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Compatible systems of symplectic Galois representations and the inverse Galois problem III. Automorphic construction of compatible systems with suitable local properties.

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Abstract

This article is the third and last part of a series of three articles about compatible systems of symplectic Galois representations and applications to the inverse Galois problem.

This part proves the following new result for the inverse Galois problem for symplectic groups. For any even positive integer n and any positive integer d, $\mathrm{PSp}_n(\mathbb{F}_{\ell^d})$ or $\mathrm{PGSp}_n(\mathbb{F}_{\ell^d})$ occurs as a Galois group over the rational numbers for a positive density set of primes ℓ. The result depends on some work of Arthur's, which is conditional, but expected to become unconditional soon.

The result is obtained by showing the existence of a regular, algebraic, self-dual, cuspidal automorphic representation of $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$ with local types chosen so as to obtain a compatible system of Galois representations to which the results from Part II of this series apply.

MSC (2010): 11F80 (Galois representations); 12F12 (Inverse Galois theory).

1 Introduction

This article is the last part of a series of three on compatible systems of symplectic Galois representations and applications to the inverse Galois problem (cf. [AdDW13a], [AdDW13b]). Our main theorem is the following new result for the inverse Galois problem over $\mathbb{Q}$ for symplectic groups.

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Theorem 1.1. *For any even positive integer n and for any positive integer d there exists a set of rational primes of positive density such that, for every prime ℓ in this set, the group $\mathrm{PGSp}_n(\mathbb{F}_{\ell^d})$ or $\mathrm{PSp}_n(\mathbb{F}_{\ell^d})$ is realised as a Galois group over $\mathbb{Q}$. The corresponding number field ramifies at most at ℓ and two more primes, which are independent of ℓ.*

The result depends on Arthur's work on the endoscopic classification for odd orthogonal groups, which is conditional, but expected to become unconditional soon, see Remark 3.3. In Remark 3.5 we sketch an alternative approach for making the result unconditional.

In fact, one of the two auxiliary primes in Theorem 1.1 can be taken to be any prime, the other one can be chosen from a set of primes of positive density defined by an explicit Chebotarev condition. The set of primes ℓ depends on the two previous choices and the choice of an automorphic form, and is also given by a Chebotarev condition (in the projective field of definition (see [AdDW13a], Section 6) of the compatible system of Galois representations attached to the automorphic form (see below)) except for a density zero set.

Theorem 1.1 is complementary to the main result of Khare, Larsen and Savin [KLS08], in the sense that it is in the horizontal direction in the terminology of [DW11], whereas loc. cit. is in the vertical one, that is, ℓ is fixed and d runs. The horizontal direction needs quite a different approach from the vertical one. Nevertheless, some ideas of [KLS08], for instance that of (n, p)-groups, are crucially used also in our approach. The overall strategy is described in the introduction to Part I.

The goal in this Part III is to construct compatible systems of Galois representations satisfying the conditions in the main result on the inverse Galois problem of [AdDW13b] (Corollary 1.6). In order to do so, we prove the existence of a regular, algebraic, self-dual, cuspidal automorphic representation of $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})$ with the required local types by adapting the results from [Shi12]. This automorphic representation is such that the compatible system of Galois representations attached to it is symplectic, generically irreducible, has a maximally induced place q of a certain prime order p, and locally at a prime t contains a transvection. In order to show that the transvection is preserved in the image of the residual representation, at least for a density one set of primes, we will apply a level-lowering result from [BLGGT14] over suitable quadratic imaginary fields.

The structure of this paper is the following. In Section 2 we recall general facts about regular self-dual automorphic representations and their corresponding compatible systems of Galois representations (everything in this section can be found in [BLGGT14]). In Section 3 we show the existence of the sought for automorphic representation. In Section 4 we specify the conditions on the ramified primes that we will need and explain the properties of the compatible system attached to the automorphic representation from Section 3. In Section 5 we perform the level-lowering argument. Finally, in Section 6 we derive the main conclusions that follow from the combination of the results in our three papers.

