi)|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}_v^+/F_v^+)}^{\text{ss}} = r_l(\iota^{-1}\pi_v)^\vee(1-n)^{\text{ss}}.$$

2. $r_{l,i}(\pi)^\vee = r_{l,i}(\pi)\epsilon^{n-1}r_{l,i}(\chi)$.

3. If $v \mid l$ is a prime of F^+ then the restriction $r_{l,i}(\pi)|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}_v^+/F_v^+)}$ is potentially semistable, and if π_v is unramified then it is crystalline.

4. If $v \mid l$ is a prime of F^+ and if $\tau : F^+ \hookrightarrow \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l$ lies above v then

$$\dim_{\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l} \text{gr}^i(r_{l,i}(\pi) \otimes_{\tau, F_v^+} B_{\text{DR}})^{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}_v^+/F_v^+)} = 0$$

unless $i = a_{i\tau, j} + n - j$ for some $j = 1, \dots, n$ in which case

$$\dim_{\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l} \text{gr}^i(r_{l,i}(\pi) \otimes_{\tau, F_v^+} B_{\text{DR}})^{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}_v^+/F_v^+)} = 1.$$

The representation $r_{l,i}(\pi)$ can be taken to be valued in $GL_n(\mathcal{O})$ where \mathcal{O} is the ring of integers of some finite extension of \mathbf{Q}_l . Thus we can reduce it modulo the maximal ideal of \mathcal{O} and semisimplify to obtain a continuous semisimple representation

$$\bar{r}_{l,i}(\pi) : \text{Gal}(\overline{F}^+/F^+) \longrightarrow GL_n(\overline{\mathbf{F}}_l)$$

which is independent of the choices made.

Let $\iota : \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbf{C}$. Suppose that $a \in (\mathbf{Z}^n)^{\text{Hom}(F^+, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)}$ satisfies

$$a_{\tau,1} \geq \dots \geq a_{\tau,n}.$$

Then we define ι_*a by

$$(\iota_*a)_{i\tau,i} = a_{\tau,i}.$$

Suppose that $a \in (\mathbf{Z}^n)^{\text{Hom}(F^+, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)}$ satisfies the conditions of the previous paragraph, that S is a finite set of finite places of F^+ not containing any prime above l and that ρ_v is a discrete series representation of $GL_n(F_v^+)$ over $\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l$ for all $v \in S$. We will call a continuous semisimple representation

$$r : \text{Gal}(\overline{F}^+/F^+) \longrightarrow GL_n(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)$$

(resp.

$$\bar{r} : \text{Gal}(\overline{F}^+/F^+) \longrightarrow GL_n(\overline{\mathbf{F}}_l))$$

automorphic of weight a and type $\{\rho_v\}_{v \in S}$ if there is an isomorphism $\iota : \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbf{C}$ and a RAESDC automorphic representation π of $GL_n(\mathbf{A}_{F^+})$ of weight ι_*a and type $\{\iota\rho_v\}_{v \in S}$ (resp. and with π_l unramified) such that $r \cong r_{l,i}(\pi)$ (resp. $\bar{r} \cong \bar{r}_{l,i}(\pi)$). We will say that r is automorphic of weight a and type $\{\rho_v\}_{v \in S}$ and level prime to l if there is an isomorphism $\iota : \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbf{C}$ and a RAESDC automorphic representation π of $GL_n(\mathbf{A}_{F^+})$ of weight ι_*a and type $\{\iota\rho_v\}_{v \in S}$ and with π_l unramified such that $r \cong r_{l,i}(\pi)$.

Theorem 5.4 *Let F^+ be a totally real field. Let $n \in \mathbf{Z}_{\geq 1}$ and let $l > n$ be a prime which is unramified in F^+ . Let*

$$r : \text{Gal}(\overline{F^+}/F^+) \longrightarrow \text{GL}_n(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)$$

be a continuous irreducible representation with the following properties. Let \bar{r} denote the semisimplification of the reduction of r .

1. $r^\vee \cong r\epsilon^{n-1}\chi$ for some character $\chi : \text{Gal}(\overline{F^+}/F^+) \longrightarrow \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l^\times$ with $\chi(c_v)$ independent of $v|\infty$. (Here c_v denotes a complex conjugation at v .)

