

Galois representations: Lecture 4

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Theorem (Flach)

Suppose E is an elliptic curve over \mathbb{Q} , $p \geq 5$ and E has good reduction at p . Let $S = \{\ell \mid E \text{ has bad reduction at } \ell\} \cup \{p, \infty\}$ and

$$\bar{\rho}_p : G_{\mathbb{Q}, S} \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$$

be the representation given by the action of $G_{\mathbb{Q}, S}$ on $E[p]$. Suppose:

- $\bar{\rho}_p : G_{\mathbb{Q}, S} \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$ is surjective,
- For every $q \in S$, $H^0(\mathbb{Q}_q, E[p] \otimes E[p]) = 0$,
- $p \nmid \Omega^{-1}L(\mathrm{Sym}^2(E), 2)$, where Ω is a transcendental period.

Then $R_{\bar{\rho}_p}^{\mathrm{univ}} \simeq \mathbb{Z}_p[[X, Y, Z]]$.

Corollary (Mazur)

Suppose we are in the setup as above. Then for a subset of primes p with Dirichlet density one, the Galois representation $\bar{\rho}_p$ is absolutely irreducible and unobstructed.

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Let f be an eigenform of level N , weight k and K_f be the extension of \mathbb{Q} obtained by attaching the Hecke eigenvalues of f to \mathbb{Q} .

Let S be a finite set of primes of \mathbb{Q} containing primes dividing N .

Let p be a prime, \mathfrak{p} be a prime of \mathcal{O}_{K_f} lying above p and

$$\rho_{f,p} : G_{\mathbb{Q}, S \cup \{p, \infty\}} \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathcal{O}_{K_f, \mathfrak{p}})$$

be the p -adic Galois representation attached to f .

Let $k_{\mathfrak{p}}$ be the residue field of $\mathcal{O}_{K_f, \mathfrak{p}}$ and

$$\bar{\rho}_{f,p} : G_{\mathbb{Q}, S \cup \{p, \infty\}} \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_2(k_{\mathfrak{p}})$$

be the reduction of $\rho_{f,p}$ modulo the maximal ideal of $\mathcal{O}_{K_f, \mathfrak{p}}$.

Theorem (Weston)

- If $k > 2$, then $R_{\bar{\rho}_{f,p}}^{\mathrm{univ}} \simeq W(k_{\mathfrak{p}})[[X, Y, Z]]$ for all but finitely many primes \mathfrak{p} of K_f (depending on f and S).
- If $k = 2$, then $R_{\bar{\rho}_{f,p}}^{\mathrm{univ}} \simeq W(k_{\mathfrak{p}})[[X, Y, Z]]$ for a set of primes \mathfrak{p} of K_f of density 1.

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Specializing the theorem to the case of Δ and $S = \emptyset$, we have:

Theorem (Weston)

If $p \geq 17$ and $p \neq 691$, then $R_{\bar{\rho}_{\Delta,p}}^{\text{univ}} \simeq \mathbb{Z}_p[[X, Y, Z]]$.

Example by Boston–Ullom: Let

$$\bar{\rho} : G_{\mathbb{Q},\{3,7,\infty\}} \rightarrow \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{F}_3)$$

be the representation coming from the action of $G_{\mathbb{Q},\{3,7,\infty\}}$ on 3-torsion points of the elliptic curve $X_0(49)$. Then

$$R_{\bar{\rho}}^{\text{univ}} \simeq \frac{\mathbb{Z}_3[[X, Y, Z, W]]}{((1+W)^3 - 1)}.$$

In general, if p is odd and $\bar{\rho} : G_{\mathbb{Q},S} \rightarrow \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{F})$ is a representation, then $\text{Ad}(\bar{\rho}) = \text{Ad}^0(\bar{\rho}) \oplus 1$, where $\text{Ad}^0(\bar{\rho})$ is the sub-representation of $\text{Ad}(\bar{\rho})$ consisting of trace 0 matrices.

So if S contains a prime ℓ such that $p \mid \ell - 1$, then $H^2(G_{\mathbb{Q},S}, 1) \neq 0$ and hence, $\bar{\rho}$ is not unobstructed.

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Deformations with prescribed properties

Let G be a pro-finite group satisfying the finiteness condition (Φ_p) .

Let $\bar{\rho} : G \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{F})$ be a representation such that $\mathrm{End}_G(\bar{\rho}) = \mathbb{F}$.

We will now focus on deformations of $\bar{\rho}$ satisfying certain properties rather than studying all the deformations of $\bar{\rho}$.

