

# Uniformities for $F$ -isocrystals on curves

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These slides can be downloaded from <https://kskedlaya.org/slides/>.

Dwork seminar

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The UC San Diego campus sits on unceded ancestral land of the Kumeyaay Nation.

# Contents

- 1 Overconvergent  $F$ -isocrystals on curves
- 2 Local monodromy and uniformity
- 3 A local uniformity problem
- 4 Tame isocrystals
- 5 Uniformity for the jumping locus
- 6 Uniformity for crystalline lattices
- 7 Uniformities in the construction of crystalline companions

# Basic setup

Let  $k$  be a perfect field of characteristic  $p > 0$ . We sometimes assume that  $k$  is finite, in which case  $q := \#k$ .

Let  $\overline{X}$  be a smooth, projective, geometrically irreducible curve over  $k$ . Let  $X$  be a nonempty open affine subscheme of  $\overline{X}$ . Let  $Z$  be the (reduced) complement of  $X$  in  $\overline{X}$ .

Let  $g$  be the genus of  $\overline{X}$ . Let  $m$  be the  $k$ -length of  $Z$ .

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# Lifts to characteristic 0

Let  $\overline{\mathfrak{X}}$  be<sup>1</sup> a smooth projective scheme over  $W(k)$  (the Witt vectors) equipped with an isomorphism  $\overline{\mathfrak{X}}_k \cong \overline{X}$ .

Let  $\overline{\mathfrak{Z}}$  be a smooth divisor in  $\overline{\mathfrak{X}}$  such that  $\overline{\mathfrak{Z}}_k \subset \overline{\mathfrak{X}}_k$  is identified with  $Z \subset \overline{X}$ .

Let  $K$  be the fraction field of  $W(k)$ . Let  $\overline{\mathfrak{X}}_K^{\text{an}}$  be the analytification<sup>2</sup> of  $\overline{\mathfrak{X}}_K$ . We may then view  $\overline{\mathfrak{Z}}_K$  as a closed analytic subspace of  $\overline{\mathfrak{X}}_K^{\text{an}}$ .

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<sup>1</sup>Reminder: such a lift always exists because of the smoothness of the moduli stack of curves.

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# Strict neighborhoods

We may also view  $\overline{\mathfrak{X}}_K^{\text{an}}$  as the Raynaud generic fiber of the formal completion of  $\overline{\mathfrak{X}}$  along  $\overline{\mathfrak{X}}_k$ . Let  $\mathfrak{X}$  be the open formal subscheme of the completion supported on  $X \subset \overline{X}$ , and let  $\mathfrak{X}_K^{\text{an}} \subset \overline{\mathfrak{X}}_K^{\text{an}}$  denote the Raynaud generic fiber of  $\mathfrak{X}$ .

The complement of  $\mathfrak{X}_K^{\text{an}}$  in  $\overline{\mathfrak{X}}_K^{\text{an}}$  consists of a finite union of virtual<sup>3</sup> open discs. A **strict neighborhood** of  $\mathfrak{X}_K^{\text{an}}$  in  $\overline{\mathfrak{X}}_K^{\text{an}}$  is an open neighborhood of  $\mathfrak{X}_K^{\text{an}}$  whose complement in  $\overline{\mathfrak{X}}_K^{\text{an}}$  is contained in some **quasicompact** open subspace of the complement of  $\mathfrak{X}_K^{\text{an}}$ . That is, one replaces each open disc with some disc of **strictly smaller** radius.

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# Overconvergent $F$ -isocrystals

Let  $\varphi_K : K \rightarrow K$  be the Witt vector Frobenius. An **overconvergent  $F$ -isocrystal** on  $X$  is a vector bundle  $\mathcal{E}$  with connection<sup>4</sup> on some<sup>5</sup> strict neighborhood  $V$  of  $\mathfrak{X}_K^{\text{an}}$  in  $\overline{\mathfrak{X}}_K^{\text{an}}$ , together with an isomorphism  $\varphi_V^* \mathcal{E} \cong \mathcal{E}$  of vector bundles with connection where  $\varphi_V : V \rightarrow V$  is some  $\varphi_K$ -semilinear map extending an absolute Frobenius lift on  $\mathfrak{X}_K^{\text{an}}$ .