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2 RAESDC automorphic representations and the Galois representations attached to them

The reader is referred to [BLGGT14] for more details concerning anything in this section except the $v = l$ case of (5) below, for which we refer to [Car12]. For a field k we adopt the notation G_k to denote the absolute Galois group of k.

Let $\mathbb{Z}^{n,+}$ be the set of n-tuples $a = (a_i) \in \mathbb{Z}^n$ such that $a_1 \geq a_2 \geq .... \geq a_n$. Let $a \in \mathbb{Z}^{n,+}$, and let Ξ_a be the irreducible algebraic representation of GL_n with highest weight a. A *RAESDC (regular, algebraic, essentially self-dual, cuspidal) automorphic representation of* $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{A}_\mathbb{Q})$ is a pair (π, μ) consisting of a cuspidal automorphic representation π of $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{A}_\mathbb{Q})$ and a continuous character $\mu : \mathbb{A}_\mathbb{Q}^\times/\mathbb{Q}^\times \to \mathbb{C}^\times$ such that:

(1) (regular algebraic) π_∞ has the same infinitesimal character as $\Xi_a^\vee$ for $a \in \mathbb{Z}^{n,+}$. We say that π has weight a.

(2) (essentially self-dual) $\pi \cong \pi^\vee \otimes (\mu \circ \det)$.

Such a pair (π, μ) is an instance of a polarised representation in the sense of [BLGGT14, 2.1]. In this situation, there exists an integer w such that, for every $1 \leq i \leq n$, $a_i + a_{n+1-i} = w$. Let S be the (finite) set of primes p such that π_p is ramified. There exist a number field $M \subset \mathbb{C}$, which is finite over the field of rationality of π in the sense of [Clo90], and a strictly compatible system of semisimple Galois representations (see [BLGGT14, 5.1] for this notion; in particular the characteristic polynomial of a Frobenius element at almost every finite place has coefficients in M)

$$\rho_\lambda(\pi) : G_\mathbb{Q} \to \mathrm{GL}_n(\overline{M}_\lambda),$$
$$\rho_\lambda(\mu) : G_\mathbb{Q} \to \overline{M}_\lambda^\times,$$

where λ ranges over all finite places of M (together with fixed embeddings $M \hookrightarrow M_\lambda \hookrightarrow \overline{M}_\lambda$, where $\overline{M}_\lambda$ is an algebraic closure of M_λ) such that the following properties are satisfied.

(1) $\rho_\lambda(\pi) \cong \rho_\lambda(\pi)^\vee \otimes \chi_{\mathrm{cyc}}^{1-n}\rho_\lambda(\mu)$, where χ_{cyc} denotes the ℓ-adic cyclotomic character.

(2) The representations $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ and $\rho_\lambda(\mu)$ are unramified outside $S \cup \{\ell\}$, where ℓ denotes the rational prime below λ.

(3) Locally at ℓ (i.e., when restricted to a decomposition group at ℓ), the representations $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ and $\rho_\lambda(\mu)$ are de Rham, and if $\ell \notin S$, they are crystalline.

(4) The set $\mathrm{HT}(\rho_\lambda(\pi))$ of Hodge-Tate weights of $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ is equal to:

$$\{a_1 + (n-1), a_2 + (n-2), \ldots, a_n\}.$$

(The Hodge-Tate weight of χ_{cyc} is -1.) In particular, they are n different numbers and they are independent of λ and ℓ. Therefore, the representations are regular.

(5) The system is strictly compatible, as implied by the following compatibility with local Langlands: Fix any isomorphism $\iota : \overline{M}_\lambda \simeq \mathbb{C}$ compatible with the inclusion $M \subset \mathbb{C}$ w.r.t. the already fixed embedding $M \hookrightarrow M_\lambda \hookrightarrow \overline{M}_\lambda$. Whether $v \nmid \ell$ or $v|\ell$, we have:

$$\iota\mathrm{WD}(\rho_\lambda(\pi)|_{G_{\mathbb{Q}_v}})^{\mathrm{F-ss}} \cong \mathrm{rec}(\pi_v \otimes |\det|_v^{(1-n)/2}). \tag{2.1}$$

Here WD denotes the Weil-Deligne representation attached to a representation of $G_{\mathbb{Q}_v}$, $\mathrm{F-ss}$ means the Frobenius semisimplification, and rec is the notation for the (unitarily normalised) local Langlands correspondence, which attaches to an irreducible admissible representation of $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_v)$ a WD representation of the Weil group $\mathrm{W}_{\mathbb{Q}_v}$.