To be precise, we will identify some properties of $\bar{\rho}$ and study the deformations of $\bar{\rho}$ retaining that property.

If the properties are ‘nice’ enough, then these deformations will define a representable subfunctor of the deformation functor.

So for such properties, we can define ‘universal deformation ring with the prescribed property’ and universal deformation satisfying the prescribed property.

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To be precise, we will identify some properties of $\bar{\rho}$ and study the deformations of $\bar{\rho}$ retaining that property.

If the properties are ‘nice’ enough, then these deformations will define a representable subfunctor of the deformation functor.

So for such properties, we can define ‘universal deformation ring with the prescribed property’ and universal deformation satisfying the prescribed property.

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Deformation condition

A *deformation condition* on deformations of $\bar{\rho}$ is a property (P) of representations $\rho : G \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_n(R)$ over artinian CNL $W(\mathbb{F})$ -algebras R , which is satisfied by $\bar{\rho}$, such that

- Given a deformation $\rho : G \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_2(R)$ of $\bar{\rho}$ and a homomorphism $f : R \rightarrow R'$ of artinian CNL $W(\mathbb{F})$ -algebras, if ρ has property (P), then $f \circ \rho$ also has property (P).

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It is easy to verify, using first and second properties of a deformation condition, that the functor $D_{\bar{\rho}, P}$ satisfies all the conditions of Schlessinger's criteria.

Therefore, we conclude that $D_{\bar{\rho}, P}$ is representable.

In other words, there exists a CNL $W(\mathbb{F})$ -algebra $R_{\bar{\rho}}^{(P)}$ and a lift $\rho_P : G \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_n(R_{\bar{\rho}}^{(P)})$ of $\bar{\rho}$ such that for any CNL $W(\mathbb{F})$ -algebra R , the map $\mathrm{Hom}(R_{\bar{\rho}}^{(P)}, R) \rightarrow D_{\bar{\rho}, P}(R)$ given by $\phi \mapsto [\phi \circ \rho_P]$ is a bijection.

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Let $\delta : G \rightarrow W(\mathbb{F})^\times$ be a character lifting $\det(\bar{\rho})$.

Let R be a CNL $W(\mathbb{F})$ -algebra and denote by δ_R the character obtained by composing δ with the canonical homomorphism $W(\mathbb{F})^\times \rightarrow R^\times$.

We say that a lift $\rho : G \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_n(R)$ of $\bar{\rho}$ has determinant δ if $\det(\rho) = \delta_R$.

Denote the property of having determinant δ by (d_δ) . Then it is easy to verify that the property (d_δ) is a deformation property.

So for a CNL $W(\mathbb{F})$ -algebra R , $D_{\bar{\rho}, d_\delta}(R)$ is the set of deformations $\rho : G \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_n(R)$ of $\bar{\rho}$ with $\det(\rho) = \delta_R$.

Denote the universal deformation ring of $\bar{\rho}$ with determinant δ by $R_{\bar{\rho}}^\delta$.

Note that $\delta_{\mathbb{F}[e]} = \det(\bar{\rho})$.

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Note that $\delta_{\mathbb{F}[e]} = \det(\bar{\rho})$.

Deformations with constant determinant

Let $\delta : G \rightarrow W(\mathbb{F})^\times$ be a character lifting $\det(\bar{\rho})$.

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$$\rho(g) = (\mathrm{Id} + \epsilon f_\rho(g))\bar{\rho}(g)$$

with $f_\rho(g) \in M_n(\mathbb{F})$.

Then $\det(\rho) = \det(\bar{\rho})$ if and only if $\mathrm{tr}(f_\rho(g)) = 0$ for all $g \in G$.

Therefore, the isomorphism $D_{\bar{\rho}}(\mathbb{F}[\epsilon]) \simeq H^1(G, \mathrm{Ad}(\bar{\rho}))$ gives us an isomorphism

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of \mathbb{F} -vector spaces.

By universal property, $\det(\rho^{\mathrm{univ}})$ induces a map $R_{\det(\bar{\rho})}^{\mathrm{univ}} \rightarrow R_{\bar{\rho}}^{\mathrm{univ}}$.

Now suppose $p \nmid n$. Then by Hensel's lemma, there exists an n -th root of $(\det(\rho^{\mathrm{univ}}))^{-1} \delta_{R_{\bar{\rho}}^{\mathrm{univ}}}$ i.e. a lift $\chi : G \rightarrow (R_{\bar{\rho}}^{\mathrm{univ}})^\times$ of the trivial character such that

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Therefore, this deformation induces a map $R_{\bar{\rho}}^{\delta} \rightarrow R_{\bar{\rho}}^{\text{univ}}$.

