

## SPECIALIZATION OF MONODROMY GROUP AND $\ell$ -INDEPENDENCE

CHUN YIN HUI

**ABSTRACT.** Soit  $E$  un schéma abélien sur une variété lisse et géométriquement connexe  $X$ , définie sur un corps  $k$  de type fini sur  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Soit  $\eta$  le point générique de  $X$  et soit  $x \in X$  un point fermé. Si  $\mathfrak{g}_\ell$  et  $(\mathfrak{g}_\ell)_x$  sont les algèbres de Lie des représentations  $\ell$ -adiques de Galois des variétés abéliennes  $E_\eta$  et  $E_x$ , alors  $(\mathfrak{g}_\ell)_x$  est plongée dans  $\mathfrak{g}_\ell$  par spécialisation. Nous démontrons que l'ensemble  $\{x \in X \text{ point fermé} \mid (\mathfrak{g}_\ell)_x \subsetneq \mathfrak{g}_\ell\}$  est indépendant de  $\ell$ , ce qui confirme la Conjecture 5.5 de [3].

Let  $E$  be an abelian scheme over a geometrically connected, smooth variety  $X$  defined over  $k$ , a finitely generated field over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Let  $\eta$  be the generic point of  $X$  and  $x \in X$  a closed point. If  $\mathfrak{g}_\ell$  and  $(\mathfrak{g}_\ell)_x$  are the Lie algebras of the  $\ell$ -adic Galois representations for abelian varieties  $E_\eta$  and  $E_x$ , then  $(\mathfrak{g}_\ell)_x$  is embedded in  $\mathfrak{g}_\ell$  by specialization. We prove that the set  $\{x \in X \text{ closed point} \mid (\mathfrak{g}_\ell)_x \subsetneq \mathfrak{g}_\ell\}$  is independent of  $\ell$  and confirm Conjecture 5.5 in [3].

### §0. Introduction

Let  $E$  be an abelian scheme of relative dimension  $n$  over a geometrically connected, smooth variety  $X$  defined over  $k$ , a finitely generated field over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . If  $K$  is the function field of  $X$  and  $\eta$  is the generic point of  $X$ , then  $A := E_\eta$  is an abelian variety of dimension  $n$  defined over  $K$ . The structure morphism  $X \rightarrow \text{Spec}(k)$  induces at the level of *étale* fundamental groups a short exact sequence of profinite groups:

$$(0.1) \quad 1 \rightarrow \pi_1(X_{\bar{k}}) \rightarrow \pi_1(X) \rightarrow \Gamma_k := \text{Gal}(\bar{k}/k) \rightarrow 1.$$

Any closed point  $x : \text{Spec}(\mathbf{k}(x)) \rightarrow X$  induces a splitting  $x : \Gamma_{\mathbf{k}(x)} \rightarrow \pi_1(X_{\mathbf{k}(x)})$  of exact sequence (0.1) for  $\pi_1(X_{\mathbf{k}(x)})$ .

Let  $\Gamma_K = \text{Gal}(\bar{K}/K)$  the absolute Galois group of  $K$ . For each prime number  $\ell$ , we have the Galois representation  $\rho_\ell : \Gamma_K \rightarrow \text{GL}(T_\ell(A))$  where  $T_\ell(A)$  is the  $\ell$ -adic Tate module of  $A$ . This representation is unramified over  $X$  and factors through  $\rho_\ell : \pi_1(X) \rightarrow \text{GL}(T_\ell(A))$  (still denote the map by  $\rho_\ell$  for simplicity). The image of  $\rho_\ell$  is a compact  $\ell$ -adic Lie subgroup of  $\text{GL}(T_\ell(A)) \cong \text{GL}_{2n}(\mathbb{Z}_\ell)$ . Any closed point  $x : \text{Spec}(\mathbf{k}(x)) \rightarrow X$  induces an  $\ell$ -adic Galois representation of  $\Gamma_{\mathbf{k}(x)}$  by restricting  $\rho_\ell$  to  $x(\Gamma_{\mathbf{k}(x)})$ . This representation is isomorphic to the Galois representation of  $\Gamma_{\mathbf{k}(x)}$  on the  $\ell$ -adic Tate module of  $E_x$ , the abelian variety over  $\mathbf{k}(x)$  that is the specialization of  $E$  at  $x$ .