Remark 2.1. *We did not include ι in the notation since the isomorphism class of $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ is independent of the choice of ι. This is easy to deduce from the fact that the Frobenius traces at all but finitely many places are in M via the Chebotarev density theorem.*

Remark 2.2. *For every prime p of good reduction for π, and for each $\lambda \nmid p$ prime of M, the trace of the image under $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ of the Frobenius at p belongs to the field of rationality of π (hence to M) since the map rec twisted by $|\det|^{(1-n)/2}$ commutes with all field automorphisms of $\mathbb{C}$. Therefore, if the residual representation $\overline{\rho}_\lambda(\pi)$ is absolutely irreducible, it follows from Théorème 2 of [Car94] that the representation $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ can be defined over M_λ.*

Remark 2.3. *Observe that the above property (5) implies that as long as v and ℓ are different, the behaviour locally at v of the representations $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ is independent of ℓ, and it can be determined (up to Frobenius semisimplification) from the admissible representation π_v, via local Langlands.*

Fix a symmetric form on $\overline{M}_\lambda^n$, and a symplectic form if n is even. Thus we have the subgroup $\mathrm{GO}_n(\overline{M}_\lambda)$, and also $\mathrm{GSp}_n(\overline{M}_\lambda)$ if n is even, of $\mathrm{GL}_n(\overline{M}_\lambda)$. It is important for us to know a criterion for the image of $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ to be contained in $\mathrm{GSp}_n(\overline{M}_\lambda)$ (for any fixed choice of symplectic form on $\overline{M}_\lambda^n$) up to conjugation. This is deduced from a result of Bellaïche and Chenevier. Noting that μ must be an algebraic Hecke character, let $r \in \mathbb{Z}$ denote the unique integer such that $\mu|\cdot|^{-r}$ is a finite character. The integer ring in $\overline{M}_\lambda$ will be denoted $\mathcal{O}_{\overline{M}_\lambda}$.

Lemma 2.4. *Suppose that $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ is residually irreducible. If n is even and $\mu_\infty(-1) = (-1)^r$ (resp. if n is odd or $\mu_\infty(-1) \neq (-1)^r$) then the image of $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ is contained in $\mathrm{GSp}_n(\mathcal{O}_{\overline{M}_\lambda})$ (resp. $\mathrm{GO}_n(\mathcal{O}_{\overline{M}_\lambda})$) possibly after a conjugation by an element of $\mathrm{GL}_n(\overline{M}_\lambda)$.*

Remark 2.5. *When n is even, it may happen that the image of $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ is contained in $\mathrm{GSp}_n(\mathcal{O}_{\overline{M}_\lambda})$ as well as $\mathrm{GO}_n(\mathcal{O}_{\overline{M}_\lambda})$ after conjugation, cf. footnote 1 of [BC11] for an example when $n = 2$. The point is that while $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ is completely characterised by π alone, there are generally several choices of μ for the same π with different values of $\mu_\infty(-1)$.*

Proof. By an argument as in Section 2 of [AdDW13a] (where the residual irreducibility is used), the proof is reduced to showing that the image is contained in either $\mathrm{GSp}_n(\overline{M}_\lambda)$ or $\mathrm{GO}_n(\overline{M}_\lambda)$.

We start with an easy observation. Let $\rho : \Gamma \to \mathrm{GL}(V)$ be an irreducible representation on an n-dimensional vector space V over $\overline{M}_\lambda$. Fix a basis $\{e_i\}$ for V and write $\{e_i^\vee\}$ for the dual basis. Suppose that $(\rho^\vee, V^\vee) \simeq (\rho \otimes \chi, V)$ for a character χ of Γ. Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix representing one such isomorphism. Then $A^t = \delta A$ for $\delta \in \{\pm 1\}$, which is called the sign of (ρ, χ). (See the introduction of [BC11].) Then elementary linear algebra shows that if $\delta = 1$ (resp. $\delta = -1$) then there exists a nondegenerate symmetric (resp. alternating) form $V \otimes V \to \overline{M}_\lambda$ such that $B(\gamma v, \gamma w) = \chi(\gamma) B(v, w)$ for $\gamma \in \Gamma$ and $v, w \in V$.