Let  $\mathbf{Fisoc}^\dagger(X)$  be the category of overconvergent  $F$ -isocrystals on  $X$  (where morphisms respect the connection and Frobenius structure). As the notation suggests, this category is functorial in  $X$ ; in particular it does depend on the choice of the lift  $\overline{\mathfrak{X}}$  of  $\overline{X}$ .

These objects show up in Berthelot's **rigid cohomology** as the analogue of Weil  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$ -sheaves in étale cohomology. More on this later.

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<sup>4</sup>No integrability condition because  $\dim(X) = 1$ .

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# Local isocrystals

What is the analogue of  $\mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(X)$  with  $X$  replaced by  $s = \text{Spec } k((t))$ ?

The **Robba ring**  $\mathcal{R}_K$  is the colimit (= union) of the rings of analytic functions over  $K$  on the annulus  $\rho < |t| < 1$  as  $\rho \rightarrow 1^-$ . Such functions can be identified with Laurent series  $\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} c_n t^n$  with  $c_n \in K$  such that

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow -\infty} |c_n| \rho^n < \infty \text{ for some } \rho \in (0, 1)$$

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow +\infty} |c_n| \rho^n < \infty \text{ for all } \rho \in (0, 1).$$

We take  $\mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(s)$  to be the category of finite free<sup>6</sup> modules over  $\mathcal{R}_K$  equipped with compatible actions of the derivation  $\frac{d}{dt}$  and some Frobenius lift  $\varphi$  on  $\mathcal{R}_K$ . Again, this implies the same for any other choice of  $\varphi$ .

For  $x \in Z(k)$ , we get a pullback functor  $\mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(X) \rightarrow \mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(s)$ .

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# Tame local monodromy

Given  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(s)$ , for  $\rho \in (0, 1)$  sufficiently large we can restrict to the disc  $|t - t_\rho| < \rho$  where  $t_\rho$  is a generic point<sup>7</sup> with  $|t_\rho| = \rho$ .

Theorem (Christol-Mebkhout, late 1990s)

*There exists  $b = b(\mathcal{E}) \in \mathbb{Q}_{\geq 0}$  such that as  $\rho \rightarrow 1^-$ , the restriction of  $\mathcal{E}$  to  $|t - t_\rho| < \rho$  has a basis of horizontal sections on  $|t - t_\rho| < \rho^{1+c}$  iff  $c \leq b$ .*

We say  $\mathcal{E}$  is **tame** if  $b(\mathcal{E}) = 0$ . (In older literature,  $\mathcal{E}$  satisfies the **Robba condition**.)

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# The $p$ -adic local monodromy theorem

The **bounded** germs in  $\mathcal{R}_K$  form a two-dimensional local field with residue field  $k((t))$ , which is incomplete but henselian. Hence finite separable extensions of  $k((t))$  canonically induce finite extensions of  $\mathcal{R}_K$ .

Theorem (André, K, Mebkhout, early 2000s)

*For any  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(s)$ , the pullback of  $\mathcal{E}$  along some finite separable extension of  $k((t))$  is tame.*

This corresponds roughly to Grothendieck's local monodromy theorem for étale lisse  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$ -sheaves.