For the sake of simplicity, we write  $G_\ell := \rho_\ell(\pi_1(X))$ ,  $\mathfrak{g}_\ell := \text{Lie}(G_\ell)$ ,  $(G_\ell)_x := \rho_\ell(x(\Gamma_{\mathbf{k}(x)}))$  and  $(\mathfrak{g}_\ell)_x := \text{Lie}((G_\ell)_x)$ . We have  $(\mathfrak{g}_\ell)_x \subset \mathfrak{g}_\ell$ . We set  $X^{cl}$  the set of closed points of  $X$  and define the exceptional set

$$X_{\rho_{E,\ell}} := \{x \in X^{cl} \mid (\mathfrak{g}_\ell)_x \subsetneq \mathfrak{g}_\ell\}.$$

The main result (Theorem 1.5) of this note is that the exceptional set  $X_{\rho_E, \ell}$  is independent of  $\ell$ . Conjecture 5.5 in [Cadoret & Tamagawa 3] is then a direct application of our theorem.

### §1. $\ell$ -independence of $X_{\rho_E, \ell}$

**Theorem 1.1.** (Serre [6 §1]) Let  $A$  be an abelian variety defined over a field  $K$  finitely generated over  $\mathbb{Q}$  and let  $\Gamma_K = \text{Gal}(\overline{K}/K)$ . If  $\rho_\ell : \Gamma_K \rightarrow \text{GL}(T_\ell(A))$  is the  $\ell$ -adic representation of  $\Gamma_K$ , then the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}_\ell$  of  $\rho_\ell(\Gamma_K)$  is algebraic and the rank of  $\mathfrak{g}_\ell$  is independent of the prime  $\ell$ .

**Remark 1.2.** When  $K$  is a number field, the algebraicity of the  $\ell$ -adic Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}_\ell$  was proven by Bogomolov [1]. When  $K$  is a global field of finite characteristic  $> 2$ , the rank independence on  $\ell$  was proven by Zarhin [7].

Since  $V_\ell := T_\ell(A) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}_\ell} \mathbb{Q}_\ell$  is a semisimple  $\Gamma_K$ -module (Faltings [4]), the action on  $V_\ell$  of the Zariski closure  $\mathfrak{G}_\ell$  of  $\rho_\ell(\Gamma_K)$  in  $\text{GL}_{V_\ell}$  is also semisimple. Therefore  $\mathfrak{G}_\ell$  is a reductive algebraic group (Borel [2]). By Theorem 1.1,  $\mathfrak{g}_\ell$  is algebraic. So the rank of  $\mathfrak{g}_\ell$  is just the dimension of maximal tori in  $\mathfrak{G}_\ell$ . We need two more theorems, the first one is the Tate conjecture for abelian varieties proved by G. Faltings and the second one is a result of Yu. G. Zarhin on algebraic reductive Lie algebras.

**Theorem 1.3.** (Faltings [4]) Let  $A$  be an abelian variety defined over a field  $k$  that is finitely generated over  $\mathbb{Q}$  and let  $\Gamma_k = \text{Gal}(\overline{k}/k)$ . Then the map  $\text{End}_k(A) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}_\ell \rightarrow \text{End}_{\Gamma_k}(V_\ell(A))$  is an isomorphism.

**Theorem 1.4.** (Zarhin [8 §5]) Let  $V$  be a finite dimensional vector space over a field of characteristic 0. Let  $\mathfrak{g}_1 \subset \mathfrak{g}_2 \subset \text{End}(V)$  be Lie algebras of reductive subgroups of  $\text{GL}_V$ . Let us assume that the centralizers of  $\mathfrak{g}_1$  and  $\mathfrak{g}_2$  in  $\text{End}(V)$  are equal and that the ranks of  $\mathfrak{g}_1$  and  $\mathfrak{g}_2$  are equal. Then  $\mathfrak{g}_1 = \mathfrak{g}_2$ .

