

Notes on Scholze's results

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Notation

As usual, \mathbb{A} denotes the ring of adeles of \mathbb{Q} and $\mathbb{A}_f = \hat{\mathbb{Z}} \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ is the ring of finite adeles of \mathbb{Q} .

Throughout these notes, we mainly work with GL_n . Let K be a compact open subgroup of $GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f)$ and $K_\infty \leq GL_n(\mathbb{R})$ be $O_n(\mathbb{R})$, a maximal compact open subgroup of $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$. Finally, let $A = \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ be the set of scalar matrices with positive real entries on the diagonal.

Most of the statements in these notes remain true with \mathbb{Q} replaced by a number field, GL_n replaced by an affine connected reductive group scheme over \mathbb{Q} , K_∞ replaced by any maximal compact subgroup and A by the identity component of the maximal \mathbb{Q} -split torus in the center of the group.

1 Locally symmetric spaces

In this section, we introduce the spaces X_K attached to GL_n , K_∞ and K . We chose the adelic setting because it is more compatible with the theory of automorphic representations. Let

$$D = A \backslash GL_n(\mathbb{R})/K_\infty$$

and

$$X_K = GL_n(\mathbb{Q}) \backslash GL_n(\mathbb{A})/AK_\infty K = GL_n(\mathbb{Q}) \backslash (D \times GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f)/K).$$

By a theorem of Borel, the set

$$GL_n(\mathbb{Q}) \backslash GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f)/K$$

is finite. Let $\{g_1, \dots, g_d\} \subseteq GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f)$ be a set of representatives of this double quotient. Then the map

$$\Gamma_i x \longmapsto GL_n(\mathbb{Q})(x, g_i)K : \coprod_i \Gamma_i \backslash D \longrightarrow X_K,$$

where $\Gamma_i = g_i^{-1}Kg_i \cap GL_n(\mathbb{Q})$, is a bijection.

Since we are working with GL_n , it is possible to find a simpler description of D , by noting that the natural map from $SL_n(\mathbb{R})$ to D induces an isomorphism

$$\mathcal{H}_n := SL_n(\mathbb{R})/SO_n(\mathbb{R}) \longrightarrow A \backslash GL_n(\mathbb{R})/K_\infty = D.$$

Note that for $n = 2$, $SL_2(\mathbb{R})$ acts transitively on the upper-half plane $\mathcal{H} = \{z \in \mathbb{C} | \Im(z) > 0\}$. The stabilizer of the imaginary unit i is $SO_2(\mathbb{R})$, so

$$\mathcal{H}_2 = \mathcal{H},$$

which justifies the notation \mathcal{H}_n .

It follows that X_K is a finite union of quotients of \mathcal{H}_n by subgroups of the form $\mathcal{U} \cap GL_n(\mathbb{Q})$, where \mathcal{U} is a compact open subgroup of $GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f)$. In particular, for $n = 2$, X_K is a finite union of *non-compact* modular curves.

This discussion motivates the following definition.

Definition 1. A subgroup H of $GL_n(\mathbb{Q})$ is called **arithmetic** if $H \cap GL_n(\mathbb{Z})$ has finite index in H and $GL_n(\mathbb{Z})$ (i.e. it is commensurable with $GL_n(\mathbb{Z})$) and **congruence** if it is of the form $\mathcal{U} \cap GL_n(\mathbb{Q})$ for some compact open subgroup \mathcal{U} of $GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f)$.

Example: Let N be a positive integer and define

$$K(N) = \prod_{\ell < \infty} \mathcal{U}_\ell(\text{ord}_\ell(N)),$$

where $\text{ord}_\ell(N)$ is the ℓ -adic valuation of N and for $k \geq 0$

$$\mathcal{U}_\ell(k) = \{\gamma \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z}_\ell) | \gamma \equiv I \pmod{\ell^k}\}.$$

As N varies, the sets $K(N)$ form a basis of open neighbourhoods of 1 in $SL_2(\mathbb{A}_f)$. It follows that for any compact open subgroup \mathcal{U} in $SL_2(\mathbb{A}_f)$,

$$\mathcal{U} \cap SL_2(\mathbb{Q}) \supseteq K(N) \cap SL_2(\mathbb{Q}) = \Gamma(N)$$

for some integer N , where

$$\Gamma(N) = \{\gamma \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) | \gamma \equiv I \pmod{N}\}.$$

It follows that the above definition of congruence subgroup for SL_2 (just replace GL_n by SL_2) is consistent with the usual definition of a congruence subgroup of $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$.