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# Local monodromy representations and wild ramification

Using the  $p$ LMT, one can associate<sup>8</sup> to  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(s)$  a representation

$$\rho_{\mathcal{E}} : \pi_1(s) \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_r(\mathbb{Q}_p), \quad r = \mathrm{rank}(\mathcal{E}).$$

Theorem (Matsuda, early 2000s)

*The highest ramification break of  $\rho_{\mathcal{E}}$  equals  $b(\mathcal{E})$ . In particular,  $\mathcal{E}$  is tame if and only if  $\rho_{\mathcal{E}}$  is tame.*

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# Domain of definition controls ramification

## Conjecture

*Choose  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(s)$  of rank  $r$  which can be realized as a vector bundle with connection and Frobenius structure on  $\rho < |t| < 1$  for some fixed  $\rho$ . Then  $b(\mathcal{E})$  is bounded by some function of  $p, r, \rho$ .*

A known special case: if  $\mathcal{E}$  extends to a logarithmic connection across the entire disc  $|t| < 1$ , then  $\mathcal{E}$  must be tame (see below for a more precise statement).

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# Ramification controls domain of definition

Conjecture (work in progress)

*Any  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(s)$  of rank  $r$  with  $b(\mathcal{E}) = b$  can be realized as a vector bundle with connection and Frobenius structure on  $\rho < |t| < 1$  for some  $\rho$  depending only on  $p, r, b$ . Moreover,  $\mathcal{E}$  admits a generating set on which the actions of the connection and Frobenius are bounded in operator norm by a function of  $p, r, b$ .*

It would also be of interest to identify optimal bounds. However, any bounds at all would imply some improvements in “cut-by-curves” criteria for overconvergence of convergent  $F$ -isocrystals (Shiho, Grubb–K–Upton).

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## More remarks

Progress on these conjectures may have some applications in mixed characteristic, e.g., to the study of Emerton–Gee–Hellmann’s moduli stacks of  $(\varphi, \Gamma)$ -modules.

In general, uniformity problems for overconvergent  $F$ -isocrystals on curves must account for the wild ramification at all points of  $Z$ . However, resolution of these conjecture will (probably) allow these problems to be reduced to the case where everything is tame; for this reason, I restrict all subsequent conjectures to the tame setting.



## More remarks

Progress on these conjectures may have some applications in mixed characteristic, e.g., to the study of Emerton–Gee–Hellmann’s moduli stacks of  $(\varphi, \Gamma)$ -modules.

In general, uniformity problems for overconvergent  $F$ -isocrystals on curves must account for the wild ramification at all points of  $Z$ . However, resolution of these conjecture will (probably) allow these problems to be reduced to the case where everything is tame; for this reason, I restrict all subsequent conjectures to the tame setting.

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# Logarithmic extensions

We say  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(X)$  is **tame** if for every  $z \in Z$ , after making a base extension to ensure that  $z \in Z(k)$ , the pullback of  $\mathcal{E}$  to  $\mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(s)$  defined by  $z$  is tame (i.e., its local monodromy representation is tame).

## Theorem

*$\mathcal{E}$  is tame iff it extends to a vector bundle with logarithmic connection on  $(\overline{\mathfrak{X}}_K^{\text{an}}, \overline{\mathfrak{Y}}_K^{\text{an}})$  with exponents in  $\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}$ . In this case, there is a unique such extension with exponents in  $\mathbb{Z}_{(p)} \cap [0, 1)$ .*

Beware that we cannot include the Frobenius structure in this statement because in general there is no Frobenius lift on all of  $\overline{\mathfrak{X}}_K^{\text{an}}$ . We will work around this later.

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## GAGA+GAGA

## Theorem

*If  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(X)$  is tame, then any logarithmic extension on  $(\bar{\mathcal{X}}_K^{\text{an}}, \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_K^{\text{an}})$  with exponents in  $\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}$  is the pullback of a vector bundle with logarithmic connection on the log scheme  $(\bar{\mathcal{X}}_K, \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_K)$ .*

This follows from the previous statement using the analogue of Serre's GAGA<sup>9</sup> theorem with  $\mathbb{C}$  replaced by  $K$ .