We are now able to prove our main theorem.

**Theorem 1.5.** The set  $X_{\rho_E, \ell}$  is independent of  $\ell$ .

**Proof.** Suppose  $x \in X^d \setminus X_{\rho_\ell}$ , then  $(\mathfrak{g}_\ell)_x = \mathfrak{g}_\ell$ . It suffices to show  $\mathfrak{g}_{\ell'} = (\mathfrak{g}_{\ell'})_x := \text{Lie}(\rho_{\ell'}(x(\Gamma_{\mathbf{k}(x)})))$  for any prime number  $\ell'$ . Since base change with finite field extension of  $\mathbf{k}(x)$  does not change the Lie algebras,  $\text{End}_{\overline{k}}(E_x)$  is finitely generated, and we have the exponential map from Lie algebras to Lie groups, we may assume that  $\text{End}_{\overline{k}}(E_x) = \text{End}_k(E_x)$  and  $\text{End}_{\Gamma_k}(V_\ell(E_x)) = \text{End}_{(\mathfrak{g}_\ell)_x}(V_\ell(E_x))$ . We do the same for the abelian variety  $E_\eta/K$ . We

therefore have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \dim_{\mathbb{Q}_{\ell'}}(\text{End}_{\mathfrak{g}_{\ell'}}(V_{\ell'}(E_{\eta}))) \stackrel{1}{=} \dim_{\mathbb{Q}_{\ell'}}(\text{End}_K(E_{\eta}) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}_{\ell'}) \\
& \stackrel{2}{=} \dim_{\mathbb{Q}_{\ell}}(\text{End}_K(E_{\eta}) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}_{\ell}) \stackrel{3}{=} \dim_{\mathbb{Q}_{\ell}}(\text{End}_{\mathfrak{g}_{\ell}}(V_{\ell}(E_{\eta}))) \\
& \stackrel{4}{=} \dim_{\mathbb{Q}_{\ell}}(\text{End}_{(\mathfrak{g}_{\ell})_x}(V_{\ell}(E_x))) \stackrel{5}{=} \dim_{\mathbb{Q}_{\ell}}(\text{End}_k(E_x) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}_{\ell}) \\
& \stackrel{6}{=} \dim_{\mathbb{Q}_{\ell'}}(\text{End}_k(E_x) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}_{\ell'}) \stackrel{7}{=} \dim_{\mathbb{Q}_{\ell'}}(\text{End}_{(\mathfrak{g}_{\ell'})_x}(V_{\ell'}(E_x))).
\end{aligned}$$

Theorem 1.3 implies the first, third, fifth and seventh equality. The dimensions of  $\mathbb{Q}_{\ell}$ -vector spaces  $\text{End}_K(E_{\eta}) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}_{\ell}$  and  $\text{End}_k(E_x) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}_{\ell}$  do not depend on  $\ell$ ; this implies the second and the sixth equality. Equality  $\mathfrak{g}_{\ell} = (\mathfrak{g}_{\ell})_x$  implies the fourth equality.

We have  $\text{End}_{\mathfrak{g}_{\ell'}}(V_{\ell'}(E_{\eta})) = \text{End}_{(\mathfrak{g}_{\ell'})_x}(V_{\ell'}(E_x))$  because the left one is contained in the right one. In other words, the centralizer of  $(\mathfrak{g}_{\ell'})_x$  is equal to the centralizer of  $\mathfrak{g}_{\ell'}$ . We know that  $(\mathfrak{g}_{\ell'})_x \subset \mathfrak{g}_{\ell'}$  are both reductive, thanks to the semisimplicity of the corresponding Galois representations (Faltings [4]). By Theorem 1.1 on  $\ell$ -independence of reductive ranks and equality  $\mathfrak{g}_{\ell} = (\mathfrak{g}_{\ell})_x$ ,

$$\text{rank}(\mathfrak{g}_{\ell'}) = \text{rank}(\mathfrak{g}_{\ell}) = \text{rank}(\mathfrak{g}_{\ell})_x = \text{rank}(\mathfrak{g}_{\ell'})_x.$$