Note: One could ask if arithmetic subgroups are congruence. In general, this is not the case. It is known for example that $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ has infinitely many subgroups of finite index that are not congruence subgroups. However, every finite index subgroup of $SL_n(\mathbb{Z})$ is congruence, whenever $n > 2$. These considerations are related to the so-called congruence subgroup problem.

So far, the spaces X_K were only considered as topological spaces. A natural question is to ask if these spaces are smooth manifolds. If this is the case, are they complex manifolds or even algebraic varieties? In general, these spaces will not be algebraic varieties or complex manifolds. For example, \mathcal{H}_3 has *odd* dimension. However, if K is small enough, the X_K are smooth manifolds.¹

Definition 2. An **arithmetic manifold** is a double quotient space

$$\Gamma \backslash G(\mathbb{R}) / K_\infty,$$

where

1. G is a semisimple algebraic group over \mathbb{Q} ,
2. $K_\infty \leq G(\mathbb{R})$ is a maximal compact subgroup of $G(\mathbb{R})$,
3. $\Gamma \leq G(\mathbb{Q})$ is an arithmetic subgroup of G .

¹Any compact open subgroup K of $GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f)$ contains a so-called **neat** subgroup K' of finite index and for such neat subgroup, $X_{K'}$ is a smooth manifold. See [Get, Sec 15.1] for details.

An algebraic group G is called **semisimple** if the maximal connected normal subgroup of $G_{\bar{\mathbb{Q}}}$ such that $G(\bar{\mathbb{Q}})$ is solvable is $\{\text{id}\}$.

Example: SL_n is semisimple, but not GL_n . An example of maximal compact subgroup of $SL_n(\mathbb{R})$ is $SO_n(\mathbb{R})$. It follows that the quotients $\Gamma \backslash \mathcal{H}_n$, where Γ is an arithmetic subgroup, are examples of arithmetic manifolds. In particular, modular curves are arithmetic manifolds.

The space $D = G(\mathbb{R})/K_\infty$ can be given the structure of a Riemannian manifold. Moreover, D is a **Riemannian symmetric space**. This means that for each point x of D , there is an isometry which maps x to itself and has derivative equal to -1 at x . Then the arithmetic manifold $\Gamma \backslash D$ is a locally Riemannian symmetric space, meaning that at each point of $\Gamma \backslash D$ there is a map as before, but now it may only be defined locally around that point.

2 Hecke operators and automorphic representations

The simplest definition of an automorphic representation of $GL_n(\mathbb{A})$ is an irreducible $GL_n(\mathbb{A})$ -module isomorphic to a subquotient of

$$L^2(GL_n(\mathbb{Q})A \backslash GL_n(\mathbb{A})).$$

This is the definition given in [Wei, Sec 4.7]. One can consider separately the action of $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$ and $GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f)$ in such a representation and with some work, one can show that this definition is equivalent to the definition given previously in the seminar.

Definition 3. An automorphic representation of $GL_n(\mathbb{A})$ is an admissible $(\text{Lie}(GL_n(\mathbb{R})), K_\infty) \times GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f)$ -module isomorphic to a subquotient of $L^2(GL_n(\mathbb{Q})A \backslash GL_n(\mathbb{A}))$.

An **admissible** $(\text{Lie}(GL_n(\mathbb{R})), K_\infty) \times GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f)$ -module is a module of the form $\pi_\infty \otimes \pi_f$, where π_∞ is an admissible $(\text{Lie}(GL_n(\mathbb{R})), K_\infty)$ -module (see Shan's notes or [Get, Sec 5.3] for a definition) and π_f is an admissible $GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f)$ -module, which means that V^U is finite dimensional for any compact open subgroup U of $GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f)$, where V is the space of π_f .