On the other hand, since  $K$  is a field of characteristic 0 of cardinality  $2^{\aleph_0}$ , it admits an algebraic (but not topological!) embedding into  $\mathbb{C}$ . We can thus choose such an embedding, pull back from  $\bar{\mathcal{X}}_K$  to  $\bar{\mathcal{X}}_{\mathbb{C}}$ , then apply results of complex analytic geometry via standard GAGA.

<sup>9</sup>Acronym of Serre's paper "Géométrie Algébrique et Géométrie Analytique".

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# An example of GAGA+GAGA

## Theorem

*Suppose that  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(X)$  is tame with nilpotent residues, and let  $E$  be its logarithmic extension to  $(\overline{\mathfrak{X}}_K, \mathfrak{Z}_K)$  with nilpotent residues. Then the first Chern class of  $E$  is zero; in particular,  $\deg(E) = 0$ .*

## Proof.

It is equivalent to check the claim after replacing  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $E$  with their top exterior powers. Using GAGA+GAGA, we reduce to the statement that a line bundle on a compact Riemann surface admitting a connection (with no logarithmic singularities) has degree 0. This case is due to Atiyah.  $\square$

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# Newton polygons and the jumping locus

For  $r, s \in \mathbb{Z}$  with  $r > 0$  and  $\gcd(r, s) = 1$ , the formula

$$F(\mathbf{e}_1) = \mathbf{e}_2, \quad \dots, \quad F(\mathbf{e}_{r-1}) = \mathbf{e}_r, \quad F(\mathbf{e}_r) = p^s \mathbf{e}_1.$$

defines an object  $\mathcal{E}_{s,r} \in \mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(\mathrm{Spec} k)$ .

## Theorem (Dieudonné–Manin)

*For  $k = \bar{k}$ , every object  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(\mathrm{Spec} k)$  decomposes as a direct sum of various objects of the form  $\mathcal{E}_{s,r}$ . This decomposition is not unique in general, but the associated isotypical decomposition is unique.*

We associate to  $\mathcal{E}$  the **Newton polygon** with the slope  $\frac{s}{r}$  with multiplicity equal to the rank of the isotypical summand corresponding to  $\mathcal{E}_{s,r}$ .

This behaves like the Newton polygon of a linear operator on a vector space over  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ . In particular, it behaves well with respect to tensor/symmetric/exterior powers and duals.

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# Semicontinuity for Newton polygons

For  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(X)$ , for any point  $x \in X$  (including the generic point  $\eta$ ), define the Newton polygon of  $\mathcal{E}$  at  $x$  by pullback to a geometric point over  $x$  (it does not matter which one).

Theorem (Grothendieck–Katz, 1960s)

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# Bounding the jumping locus

## Theorem (Tsuzuki, K)

*For  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(X)$  tame, the length of the jumping locus can be bounded in terms of  $p, g, m, r$ .*

For  $k$  finite, this can be proved using  $L$ -functions. For general  $k$ , it will follow from uniformity for crystalline lattices (see below).

In many cases, one can compute the **exact** length of the jumping locus using “transversality of Frobenius” (e.g., on modular curves). Is there a general result of this form?

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# Crystalline lattices

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A **lattice** in  $\mathcal{E}$  is an extension of  $E_K$  to a vector bundle<sup>10</sup>  $E$  with logarithmic connection on  $(\overline{\mathfrak{X}}, \mathfrak{Z})$ .

Let  $\eta_X$  be the generic point of  $X$ . A lattice  $E$  is **crystalline** if its pullback to the completed localization of  $\overline{\mathfrak{X}}$  at  $\eta_X$  is stable under the action on  $\mathcal{E}$  of any Frobenius structure.

## Theorem

*$\mathcal{E}$  admits a crystalline lattice if and only if its Newton polygon at  $\eta_X$  has all nonnegative slopes. (The same is then true everywhere on  $X$ .)*

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# Crystalline lattices and the global action of Frobenius

In the definition of a crystalline lattice  $E$ , there is no way to say directly that “ $E$  is preserved by Frobenius structures” because the latter are not defined everywhere on  $\overline{X}_K^{\text{an}}$ .