So the lemma amounts to the assertion that $(\rho, \chi) = (\rho_\lambda(\pi), \rho_\lambda(\mu))$ has sign 1 (resp. -1) if n is even and $\mu_\infty(-1) = (-1)^r$ (resp. otherwise). This is exactly [BC11, Cor 1.3]. □

3 Existence of self-dual automorphic representations with prescribed local conditions

The goal of this section is to prove the existence of a regular algebraic self-dual cuspidal automorphic representation of $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{A}_\mathbb{Q})$ with some particular local properties when n is even, for the application to the inverse Galois problem in Section 6. As we utilise Arthur's classification for representations of classical groups, our result depends on a few hypotheses which his work depends on. (See Remark 3.3 below.) The reader may skip to the next section after getting familiar with the notation of §3.4 if he or she is willing to accept Theorem 3.4 below.

We adopt the convention that all irreducible representations of p-adic or real groups are assumed admissible. Whenever it is clear from the context, we often write a representation or an L-parameter to mean an appropriate isomorphism or equivalence class thereof in favour of simplicity. We did not specialize to $F = \mathbb{Q}$ when recalling facts in §3.2 and §3.3 below since the exposition hardly simplifies by doing so. The attentive reader will notice that Theorem 3.4 easily extends to the case over any totally real field.

3.1 Plancherel measures

This subsection is a reminder of some facts about Plancherel measures on p-adic groups. Let G be a connected reductive group over a non-archimedean or archimedean local field K. Write $G(K)^\wedge$ for

the unitary dual of $G(K)$, namely the set of all irreducible unitary representations of $G(K)$ equipped with the Fell topology. Let $X^{\mathrm{ur}}_{\mathrm{unit}}(G(K))$ denote the set of all unitary unramified characters of $G(K)$ in the usual sense. (This is $\mathrm{Im}X(G)$ on page 239 of [Wal03].) Harish-Chandra proved (cf. [Wal03]) that there is a natural Borel measure $\hat{\mu}^{\mathrm{pl}}$ on $G(K)^\wedge$, called the Plancherel measure, satisfying

$$\phi(1) = \int_{G(K)^\wedge} \hat{\phi}(\tau)\hat{\mu}^{\mathrm{pl}}, \quad \phi \in C_c^\infty(G(K)),$$

where $\hat{\phi}$ is the function defined by $\hat{\phi}(\tau) := \mathrm{tr}\tau(\phi)$. Let $\Theta(G(K))$ denote the Bernstein variety, which is a (typically infinite) disjoint union of affine algebraic varieties over $\mathbb{C}$. Viewing $\Theta(G(K))$ also as the set of $\mathbb{C}$-points with complex topology, the association of supercuspidal support defines a continuous map $\nu : G(K)^\wedge \to \Theta(G(K))$ ([Tad88, Thm 2.2]). In prescribing local conditions for automorphic representations we will often consider the following kind of subsets. The terminology is non-standard and only introduced to save words.

Definition 3.1. *A subset $\hat{U}$ of the unitary dual $G(K)^\wedge$ is said to be* prescribable *if*

- *$\hat{U}$ is a Borel set which is $\hat{\mu}^{\mathrm{pl}}$-measurable with finite positive volume,*
- *$\nu(\hat{U})$ is contained in a compact subset of $\Theta(G(K))$, and*
- *for each Levi subgroup L of G and each discrete series σ of $L(K)$, consider the function on $X^{\mathrm{ur}}_{\mathrm{unit}}(L(K))$ whose value at χ is the number of irreducible subquotients lying in $\hat{U}$ (counted with multiplicity) of the normalized induction of $\sigma \otimes \chi$ to G. Then the set of points of discontinuity has measure 0.*