As we saw in a previous talk, every automorphic representation $\pi = \pi_\infty \otimes \pi_f$ factors as

$$\pi = \pi_\infty \otimes \bigotimes_{p < \infty} \pi_p,$$

where π_p is an irreducible representation of $GL_n(\mathbb{Q}_p)$. Moreover, for almost all primes $p < \infty$, π_p is **unramified**, i.e. $V^{GL_n(\mathbb{Z}_p)} \neq 0$ if V is the space of π_p .

Definition 4. The non-archimedean Hecke algebra, denoted \mathcal{H}^∞ , is the algebra of compactly supported smooth functions on $GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f)$. More precisely,

$$\mathcal{H}^\infty = C_c^\infty(GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f)) = \{h : GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f) \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid h \text{ is locally constant and compactly supported}\},$$

together with the convolution product

$$(h_1 * h_2)(g) = \int_{GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f)} h_1(x) h_2(x^{-1}g) dx$$

with respect to a Haar measure on $GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f)$.

The Hecke algebra \mathcal{H}^∞ is associative, but not unitary. One can also define an archimedean Hecke algebra \mathcal{H}_∞ (see [Get, Sec 3.3]). Then $\mathcal{H}^\infty \otimes \mathcal{H}_\infty$ acts naturally on $L^2(GL_n(\mathbb{Q})A \backslash GL_n(\mathbb{A}))$ (see [Get, Sec 3.4]) and an automorphic representation of $GL_n(\mathbb{A})$ can be defined as an admissible representation of $\mathcal{H}^\infty \otimes \mathcal{H}_\infty$. As before, an admissible representation of $\mathcal{H}^\infty \otimes \mathcal{H}_\infty$ is a module of the form $\pi_\infty \otimes \pi_f$, where π_∞ is an admissible \mathcal{H}_∞ -module (see [Get, Sec 3.3]) and π_f is an admissible \mathcal{H}^∞ -module, which means that π_f is non-degenerate and $V^{\pi_f(\mathbb{I}_U)}$ is finite dimensional for any compact open subgroup U of $GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f)$, where V is the space of π_f and \mathbb{I}_U is the indicator function of U .

The non-archimedean Hecke algebra factors as

$$\mathcal{H}^\infty \cong \bigotimes_{p < \infty}' C_c^\infty(\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_p)),$$

where $C_c^\infty(\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_p))$ is the convolution algebra of compactly supported locally constant complex-valued functions on $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ and the \otimes' is the restricted tensor product (see [Get, Sec 7.1] for more details). Given a smooth representation

$$\pi_p : \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_p) \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(V),$$

where $\mathrm{GL}(V)$ has the discrete topology,² one can define an action of $C_c^\infty(\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_p))$ on V as follows: for any $h \in C_c^\infty(\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_p))$ and $v \in V$, define

$$h * v = \int_{\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_p)} h(x) \pi_p(x)(v) dx.$$

This integral in fact reduces to a finite sum. To see this, first note that since π_p is smooth, one can choose U compact open and small enough so that every element of $\pi_p(U)$ fixes v . By shrinking U if necessary, one can also suppose that U small enough so that $h = \sum_{i=1}^d h(g_i) \mathbb{I}_{g_i U}$. Then,

$$\int_{\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_p)} h(x) \pi_p(x)(v) dx = \sum_{i=1}^d h(g_i) \int_{g_i U} \pi(x)(v) dx = \mathrm{Vol}(U) \sum_{i=1}^d h(g_i) \pi(g_i)(v).$$

To summarise, an automorphic representation can be seen as a representation of the Hecke algebra $\mathcal{H}_\infty \otimes \mathcal{H}^\infty$. In particular, this gives rise to an \mathcal{H}^∞ -module π_f (which is also a $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{A}_f)$ -module). This module π_f decomposes as $\pi_f \cong \bigotimes_{p < \infty}' \pi_p$ and the action of $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ on π_p induces a natural action of $C_c^\infty(\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_p))$ on the space of π_p . Finally, one can show that the action of \mathcal{H}^∞ on π_f is then compatible with the decompositions of \mathcal{H}^∞ and π_f as restricted tensor products.