However, we do get a well-defined Frobenius action on the pullback  $E_k$  of  $E$  to  $\overline{X}$ . This is not an isomorphism: its generic rank is the multiplicity of 0 in the Newton polygon at  $\eta_X$ .

By the same token, the rank of the Frobenius action at any  $x \in X$  is the multiplicity of 0 in the Newton polygon at  $x$ . This means that we can control the length of the locus at which this multiplicity drops by bounding the degree of the image of Frobenius on  $E_k$ .

Hence using this construction for  $\mathcal{E}$  and suitable twists of its exterior powers, we can detect the jumping locus of  $\mathcal{E}$ .

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# Slopes of vector bundles

Let  $C$  be a curve over a field  $L$  of any characteristic. Let  $F$  be a vector bundle on  $C$ .

- The **determinant**  $\det(F) = \wedge^{\text{rank}(F)} F$ .
- The **degree**  $\deg(F) := \deg(\det(F))$  where degree of a line bundle means the degree of a nonzero rational section.
- For  $F \neq 0$ , the **slope**  $\mu(F) := \frac{\deg(F)}{\text{rank}(F)}$ . If  $H^0(C, F) \neq 0$  then  $\mu(F) \geq 0$ ; the converse is false, but if  $\mu(F) > 2g - 2$  then  $H^0(C, F) \neq 0$  (Riemann-Roch).
- For  $F \neq 0$ ,  $F$  is **stable** (resp. **semistable**) if there is no nonzero proper subbundle  $G$  of  $F$  with  $\mu(G) \geq \mu(F)$  (resp.  $\mu(G) > \mu(F)$ ).

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- The **degree**  $\deg(F) := \deg(\det(F))$  where degree of a line bundle means the degree of a nonzero rational section.
- For  $F \neq 0$ , the **slope**  $\mu(F) := \frac{\deg(F)}{\text{rank}(F)}$ . If  $H^0(C, F) \neq 0$  then  $\mu(F) \geq 0$ ; the converse is false, but if  $\mu(F) > 2g - 2$  then  $H^0(C, F) \neq 0$  (Riemann-Roch).
- For  $F \neq 0$ ,  $F$  is **stable** (resp. **semistable**) if there is no nonzero proper subbundle  $G$  of  $F$  with  $\mu(G) \geq \mu(F)$  (resp.  $\mu(G) > \mu(F)$ ).

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# Harder–Narasimhan polygons

For  $C, L, F$  as above, there exists a unique filtration

$$F = F_0 \supset \cdots \supset F_l = 0$$

such that:

- (a) each successive quotient  $F_i/F_{i+1}$  is semistable;
- (b) for  $\mu_i := \mu(F_i/F_{i+1})$ , we have  $\mu_1 > \cdots > \mu_l$ .

This is the **HN (Harder–Narasimhan) filtration** of  $F$ . The **HN polygon** of  $F$  is the Newton polygon with slope  $\mu_i$  of multiplicity  $\text{rank}(F_i/F_{i+1})$ .

The HN polygon is semicontinuous under specialization. In particular, for  $E$  a crystalline lattice, bounding the HN polygon of  $E_k$  also bounds the HN polygon of  $E_K$ , but not conversely.

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# Uniformity for crystalline lattices

## Theorem

For  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(X)$  tame with nilpotent residues of rank  $r$  with nonnegative Newton slopes, there exists a crystalline lattice  $E$  such that the HN polygon of  $E_k$  is bounded (above and below) in terms of  $p, g, m, r$ .

The key point: if  $\mathcal{E}$  is irreducible, then the gaps between consecutive HN slopes of  $E_k$  are bounded. To wit, a large gap implies an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow E_{k,1} \rightarrow E_k \rightarrow E_{k,2} \rightarrow 0$$

in which  $E_{k,1}$  is forced to be stable under the Frobenius and connection. We then get a new lattice  $E'$  with an exact sequence

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These steps form a walk through a **bounded** subset of the Bruhat–Tits building for  $\mathrm{GL}_r(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ , which eventually terminates at a good lattice.