2. r ramifies at only finitely many primes.

3. For all places $v|l$ of F^+ , $r|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F_v^+}/F_v^+)}$ is crystalline.

4. There is an element $a \in (\mathbf{Z}^n)^{\text{Hom}(F^+, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)}$ such that
– for all $\tau \in \text{Hom}(F^+, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)$ we have

$$l - 1 - n + a_{\tau, n} \geq a_{\tau, 1} \geq \dots \geq a_{\tau, n};$$

– for all $\tau \in \text{Hom}(F^+, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)$ above a prime $v|l$ of F^+ ,

$$\dim_{\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l} \text{gr}^i(r \otimes_{\tau, F_v^+} B_{\text{DR}})^{\text{Gal}(\overline{F_v^+}/F_v^+)} = 0$$

unless $i = a_{\tau, j} + n - j$ for some $j = 1, \dots, n$ in which case

$$\dim_{\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l} \text{gr}^i(r \otimes_{\tau, F_v^+} B_{\text{DR}})^{\text{Gal}(\overline{F_v^+}/F_v^+)} = 1.$$

5. There is a non-empty finite set $S = S_1 \amalg S_2$ of places of F^+ not dividing l and for each $v \in S$ a square integrable representation ρ_v of $\text{GL}_n(F_v^+)$ over $\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l$ such that

$$r|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F_v^+}/F_v^+)}^{\text{ss}} = r_l(\rho_v)^\vee(1-n)^{\text{ss}}.$$

If $\rho_v = \text{Sp}_{m_v}(\rho'_v)$ then set

$$\tilde{r}_v = r_l((\rho'_v)^\vee |^{(n/m_v-1)(1-m_v)/2}).$$

Note that $r|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F_v^+}/F_v^+)}$ has a unique filtration Fil_v^j such that

$$\text{gr}_v^j r|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F_v}/F_v)} \cong \tilde{r}_v \epsilon^j$$

for $j = 0, \dots, m_v - 1$ and equals (0) otherwise.

For $v \in S_1$ we assume that $m_v = n$.

For $v \in S_2$ we assume that \tilde{r}_v has irreducible reduction \bar{r}_v . Then the restriction $\bar{r}|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F_v^+}/F_v^+)}$ inherits a filtration $\bar{\text{Fil}}_v^j$ with

$$\bar{\text{gr}}_v^j \bar{r}|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F_v^+}/F_v^+)} \cong \bar{r}_v \epsilon^j$$

for $j = 0, \dots, m_v - 1$. We also suppose that for $v \in S_2$ and for $j = 1, \dots, m_v$ we have

$$\bar{r}_v \not\cong \bar{r}_v \epsilon^i.$$

6. $(\overline{F}^+)^{\ker \bar{r}}$ does not contain $F^+(\zeta_l)$.
7. The image $\bar{r}(\text{Gal}(\overline{F}^+/F^+(\zeta_l)))$ is big (as defined just before theorem 5.2).
8. \bar{r} is irreducible and automorphic of weight a and type $\{\rho_v\}_{v \in S}$ with $S \neq \emptyset$.

Then r is automorphic of weight a and type $\{\rho_v\}_{v \in S}$ and level prime to l .

Proof: Choose an imaginary CM field F with maximal totally real subfield F^+ such that

- all primes above l split in F/F^+ ,
- all primes in S split in F/F^+ , and
- F is linearly disjoint from $(\overline{F}^+)^{\ker \bar{r}}(\zeta_l)$ over F^+ .

Choose an algebraic character

$$\psi : \text{Gal}(\overline{F}^+/F) \longrightarrow \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l^\times$$

such that

- $\chi|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}^+/F)} = \psi\psi^c$,
- ψ is crystalline above l , and
- for each $\tau : F^+ \hookrightarrow \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l$ there exists an extension $\tilde{\tau} : F \hookrightarrow \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l$ such that

$$\text{gr}^{-a\tau, n}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l(\psi) \otimes_{\tilde{\tau}, F_{v(\tilde{\tau})}} B_{\text{DR}})^{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}_{v(\tilde{\tau})}/F_{v(\tilde{\tau})})} \neq (0),$$

where $v(\tilde{\tau})$ is the place of F above l determined by $\tilde{\tau}$.