To show the flavour of this somewhat technical definition, we mention three examples for such subsets. The first example is the subset of unramified (resp. spherical) representations in $G(K)^\wedge$ if K is non-archimedean (resp. archimedean). The second example is the set of all $\tau \in G(K)^\wedge$ in a fixed Bernstein component, i.e. those τ with the same supercuspidal support up to inertia equivalence. Finally the set $\{\tau \otimes \chi : \chi \in X^{\mathrm{ur}}_{\mathrm{unit}}(G(K))\}$ for a unitary discrete series τ of $G(K)$ also satisfies the requirements. (By a discrete series we mean an irreducible representation whose matrix coefficients are square-integrable modulo center.) If G is anisotropic over K (which is true if G is semisimple) then $X^{\mathrm{ur}}_{\mathrm{unit}}(G(K))$ is trivial so the last example is a singleton.

3.2 Existence of automorphic representations

In this subsection we recall one of the few existence theorems in [Shi12], which are based on the principle that the local components of automorphic representations at a fixed prime are equidistributed in the unitary dual according to the Plancherel measure. The reader is invited to see its introduction for more references in this direction. There is a different approach to the existence of cuspidal automorphic representations via Poincaré series (without proving equidistribution), cf. [KLS08, §4], [Mui10].

Let G be a connected reductive group over a totally real number field F such that

- G has trivial center and
- $G(F_w)$ contains an $\mathbb{R}$-elliptic maximal torus for every real place w of F.

The first condition was assumed in [Shi12] and it is kept here as it is harmless for our purpose below. However it should be possible to dispense with the condition by fixing central character in the trace formula argument there. Now let S be a finite set of finite places of F. Let $\hat{\mu}_v^{\mathrm{pl}}$ denote the Plancherel measure on $G(F_v)^\wedge$ for $v \in S$. Let $\hat{U}_v \subset G(F_v)^\wedge$ be a prescribable subset for each $v \in S$.

Proposition 3.2. *There exists a cuspidal automorphic representation τ of $G(\mathbb{A}_F)$ such that*

1. *$\tau_v \in \hat{U}_v$ for all $v \in S$,*
2. *τ is unramified at all finite places away from S,*
3. *τ_w is a discrete series whose infinitesimal character is sufficiently regular for every infinite place w.*

The regularity condition above should be explained. Fix a maximal torus T and a Borel subgroup B containing T in G over $\mathbb{C}$ (the base change of G to $\mathbb{C}$ via $w : F \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}$). Let Ω denote the Weyl group of T in G. The infinitesimal character χ_w of τ_w above, which may be viewed as an element of $X^*(T) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}$, is *sufficiently regular* if there is an $\sigma \in \Omega$ such that $\langle \sigma\chi_w, \alpha^\vee \rangle \gg 0$ for every B-positive coroot $\alpha^\vee$ of T in G. (Precisely the condition is that $\langle \sigma\chi_w, \alpha^\vee \rangle \geq C$, where C is a large enough constant depending only on G, S and $\{\hat{U}_v\}_{v\in S}$.) This condition is independent of the choice of T and B.

Proof. Our proposition is the analogue of Theorem 5.8 of [Shi12] except that a priori a weaker condition on $\hat{U} := \prod_{v\in S} \hat{U}_v$ is assumed here. Let us explain this point. By the very definition of prescribable subsets, the characteristic function on $\hat{U}$, denoted $\mathbf{1}_{\hat{U}}$, belongs to the class of functions to which Sauvageot's density principle [Sau97, Thm 7.3] applies. (Our last condition in Definition 3.1 corresponds to condition (a)(1) in his theorem.) Hence we can take $\hat{f}_S = \mathbf{1}_{\hat{U}}$ in [Shi12, Thm 4.11] so that we have the analogue of [Shi12, Cor 4.12] for our $\hat{U}$. Therefore the analogue of [Shi12, Thm 5.8] is deduced through the same argument deriving that theorem from [Shi12, Cor 4.12] originally. □

3.3 Arthur's endoscopic classification for SO_{2m+1}

Arthur [Art13] classified local and global automorphic representations of symplectic and special orthogonal groups via twisted endoscopy relative to general linear groups. For our purpose it suffices to recall some facts in the case of odd orthogonal groups.