The above considerations reduces our study of an automorphic representation to the study of the $(\mathrm{Lie}(\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{R})), K_\infty)$ -module π_∞ and the $C_c^\infty(\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_p))$ -modules π_p . In these notes, we will focus on the local components at the finite primes. To do so, it is convenient to introduce the so-called **spherical Hecke algebras**.

Definition 5. *The spherical Hecke algebra of GL_n at $p < \infty$, denoted \mathcal{H}_p or $C_c^\infty(\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_p) // \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Z}_p))$, is defined as the subalgebra of left and right $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ invariant functions of $C_c^\infty(\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_p))$. More precisely,*

$$\mathcal{H}_p = \{h \in C_c^\infty(\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_p)) | h(kgk') = h(g) \text{ for all } k, k' \in \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Z}_p) \text{ and } g \in \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_p)\}$$

This algebra has the big advantage of being unitary and commutative. When π_p is unramified (this is true for almost all primes $p < \infty$), it turns out that $V^{\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Z}_p)}$ is one dimensional, where V is the space of π_p . By restricting the action of $C_c^\infty(\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_p))$ to \mathcal{H}_p , we obtain a character

$$C_c^\infty(\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_p) // \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Z}_p)) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C},$$

called the **Hecke character** of the local representation.

In our case, i.e. for GL_n , the spherical Hecke algebra has a canonical set of n generators. For $1 \leq r \leq n$, define

$$\mathbb{I}_r = \mathbb{I}_{\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Z}_p) D(r, n-r) \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Z}_p)},$$

where $D(k, \ell)$ is the diagonal matrix with k p on the diagonal followed by ℓ 1. For $n = 2$, the two generators are

$$\mathbb{I}_{\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Z}_p)} \begin{pmatrix} p & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}_{\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Z}_p)} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{I}_{\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Z}_p)} \begin{pmatrix} p & 0 \\ 0 & p \end{pmatrix}_{\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Z}_p)}.$$

By viewing classical modular forms as automorphic forms for GL_2 it can be shown (I didn't verify it personally) that these operators coincide with the classical Hecke operators T_p and $\langle p \rangle$.

²Equivalently, π_p is smooth if for any $0 \neq v \in V$ the set $\{g \in \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_p) | \pi_p(g)(v) = v\}$ is open.

Evaluating the Hecke character of an unramified π_p at those n generators, one obtains n complex numbers, which then determine a conjugacy class in $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$. These n complex numbers are called the Satake parameters of π_p . It follows from the Satake isomorphism that there is a bijection between the semisimple conjugacy classes in $GL_n(\mathbb{C})$ and the isomorphism classes of irreducible unramified representations of $GL_n(\mathbb{Q}_p)$.

3 Hecke operators and cohomology

Our next goal is to define an action of the non-archimedean Hecke algebra on a cohomology group attached to the spaces X_K . Recall that

$$X_K = GL_n(\mathbb{Q}) \backslash (D \times GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f)/K),$$

where K is a compact open subgroup of $GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f)$.

Given any $g \in GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f)$ and K' a compact open subgroup of $GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f)$ such that $K' \subseteq gKg^{-1}$, one has a well-defined map

$$T_g : X_{K'} \longrightarrow X_K$$

which sends the class $GL_n(\mathbb{Q})(x, hK')$ to the class $GL_n(\mathbb{Q})(x, hgK)$. For $K' = gKg^{-1}$, this map is bijective. This gives a correspondence $T(g)$

$$X_K \longleftarrow X_{K \cap gKg^{-1}} \longrightarrow X_{gKg^{-1}} \simeq X_K,$$

called a Hecke correspondence, which then induces an endomorphism $T(g)$ of the compactly supported Betti cohomology group with coefficients in \mathbb{C} , denoted $H_c^*(X_K, \mathbb{C})$.

Using those endomorphisms, one can define an action of the non-archimedean Hecke algebra $C_c^\infty(GL_n(\mathbb{A}_f))$ on

$$H_c^* := \varinjlim_K H_c^*(X_K, \mathbb{C})$$

by letting the indicator function of UgU act on a class in $H_c^*(X_K, \mathbb{C})$ via the action of $T(g)$ on $H_c^*(X_{K \cap U}, \mathbb{C})$.