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- 1 Overconvergent  $F$ -isocrystals on curves
- 2 Local monodromy and uniformity
- 3 A local uniformity problem
- 4 Tame isocrystals
- 5 Uniformity for the jumping locus
- 6 Uniformity for crystalline lattices
- 7 Uniformities in the construction of crystalline companions

## A remark about coefficient fields

From now on, assume  $k$  is finite.

The category  $\mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(X)$  is a  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ -linear tensor category. For any finite extension  $L$  of  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ , we may form the category  $\mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(X) \otimes L$  consisting of objects of  $\mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(X)$  equipped with a  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ -linear  $L$ -action. By taking a 2-colimit over  $L$ , we obtain the category  $\mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(X) \otimes \overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}$ .

This is the  $p$ -adic analogue of the category of étale Weil  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}_\ell}$ -sheaves on  $X$  for some prime  $\ell \neq p$ . Forgetting<sup>11</sup> Frobenius actions gives an analogue of the category of étale lisse  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}_\ell}$ -sheaves on  $X_{\overline{k}}$ .

In particular,  $\mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(\mathrm{Spec} k) \otimes \overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}$  is equivalent to the category of finite-dimensional  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}$ -vector spaces equipped with a  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}$ -linear automorphism.

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# The theorem on crystalline companions

## Theorem (K, 2023)

Let  $Y$  be a smooth  $k$ -scheme. Fix on  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$  a place  $v_1$  above  $\ell \neq p$  and a place  $v_2$  above  $p$ . Let  $\mathcal{E}$  be an étale lisse  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$ -sheaf which is irreducible with finite determinant. Then there exists a unique  $\mathcal{F} \in \mathbf{FIsoc}^\dagger(Y) \otimes \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p$  such that at each  $y \in Y$ , the characteristic polynomials of  $\text{Frob}_y$  on  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  coincide in  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}[T]$  (using  $v_1$  and  $v_2$  to construct the embeddings  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell, \overline{\mathbb{Q}} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p$ ).

For  $\dim(Y) = 1$  and  $r = \text{rank}(\mathcal{E})$ , this follows from the Langlands correspondence for  $\text{GL}_r$  with  $\ell$ -adic coefficients (Drinfeld, L. Lafforgue) and  $p$ -adic coefficients (T. Abe). The challenge here is to apply this result to all curves in  $Y$ , then use the result to obtain something coherent.

The analogous statement for  $v_1, v_2$  away from  $p$  follows from work of Deligne and Drinfeld. This was extended to  $v_1$  above  $p, v_2$  away from  $p$  by Abe–Esnault and K.

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## A key geometric setup

Thanks to prior results, this can be checked after an alteration. So we may assume  $\mathcal{E}$  is everywhere tame **and** that there is a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 Y & \longrightarrow & \overline{Y} & \longleftarrow & Z \\
 & \searrow f & \downarrow \overline{f} & \swarrow & \\
 & & S & & 
 \end{array}$$

which is an **elementary fibration** in the sense of Artin:

- $S$  is smooth over  $k$ ;
- $\overline{Y} \rightarrow S$  is a family of smooth projective curves;
- $Z \rightarrow \overline{Y}$  is a closed immersion with  $Z \rightarrow S$  finite étale;
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# The role of uniformities

The method of Deligne to produce étale companions is to produce a coherent sequence of mod- $\ell^n$  truncations using a finiteness/compactness argument.

The analogous construction uses moduli stacks of (truncated) tame isocrystals. Uniformity for crystalline lattices implies that these are **finite type** over  $k$ .

Moreover, using uniformity for jumping loci on curves, we can show that the “jumping locus” of  $\mathcal{E}$  behaves like we expect.

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