(This is possible by lemma 4.1.5 of [CHT].) Now apply theorem 5.2 to the twist $r|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}^+/F)}\psi$ and the current theorem follows by lemma 4.3.3 of [CHT]. \square

As the conditions of this theorem are a bit complicated we give a special case as a corollary.

Corollary 5.5 *Let $n \in \mathbf{Z}_{\geq 1}$ be even and let $l > \max\{3, n\}$ be a prime. Let S be a finite non-empty set of primes such that if $q \in S$ then $q \neq l$ and $q^i \not\equiv 1 \pmod{l}$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$. Let*

$$r : \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}/\mathbf{Q}) \longrightarrow \text{GSp}_n(\mathbf{Z}_l)$$

be a continuous irreducible representation with the following properties.

1. r ramifies at only finitely many primes.
2. $r|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l/\mathbf{Q}_l)}$ is crystalline, and $\dim_{\mathbf{Q}_l} \text{gr}^i(r \otimes_{\mathbf{Q}_l} B_{\text{DR}})^{\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l/\mathbf{Q}_l)} = 0$ unless $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$, in which case it has dimension 1.

3. If $q \in S$ then $r|_{G_{\mathbf{Q}_q}^{\text{ss}}}$ is unramified and $r|_{G_{\mathbf{Q}_q}^{\text{ss}}}(\text{Frob}_q)$ has eigenvalues $\{\alpha q^i : i = 0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$ for some α .
4. The image of $r \bmod l$ contains $Sp_n(\mathbf{F}_l)$.
5. $r \bmod l$ is automorphic of weight 0 and type $\{\text{Sp}_n(1)\}_{q \in S}$.

Then r is automorphic of weight 0 and type $\{\text{Sp}_n(1)\}_{\{q\}}$ and level prime to l .

Proof: Let $\bar{r} = r \bmod l$. As $PSp_n(\mathbf{F}_l)$ is simple, the maximal abelian quotient of $\text{ad } \bar{r}(G_{\mathbf{Q}})$ is

$$\bar{r}(G_{\mathbf{Q}})/(\bar{r}(G_{\mathbf{Q}}) \cap \mathbf{F}_l^\times)Sp_n(\mathbf{F}_l) \subset PGSp_n(\mathbf{F}_l)/PSp_n(\mathbf{F}_l) \xrightarrow{\sim} (\mathbf{F}_l^\times)/(\mathbf{F}_l^\times)^2.$$

Thus $\overline{\mathbf{Q}}^{\ker \text{ad } \bar{r}}$ does not contain $\mathbf{Q}(\zeta_l)$.

The corollary now follows from lemma 2.5.5 of [CHT] and theorem 5.4 of this paper. \square

As in section 5.6 of [CHT], we would like to apply theorems 5.2 and 5.4 in situations where one knows that \bar{r} is automorphic. One such case is where $\bar{r} : \text{Gal}(\overline{F}/F) \rightarrow GL_n(k)$ is induced from a (suitable) character over some cyclic extension. However it will be useful to have such a theorem when ρ_v is Steinberg for $v \in S$. Because the lift of \bar{r} which we know to be automorphic is an automorphic induction it can not be Steinberg at any finite place (although it can be cuspidal at a finite place). Thus we have a problem in applying theorems 5.2 or 5.4 directly. We shall get round this by applying proposition 2.7.4 of [CHT] to construct a second lift r_1 of \bar{r} which is Steinberg at $v \in S$, but which is also cuspidal at some other finite places S' . We first show that r_1 is automorphic using the places in S' . The result is that we succeed in ‘raising the level’ for the automorphicity of \bar{r} . We can then apply theorem 5.2 or 5.4 a second time. A further complication arises because we want to treat \bar{r} which do not look as if they could have a lift which is cuspidal at any finite place. We will do so under an assumption that \bar{r} extends to a representation of $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}/\mathbf{Q})$ which looks as if it could have a lift which is cuspidal at some finite place.