At this point, we have two actions of the Hecke algebra \mathcal{H}^∞ : one coming from automorphic representations (i.e. from an action of $\mathcal{H}_\infty \otimes \mathcal{H}^\infty$ on $L^2(GL_n(\mathbb{Q})A \backslash GL_n(\mathbb{A}))$) and one coming from the action of \mathcal{H}^∞ on H_c^* via Hecke correspondences. The link between the two is contained in the following theorem:

Theorem 1. *Any representation of \mathcal{H}^∞ which is isomorphic to an irreducible subquotient of H_c^* comes from a cohomological automorphic representation of $GL_n(\mathbb{A})$.*

This is a reformulation of a theorem of Franke, which can be found in [Mor, Thm 1.4]. About the condition of an automorphic representation $\pi = \pi_\infty \otimes \pi^\infty$ being cohomological, let us just say that it is a condition on the $(\text{Lie}(GL_n(\mathbb{R})), K_\infty)$ -module π_∞ .³ We can finally state the following theorem originally proved by Harris-Lan-Taylor-Thorne and reproved independently by Scholze.

Theorem 2 (HLTT, Scholze). *Let $\pi = \pi_\infty \otimes \bigotimes_{\ell < \infty}' \pi_\ell$ be a cuspidal algebraic⁴ cohomological automorphic representation of $GL_n(\mathbb{A})$ and let p be a prime. Then there exists a continuous semisimple p -adic Galois representation*

$$\rho_\pi : G_{\mathbb{Q}} \rightarrow GL_n(\bar{\mathbb{Q}}_p)$$

such that for all $\ell \neq p$ where π_ℓ is unramified, the conjugacy class of $\rho_\pi(\text{Frob}_\ell)$ corresponds to the conjugacy class of π_ℓ under the Satake isomorphism, where Frob_ℓ is the geometric Frobenius at ℓ .

As we saw in the previous talk, one advantage of passing from classical automorphic forms (like modular forms, for example) to cohomology is that one could hope to find a Galois representation via étale cohomology. Note however that in general, X_K will not be an algebraic variety. Another advantage is that the Hecke algebra and cohomology both make sense over \mathbb{Z} .

³More precisely, it means that there exists a representation W of $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$ such that the $(\text{Lie}(GL_n(\mathbb{R})), K_\infty)$ -cohomology of $\pi_\infty \otimes W$ is non-zero. See [Get, Sec 15.6] for more details.

⁴The condition of an automorphic representation being algebraic is a condition on π_∞ .

Define

$$\mathcal{H}^S(\mathbb{Z}) = \bigotimes_{v \notin S} C_c^\infty(\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_p) // \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Z}_p), \mathbb{Z}),$$

where S is a finite set of primes containing ∞ and $C_c^\infty(\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_p) // \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Z}_p), \mathbb{Z})$ is the spherical Hecke algebra of compactly supported smooth functions with values in \mathbb{Z} (this is a unitary algebra under convolution). Then $\mathcal{H}^S(\mathbb{Z})$ acts naturally on

$$H_c^*(X_K, \mathbb{Z})$$

and we have the following theorem.

Theorem 3. *Let S be a finite set of primes. If $\phi : \mathcal{H}^S(\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p$ is a character that appears in $H_c^*(X_K, \mathbb{F}_p)$, for some compact open subgroup $K = \prod_{v < \infty} K_v$ of $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{A}_f)$, where $K_v = \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Z}_v)$ for all $v \notin S$, then there exists a semisimple Galois representation*

$$\rho : G_{\mathbb{Q}} \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{F}_p)$$

such that for all $\ell \notin S \cup \{p\}$, $\phi|_{\mathcal{H}_\ell(\mathbb{Z})}$ and $\rho(\mathrm{Frob}_\ell)$ correspond under the Satake isomorphism.

4 Notes on the literature

A good reference for the ideas that go in the proof of the two main theorems of the last section is [Mor]. The presentations of Scholze in 2014 at the IAS are also interesting: [Sc1], [Sc2], [Sc3]. Finally, the article of Sengun on the arithmetic of Bianchi manifolds [Sen] is very interesting. In particular, it gives concrete applications of the tools presented in these notes (e.g. the action of the Hecke operators on cohomology).

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