Hence, we get a map

$$\phi : R_{\bar{\rho}}^{\delta} \widehat{\otimes}_{W(\mathbb{F})} R_{\det(\bar{\rho})}^{\text{univ}} \rightarrow R_{\bar{\rho}}^{\text{univ}}$$

which we will prove to be an isomorphism.

If

$$\chi^{\text{univ}} : G \rightarrow (R_{\det(\bar{\rho})}^{\text{univ}})^{\times}$$

is the universal deformation of $\det(\bar{\rho})$, then by Hensel's lemma, there exists a character

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As $\phi \circ \phi' \circ \rho^{\mathrm{univ}} = \rho^{\mathrm{univ}}$, it follows that $\phi \circ \phi'$ is identity.

As

$$\mathrm{Ad}(\bar{\rho}) = \mathrm{Ad}^0(\bar{\rho}) \oplus 1,$$

the dimensions of mod p tangent spaces of both R_ρ^{univ} and $R_\rho^\delta \widehat{\otimes}_{W(\mathbb{F})} R_{\det(\bar{\rho})}^{\mathrm{univ}}$ are same which implies that ϕ' is surjective and hence, an isomorphism.

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Minimal ramification conditions for $\ell \neq p$

Let $\bar{\rho} : G_{\mathbb{Q},S} \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{F})$ be an odd, continuous representation such that $\mathrm{End}_{G_{\mathbb{Q},S}}(\bar{\rho}) = \mathbb{F}$. Let $\ell \neq p$ be a prime such that $\bar{\rho}$ is ramified at ℓ . We say that $\bar{\rho}$ is minimally ramified at ℓ if one of the following conditions hold:

- Case 1: $\bar{\rho}|_{I_\ell} \simeq \begin{pmatrix} 1 & * \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$,
- Case 2: $\bar{\rho}|_{I_\ell} \simeq \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\chi} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

Let R be a CNL $W(\mathbb{F})$ -algebra and $\rho : G_{\mathbb{Q},S} \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_2(R)$ be a deformation of $\bar{\rho}$.

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Let $\bar{\rho} : G_{\mathbb{Q},S} \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{F})$ be an odd, continuous representation such that $\mathrm{End}_{G_{\mathbb{Q},S}}(\bar{\rho}) = \mathbb{F}$. Let $\ell \neq p$ be a prime such that $\bar{\rho}$ is ramified at ℓ . We say that $\bar{\rho}$ is minimally ramified at ℓ if one of the following conditions hold:

- **Case 1:** $\bar{\rho}|_{I_\ell} \simeq \begin{pmatrix} 1 & * \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$,
- **Case 2:** $\bar{\rho}|_{I_\ell} \simeq \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\chi} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

Let R be a CNL $W(\mathbb{F})$ -algebra and $\rho : G_{\mathbb{Q},S} \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_2(R)$ be a deformation of $\bar{\rho}$.

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Let f be a newform of level N and $\bar{\rho}$ be the residual representation of the p -adic representation ρ_f attached to f . Assume $\bar{\rho}$ is absolutely irreducible.

Suppose $\ell > 2$ is a prime such that $\ell \parallel N$, $p \nmid \ell^2 - 1$ and $\bar{\rho}$ is ramified at ℓ .

Then $\bar{\rho}$ is minimally ramified at ℓ and ρ_f is a deformation of $\bar{\rho}$ which is minimally ramified at ℓ .

Suppose we are in Case 2. Then ρ is minimally ramified at ℓ if and only if $\ker(\rho|_{I_\ell}) = \ker(\bar{\rho}|_{I_\ell})$.

Suppose we are in Case 1. Then $\rho|_{I_\ell} \simeq \begin{pmatrix} 1 & * \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ if and only if $(\rho(g) - 1)^2 = 0$ for all $g \in I_\ell$.

Therefore, being minimally ramified at ℓ is a deformation condition.

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Therefore, being minimally ramified at ℓ is a deformation condition.

Denote the functor of minimally ramified at ℓ deformations of $\bar{\rho}$ by $D_{\bar{\rho}, \ell}$.

So if R is a CNL $W(\mathbb{F})$ -algebra, we have that $D_{\bar{\rho}, \ell}(R)$ is the set of deformations ρ of $\bar{\rho}$ to R which are minimally ramified at ℓ .