More precisely we will consider the following situation.

- M/\mathbf{Q} is a Galois imaginary CM field of degree n with $\text{Gal}(M/\mathbf{Q})$ cyclic generated by an element τ .
- $l > 1 + (n-1)((n+2)^{n/2} - (n-2)^{n/2})/2^{n-1}$ (e.g. $l > 8((n+2)/4)^{1+n/2}$) is a prime which splits completely in M and is $\equiv 1 \pmod n$.
- p is a rational prime which is inert and unramified in M .
- $q \neq l$ is a rational prime, which splits completely in M and which satisfies $q^i \not\equiv 1 \pmod l$ for $i = 1, \dots, n-1$.

- $\bar{\theta} : \text{Gal}(\bar{\mathbf{Q}}/M) \longrightarrow \bar{\mathbf{F}}_l^\times$ is a continuous character such that
 - $\bar{\theta}^c = \epsilon^{1-n}$;
 - there exists a prime $w|l$ of M such that for $i = 0, \dots, n/2 - 1$ we have $\bar{\theta}|_{I_{\tau^i w}} = \epsilon^{-i}$;
 - if v_1, \dots, v_n are the primes of M above q then $\{\bar{\theta}(\text{Frob}_{v_i})\}$ equals $\{\alpha_q q^{-j} : j = 0, \dots, n-1\}$ for some $\alpha_q \in \bar{\mathbf{F}}_l^\times$;
 - $\bar{\theta}|_{\text{Gal}(\bar{M}_p/M_p)} \neq \bar{\theta}^{\tau^j}|_{\text{Gal}(\bar{M}_p/M_p)}$ for $j = 1, \dots, n-1$.

Let $S(\bar{\theta})$ denote the set of rational primes above which M or $\bar{\theta}$ is ramified.

- E/\mathbf{Q} is an imaginary quadratic field linearly disjoint from the Galois closure of $\bar{M}^{\ker \bar{\theta}}(\zeta_l)/\mathbf{Q}$ in which every element of $S(\bar{\theta}) \cup \{l, q, p\}$ splits; and such that the class number of E is not divisible by l .

A referee asked the good question: are there any examples where all these conditions are met? The answer is ‘yes’. One example is given in the proof of theorem 3.1 of [HSBT].

Theorem 5.6 *Keep the notation and assumptions listed above. Let F/F_0 be a Galois extension of imaginary CM fields with F linearly disjoint from the normal closure of $\bar{M}^{\ker \bar{\theta}}(\zeta_l)$ over \mathbf{Q} . Assume that l is unramified in F and that there is a prime $v_{p,0}$ of F_0 split above p . Let*

$$r : \text{Gal}(\bar{F}/F) \longrightarrow GL_n(\bar{\mathbf{Q}}_l)$$

be a continuous irreducible representation with the following properties. Let \bar{r} denote the semisimplification of the reduction of r .

1. $\bar{r} \cong \text{Ind}_{\text{Gal}(\bar{F}/FM)}^{\text{Gal}(\bar{F}/F)} \bar{\theta}|_{\text{Gal}(\bar{F}/FM)}$.
2. $r^c \cong r^\vee \epsilon^{1-n}$.
3. r ramifies at only finitely many primes.
4. For all places $v|l$ of F , $r|_{\text{Gal}(\bar{F}_v/F_v)}$ is crystalline.
5. For all $\tau \in \text{Hom}(F, \bar{\mathbf{Q}}_l)$ above a prime $v|l$ of F ,

$$\dim_{\bar{\mathbf{Q}}_l} \text{gr}^i(r \otimes_{\tau, F_v} B_{\text{DR}})^{\text{Gal}(\bar{F}_v/F_v)} = 1$$

for $i = 0, \dots, n-1$ and $= 0$ otherwise.