Therefore, by Theorem 1.4 we conclude that  $(\mathfrak{g}_{\ell'})_x = \mathfrak{g}_{\ell'}$  and thus prove the theorem.  $\square$

**Corollary 1.6 (Conjecture 5.5 of [3]).** Let  $k$  be a field that is finitely generated over  $\mathbb{Q}$ ,  $X$  a smooth, separated, geometrically connected curve over  $k$  with the field of rational function  $K$ . Let  $\eta$  be the generic point of  $X$  and  $E$  an abelian scheme over  $X$ . Let  $\rho_{\ell} : \pi_1(X) \rightarrow \text{GL}(T_{\ell}(E_{\eta}))$  be the corresponding  $\ell$ -adic representation. Then there exists a finite subset  $X_E \subset X(k)$  such that for any prime  $\ell$ ,  $X_{\rho_{E,\ell}} = X_E$ , where  $X_{\rho_{E,\ell}}$  is the set of all  $x \in X(k)$  such that  $(G_{\ell})_x$  is not open in  $G_{\ell} := \rho_{\ell}(\pi_1(X))$ .

**Proof.** The uniform open image theorem for *GLP* (geometrically Lie perfect) representations [3 Thm. 1.1] implies the finiteness of  $X_{\rho_{E,\ell}}$ . Theorem 1.5 implies  $\ell$ -independence.  $\square$

**Corollary 1.7.** Let  $A$  be an abelian variety of dimension  $n \geq 1$  defined over a field  $K$  that is finitely generated over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Let  $\Gamma_K = \text{Gal}(\overline{K}/K)$  denote the absolute Galois group of  $K$ . For each prime number  $\ell$ , we have the Galois representation  $\rho_{\ell} : \Gamma_K \rightarrow \text{GL}(T_{\ell}(A))$  where  $T_{\ell}(A)$  is the  $\ell$ -adic Tate module of  $A$ . If the Mumford-Tate conjecture for abelian varieties over number fields is true, then there is an algebraic subgroup  $H$  of  $\text{GL}_{2n}$  defined over  $\mathbb{Q}$  such that the identity component of the Zariski closure of  $\rho_{\ell}(\Gamma_K)$  in  $\text{GL}_{2n}(V_{\ell}(A))$  is equal to  $H \times_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{Q}_{\ell}$  for all  $\ell$ .

**Proof.** There exists an abelian scheme  $E$  over a variety  $X$  defined over a number field  $k$  such that the function field of  $X$  is  $K$  and  $E_{\eta} = A$  where  $\eta$  is the generic point of  $X$  (see, e.g., Milne [5 §20]). By [6 §1], there exists a closed point  $x \in X$  such that  $(\mathfrak{g}_{\ell})_x = \mathfrak{g}_{\ell}$ . Therefore, we have  $(\mathfrak{g}_{\ell})_x = \mathfrak{g}_{\ell}$  for any prime  $\ell$  by Theorem 1.5. Since all Lie algebras are

algebraic (Theorem 1.1), if we take  $H$  as the Mumford-Tate group of  $E_x$ , then the identity component of the Zariski closure of  $\rho_\ell(\Gamma_K)$  in  $\mathrm{GL}_{2n}(V_\ell(A))$  is equal to  $H \times_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{Q}_\ell$  for all  $\ell$ .  $\square$

**Question.** Is the algebraic group  $H$  in Corollary 1.7 isomorphic to the Mumford-Tate group of the abelian variety  $A$ ?

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Department of Mathematics, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405, USA  
E-mail address: `chhui@indiana.edu`