Now if $\rho : G_{\mathbb{Q}, S} \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{F}[\epsilon])$ is a deformation of $\bar{\rho}$, then ρ is minimally ramified at ℓ if and only if $\rho|_{I_\ell} \simeq \bar{\rho}|_{I_\ell}$.

So if f_ρ is the element in $H^1(G_{\mathbb{Q}, S}, \mathrm{Ad}(\bar{\rho}))$ corresponding to ρ , then ρ is minimally ramified at ℓ if and only if $f_\rho|_{I_\ell} = 0$.

Hence, we have an isomorphism

$$D_{\bar{\rho}, \ell}(\mathbb{F}[\epsilon]) \simeq \ker(H^1(G_{\mathbb{Q}, S}, \mathrm{Ad}(\bar{\rho})) \rightarrow H^1(I_\ell, \mathrm{Ad}(\bar{\rho})))$$

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Ordinary deformations

Let $\bar{\rho} : G_{\mathbb{Q},S} \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{F})$ be a continuous, odd and absolutely irreducible representation such that $\bar{\rho}|_{G_{\mathbb{Q}_p}} \simeq \begin{pmatrix} \bar{\eta}_1 & * \\ 0 & \bar{\eta}_2 \end{pmatrix}$, where $\bar{\eta}_1 \neq \bar{\eta}_2$ and $\bar{\eta}_2 : G_{\mathbb{Q}_p} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^\times$ is an unramified character.

Let g_0 be a lift of Frob_p in $G_{\mathbb{Q}_p}$ such that $\bar{\eta}_1(g_0) \neq \bar{\eta}_2(g_0)$.

Let R be a CNL $W(\mathbb{F})$ -algebra and $\rho : G_{\mathbb{Q},S} \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_2(R)$ be a deformation of $\bar{\rho}$.

By Hensel's lemma, the characteristic polynomial of $\rho(g_0)$ has distinct roots a and b in R such that $a \equiv \bar{\eta}_1(g_0) \pmod{m_R}$ and $b \equiv \bar{\eta}_2(g_0) \pmod{m_R}$.

We say that ρ is an ordinary deformation of $\bar{\rho}$ if

$$\mathrm{tr}(\rho(g)(\rho(h) - \det(\rho(h))(\rho(g_0) - b))) = 0 \text{ for all } g \in G_{\mathbb{Q},S}, h \in I_p.$$

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That is for all $g \in G_{\mathbb{Q},S}$ and $h \in I_p$, we have

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We call this condition as *ordinary condition* and denote it by (ord).

It is easy to verify that ordinary condition is indeed a deformation condition.

Note that for a CNL $W(\mathbb{F})$ -algebra, $D_{\bar{\rho}, \mathrm{ord}}(R)$ is the set of deformations of $\bar{\rho}$ to R satisfying the ordinary condition.

Lemma

ρ is ordinary if and only if $\rho|_{G_{\mathbb{Q}_p}} \simeq \begin{pmatrix} \eta_1 & * \\ 0 & \eta_2 \end{pmatrix}$, where η_1 and η_2 are characters lifting $\bar{\eta}_1$ and $\bar{\eta}_2$ and η_2 is an unramified character.

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We call this condition as *ordinary condition* and denote it by (ord).

It is easy to verify that ordinary condition is indeed a deformation condition.

Note that for a CNL $W(\mathbb{F})$ -algebra, $D_{\bar{\rho}, \mathrm{ord}}(R)$ is the set of deformations of $\bar{\rho}$ to R satisfying the ordinary condition.

Lemma

ρ is ordinary if and only if $\rho|_{G_{\mathbb{Q}_p}} \simeq \begin{pmatrix} \eta_1 & * \\ 0 & \eta_2 \end{pmatrix}$, where η_1 and η_2 are characters lifting $\bar{\eta}_1$ and $\bar{\eta}_2$ and η_2 is an unramified character.

Proof: First suppose $\rho|_{G_{\mathbb{Q}_p}} \simeq \begin{pmatrix} \eta_1 & * \\ 0 & \eta_2 \end{pmatrix}$, where η_i is a lift of $\bar{\eta}_i$ and η_2 is unramified at p .

So by Hensel's lemma, we see that, under this basis,

$\rho(g_0) = \begin{pmatrix} a & x \\ 0 & b \end{pmatrix}$. Now we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\rho(h) - \det(\rho(h)))(\rho(g_0) - b) &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & b_h \\ 0 & 1 - \det(\rho(h)) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a - b & x \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus the ordinary condition is trivially satisfied.

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