6. There is a place v_q of F above q such that $r|_{\text{Gal}(\bar{F}_{v_q}/F_{v_q})}^{\text{ss}}$ is unramified and $r|_{\text{Gal}(\bar{F}_{v_q}/F_{v_q})}^{\text{ss}}(\text{Frob}_{v_q})$ has eigenvalues $\{\alpha(\#k(v_q))^j : j = 0, \dots, n-1\}$ for some $\alpha \in \bar{\mathbf{Q}}_l^\times$.

Then r is automorphic over F of weight 0 and type $\{\text{Sp}_n(1)\}_{\{v_q\}}$ and level prime to l .

Proof: We repeat, almost verbatim, the proof of theorem 5.6.1 of [CHT]. Replacing F by EF if necessary we may suppose that $F \supset E$ (see lemma 4.2.2 of [CHT]).

Choose a continuous character

$$\theta : \text{Gal}(\overline{M}/M) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l}^\times$$

such that

- θ lifts $\overline{\theta}$;
- $\theta^{-1} = \epsilon^{n-1}\theta^c$;
- for $i = 0, \dots, n/2 - 1$ we have $\theta|_{I_{M\sigma^{i_w}}} = \epsilon^{-i}$; and
- $l \nmid \#\theta(I_v)$ for all places $v|p$ of M .

(See lemma 4.1.6 of [CHT].) We can extend $\theta|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{E}/EM)}$ to a continuous homomorphism

$$\theta : \text{Gal}(\overline{E}/(EM)^+) \longrightarrow \mathcal{G}_1(\mathcal{O}_{\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l})$$

with $\nu \circ \theta = \epsilon^{1-n}$. We will let $\overline{\theta}$ also denote the reduction

$$\overline{\theta} : \text{Gal}(\overline{E}/(EM)^+) \longrightarrow \mathcal{G}_1(\overline{\mathbf{F}}_l)$$

of θ . Consider the pairs $\text{Gal}(\overline{E}/(EM)^+) \supset \text{Gal}(\overline{E}/(EM))$ and $\text{Gal}(\overline{E}/\mathbf{Q}) \supset \text{Gal}(\overline{E}/E)$. Set

$$r_0 = \text{Ind}_{\text{Gal}(\overline{E}/(EM)^+)}^{\text{Gal}(\overline{E}/\mathbf{Q}), \epsilon^{1-n}} \theta : \text{Gal}(\overline{E}/\mathbf{Q}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{G}_n(\mathcal{O}_{\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l}).$$

Note also that

$$r_0|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{E}/E)} = ((\text{Ind}_{\text{Gal}(\overline{E}/M)}^{\text{Gal}(\overline{E}/\mathbf{Q})} \theta)|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{E}/E)}, \epsilon^{1-n}).$$

By proposition 2.7.4 of [CHT] there is a continuous homomorphism

$$r_1 : \text{Gal}(\overline{E}/\mathbf{Q}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{G}_n(\mathcal{O}_{\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l})$$

with the following properties.

- r_1 lifts $\text{Ind}_{\text{Gal}(\overline{E}/(EM)^+)}^{\text{Gal}(\overline{E}/\mathbf{Q}), \epsilon^{1-n}} \overline{\theta}$.
- $\nu \circ r_1 = \epsilon^{1-n}$.
- For all places $w|l$ of E , $r_1|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{E}_w/E_w)}$ is crystalline.
- For all $\tau \in \text{Hom}(E, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)$ corresponding to prime $w|l$,

$$\dim_{\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l} \text{gr}^i(r_1 \otimes_{\tau, E_w} B_{\text{DR}})^{\text{Gal}(\overline{E}_w/E_w)} = 1$$

for $i = 0, \dots, n - 1$ and $= 0$ otherwise.

- $r_1|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{E}_{v_q}/E_{v_q})}^{\text{ss}}$ is unramified and $r|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{E}_{v_q}/E_{v_q})}^{\text{ss}}(\text{Frob}_{v_q|E})$ has eigenvalues $\{\alpha q^{-j} : j = 0, \dots, n-1\}$ for some $\alpha \in \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l^\times$.
- $r_1|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{E}_{v_p}/E_{v_p})}$ is an unramified twist of $\text{Ind}_{\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_p/M_p)}^{\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_p/\mathbf{Q}_p)} \theta|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_p/M_p)}$.

Let v_p be a prime of F above $v_{p,0}$ and let $F_1 \subset F$ denote the fixed field of the decomposition group of v_p in $\text{Gal}(F/F_0)$. Thus $v_p|_{F_1}$ is split over p and F/F_1 is soluble.

The restriction $r_0|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{E}/F_1)}$ is automorphic of weight 0, level prime to l and type $\{\rho_p\}_{\{v_p|_{F_1}\}}$, for a suitable cuspidal representation ρ_p (by theorem 4.2 of [AC]). Applying lemma 2.7.5 of [CHT] and theorem 5.2 above we deduce that $r_1|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}/F_1)}$ is automorphic of weight 0 and type $\{\rho_p\}_{\{v_p|_{F_1}\}}$ and level prime to l . It follows from corollary VII.1.11 of [HT] that $r_1|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}/F_1)}$ is also automorphic of weight 0 and type $\{\text{Sp}_n(1)\}_{\{v_q|_{F_1}\}}$ and level prime to l . (The only tempered representations π of $GL_n(F_{1,v_q|_{F_1}})$ for which $r_l(\pi)^\vee(1-n)^{\text{ss}}$ unramified and $r_l(\pi)^\vee(1-n)^{\text{ss}}(\text{Frob}_{v_q|_{F_1}})$ has eigenvalues of the form $\{\alpha q^{-j} : j = 0, \dots, n-1\}$ are unramified twists of $\text{Sp}_n(1)$.) From theorem 4.2 of [AC] we deduce that $r_1|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}/F)}$ is automorphic of weight 0 and type $\{\text{Sp}_n(1)\}_{\{v_q\}}$ and level prime to l . (The base change must be cuspidal as it is square integrable at one place.)

Finally we again apply theorem 5.2 to deduce that r is automorphic of weight 0 and type $\{\rho_p\}_{\{v_p\}}$ and level prime to l . The verification that $\bar{r}(G_{F^+(\zeta_l)})$ is big is exactly as above. \square

We also have a version for totally real fields.

Theorem 5.7 *Keep the notation and assumptions listed before theorem 5.6. Let F^+/F_0^+ be a Galois extension of totally real fields with F^+ linearly disjoint from the Galois closure of $E(\zeta_l)\overline{M}^{\ker \bar{\theta}}$ over \mathbf{Q} . Suppose that l is unramified in F^+ and that there is a prime $v_{p,0}$ of F_0^+ split over p . Let*

$$r : \text{Gal}(\overline{F^+}/F^+) \longrightarrow GL_n(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)$$

be a continuous representation such that

- $\bar{r} \cong (\text{Ind}_{\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}/M)}^{\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}/\mathbf{Q})} \bar{\theta})|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}/F^+)}$;
- $r^\vee \cong r\epsilon^{n-1}$;
- r is unramified at all but finitely many primes;
- For all places $v|l$ of F^+ , $r|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}_v^+/F_v^+)}$ is crystalline.
- For all $\tau \in \text{Hom}(F^+, \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)$ above a prime $v|l$ of F^+ ,

$$\dim_{\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l} \text{gr}^i(r \otimes_{\tau, F_v^+} B_{\text{DR}})^{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}_v^+/F_v^+)} = 1$$

for $i = 0, \dots, n-1$ and $= 0$ otherwise.

– There is a place $v_q|q$ of F^+ such that $r|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}_{v_q}^+/F_{v_q}^+)}^{\text{ss}}$ is unramified and $r|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}_{v_q}^+/F_{v_q}^+)}^{\text{ss}}(\text{Frob}_{v_q})$ has eigenvalues $\{\alpha(\#k(v_q))^j : j = 0, \dots, n-1\}$ for some $\alpha \in \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l^\times$.

Then r is automorphic over F^+ of weight 0 and type $\{\text{Sp}_n(1)\}_{\{v_q\}}$ and level prime to l .

Proof: Apply theorem 5.6 to $F = F^+E$ and use lemma 4.3.3 of [CHT].

□

6. Applications

The proofs of the following results are given in [HSBT]. When [HSBT] was first submitted that paper relied on the conditional theorems proved in chapter 5 of [CHT], and so the main theorems of [HSBT] were themselves conditional. The proofs of these theorems became unconditional when the present paper was written. For the convenience of the reader we have rewritten [HSBT] so that its results are now stated unconditionally and reference is made to this paper. However, as the proofs of those results were finally completed in this paper, we restate them here.

Let $n \in \mathbf{Z}_{>1}$ be an even integer. If K is a field of characteristic not dividing $n+1$ and if $t \in K$ is not an $(n+1)^{\text{th}}$ root of unity then Y_t/K will denote the $(n-1)$ -dimensional smooth projective variety:

$$(X_0^{n+1} + X_1^{n+1} + \dots + X_n^{n+1}) = (n+1)tX_0X_1\dots X_n.$$

It carries an action of

$$H' = \ker(\mu_{n+1}^{n+1} \xrightarrow{\Pi} \mu_{n+1})$$

by

$$(\zeta_0, \dots, \zeta_n) : (X_0 : \dots : X_n) \longmapsto (\zeta_0 X_0 : \dots : \zeta_n X_n).$$

(Note that the diagonal copy of μ_{n+1} acts trivially.) If $l|(n+1)$ is a prime set

$$V_{n,l} = H^{n-1}(Y_t \times \overline{K}, \mathbf{Q}_l)^{H'}$$

and

$$V_n[l] = H^{n-1}(Y_t \times \overline{K}, \mathbf{F}_l)^{H'}.$$

These are G_K -modules of dimension n . (See for instance [HSBT].)

Theorem 6.1 *Suppose that F is a totally real field and that n is an even positive integer. Suppose also that l is a sufficiently large (depending only on n) rational prime which is unramified in F . Let v_q be a prime of F above a rational prime $q \nmid l(n+1)$.*

Suppose also that

$$r : \text{Gal}(\overline{F}/F) \longrightarrow \text{GSp}_n(\mathbf{Z}_l)$$

is a continuous representation with the following properties.

1. r has multiplier ϵ_l^{1-n} .
2. r ramifies at only finitely many primes.
3. Let \bar{r} denote the semisimplification of the reduction of r . Then the image $\bar{r}\text{Gal}(\overline{F}/F(\zeta_l))$ is big.
4. $\overline{F}^{\ker \text{ad } \bar{r}}$ does not contain $F(\zeta_l)$.
5. If $w|l$ is a prime of F then $r|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}_w/F_w)}$ is crystalline and for $\tau : F_w \hookrightarrow \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l$ we have

$$\dim_{\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l} \text{gr}^j(r_i \otimes_{\tau, F_w} B_{\text{DR}}) = 1$$

for $j = 0, \dots, n_i - 1$ and $= 0$ otherwise. Moreover there is a point $t_w \in \mathcal{O}_{F_w^{\text{nr}}}$ with $w(t_w^{n+1} - 1) = 0$ such that

$$\bar{r}|_{I_{F_w}} \cong V_n[l]_{t_w}.$$

6. $r|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}_{v_q}/F_{v_q})}^{\text{ss}}$ is unramified and $r|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}_{v_q}/F_{v_q})}^{\text{ss}}(\text{Frob}_{v_q})$ has eigenvalues of the form $\alpha, \alpha \# k(v_q), \dots, \alpha(\# k(v_q))^{n-1}$.

Then there is a totally real Galois extension F''/F and a place w_q of F'' above v_q such that each $r|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{F}/F'')}$ is automorphic of weight 0 and type $\{\text{Sp}_n(1)\}_{\{w_q\}}$.

(See theorem 3.3 of [HSBT].)

Theorem 6.2 *Let F and L be totally real fields. Let A/F be an abelian variety of dimension $[L : \mathbf{Q}]$ and suppose that $i : L \hookrightarrow \text{End}^0(A/F)$. Let \mathcal{N} be a finite set of even positive integers. Fix an embedding $L \hookrightarrow \mathbf{R}$. Suppose that A has multiplicative reduction at some prime v_q of F .*

There is a Galois totally real field F'/F such that for any $n \in \mathcal{N}$ and any intermediate field $F' \supset F'' \supset F$ with F'/F'' soluble, $\text{Sym}^{n-1}A$ is automorphic over F'' .

(See theorem 4.1 of [HSBT].)

Theorem 6.3 *Let F and L be totally real fields. Let A/F be an abelian variety of dimension $[L : \mathbf{Q}]$ and suppose that $i : L \hookrightarrow \text{End}^0(A/F)$. Fix an embedding $L \hookrightarrow \mathbf{R}$. Suppose that A has multiplicative reduction at some prime v_q of F .*

Then for all $m \in \mathbf{Z}_{\geq 1}$ the function $L(\text{Symm}^m(A, i), s)$ has meromorphic continuation to the whole complex plane, satisfies the expected functional equation and is holomorphic and non-zero in $\text{Re } s \geq 1 + m/2$.

(See theorem 4.2 of [HSBT].)

Theorem 6.4 *Let F be a totally real field. Let E/F be an elliptic curve with multiplicative reduction at some prime v_q of F . The numbers*

$$(1 + \mathbf{N}v - \#E(k(v)))/2\sqrt{\mathbf{N}v}$$

as v ranged over the primes of F are equidistributed in $[-1, 1]$ with respect to the measure $(2/\pi)\sqrt{1-t^2} dt$.

(See theorem 4.3 of [HSBT].)

Finally let us consider the L-functions of the motives V_t for $t \in \mathbf{Q}$. More precisely for each pair of rational primes l and p there is a Weil-Deligne representation $\text{WD}(V_{l,t}|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_p/\mathbf{Q}_p)})$ of $W_{\mathbf{Q}_p}$ associated to the $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_p/\mathbf{Q}_p)$ -module $V_{l,t}$ (see for instance [TY]). Moreover for all but finitely many p there is a Weil-Deligne representation $\text{WD}_p(V_t)$ of $W_{\mathbf{Q}_p}$ over $\overline{\mathbf{Q}}$ such that for each prime $l \neq p$ and each embedding $\overline{\mathbf{Q}} \hookrightarrow \overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l$ the Weil-Deligne representation $\text{WD}_p(V_t)$ is equivalent to the Frobenius semi-simplification $\text{WD}(V_{l,t}|_{\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_p/\mathbf{Q}_p)})^{\text{F-ss}}$. We will let $S(V_t)$ denote the finite set of primes p for which no such representation $\text{WD}_p(V_t)$ exists. It is expected that $S(V_t) = \emptyset$. If indeed $S(V_t) = \emptyset$, then we set $L(V_t, s)$ equal to

$$2^{n/2}(2\pi)^{n(n-2)/8}(2\pi)^{-ns/2}\Gamma(s)\Gamma(s-1)\dots\Gamma(s+1-n/2)\prod_p L(\text{WD}_p(V_t), s)$$

and

$$\epsilon(V_t, s) = i^{-n/2} \prod_p \epsilon(\text{WD}_p(V_t), \psi_p, \nu_p, s),$$

where ν_p is the additive Haar measure on \mathbf{Q}_p defined by $\nu_p(\mathbf{Z}_p) = 1$, and $\psi_p : \mathbf{Q}_p \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ is the continuous homomorphism defined by

$$\psi_p(x + y) = e^{-2\pi ix}$$

for $x \in \mathbf{Z}[1/p]$ and $y \in \mathbf{Z}_p$. The function $\epsilon(V_t, s)$ is entire. The product defining $L(V_t, s)$ converges absolutely uniformly in compact subsets of $\text{Re } s > 1 + m/2$ and hence gives a holomorphic function in $\text{Re } s > 1 + m/2$.

Theorem 6.5 *Suppose that $t \in \mathbf{Q} - \mathbf{Z}[1/(n+1)]$. Then $S(V_t) = \emptyset$ and the function $L(V_t, s)$ has meromorphic continuation to the whole complex plane and satisfies the functional equation*

$$L(V_t, s) = \epsilon(V_t, s)L(V_t, n - s).$$

(See theorem 4.4 of [HSBT].)

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Department of Mathematics,
Harvard University,
Cambridge,
MA 02138,
U.S.A.

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