Let F be a number field. Denote by SO_{2m+1} the split special orthogonal group over F. Note that the dual group of SO_{2m+1} is $\mathrm{Sp}_{2m}(\mathbb{C})$. Write

$$\xi : \mathrm{Sp}_{2m}(\mathbb{C}) \hookrightarrow \mathrm{GL}_{2m}(\mathbb{C})$$

for the standard embedding, and put $\mathcal{L}_{F_v} := \mathrm{W}_{F_v}$ (resp. $\mathcal{L}_{F_v} := \mathrm{W}_{F_v} \times \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$) according as v is an infinite (resp. finite) place. An L-parameter $\phi_v : \mathcal{L}_{F_v} \to \mathrm{GL}_{2m}(\mathbb{C})$ is said to be *of symplectic type* if it preserves a suitable symplectic form on the $2m$-dimensional space, or equivalently, if ϕ_v factors through ξ (after conjugating by an element of $\mathrm{GL}_{2m}(\mathbb{C})$). For a place v of F, let rec_v denote the (unitarily normalised) local Langlands bijection from the set of irreducible representations of $\mathrm{GL}_r(F_v)$ to the set of L-parameters $\mathcal{L}_{F_v} \to \mathrm{GL}_r(\mathbb{C})$ for any $r \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$. When v is finite, there is a standard dictionary for going between local L-parameters for GL_r and r-dimensional Frobenius-semisimple Weil-Deligne representations of W_{F_v} in a bijective manner.

For each local L-parameter $\phi_v : \mathcal{L}_{F_v} \to \mathrm{Sp}_{2m}(\mathbb{C})$ (or a local L-parameter for GL_{2m} of symplectic type), Arthur associates an L-packet Π_{ϕ_v} consisting of finitely many irreducible representations of $\mathrm{SO}_{2m+1}(F_v)$. Moreover each irreducible representation belongs to the L-packet for a unique parameter (up to equivalence). If ϕ_v has finite centraliser group in $\mathrm{Sp}_{2m}(\mathbb{C})$ so that it is a discrete parameter, then Π_{ϕ_v} consists only of discrete series. A similar construction was known earlier by Langlands (deriving from Harish-Chandra's results on real reductive groups) when v is an infinite place of F.

Now let τ be a discrete automorphic representation of $\mathrm{SO}_{2m+1}(\mathbb{A}_F)$. Arthur shows the existence of a self-dual isobaric automorphic representation π of $\mathrm{GL}_{2m}(\mathbb{A}_F)$ which is a functorial lift of τ along the embedding $\mathrm{Sp}_{2m}(\mathbb{C}) \hookrightarrow \mathrm{GL}_{2m}(\mathbb{C})$. In the generic case (in Arthur's sense, i.e. when the SL_2-factor in the global A-parameter for τ has trivial image), this means that for the unique ϕ_v such that $\tau_v \in \Pi_{\phi_v}$, we have

$$\mathrm{rec}_v(\pi_v) \simeq \xi\phi_v, \quad \forall v.$$

Remark 3.3. *Arthur's result [Art13] is conditional mainly because the stabilisation of the twisted trace formula is yet to be established. Good news is that Moeglin and Waldspurger have been actively making progress on this issue (five preprints are already available when our paper is written) so we expect his result to become unconditional soon. (There are a few technical results to be completed, cf. [ST, Footnote 10] for a discussion, but these are all relatively minor and to be addressed by ongoing projects by others.) For this reason the authors think that one need not strive hard to avoid using them. However see Remark 3.5 below for a possible alternative.*

3.4 Application: Existence of self-dual representations

We seek self-dual representations with specific local conditions. To describe them we need to set things up. It is enough to restrict the material of previous subsections to the case $F = \mathbb{Q}$. Let n be a positive *even* integer. Let p, q, t be distinct rational primes and assume that the order of q mod p is n. Denote by $\mathbb{Q}_{q^n}$ an unramified extension of $\mathbb{Q}_q$ of degree n. Choose a tamely ramified character $\chi_q : \mathbb{Q}_{q^n}^\times \to \mathbb{C}^\times$ of order $2p$ such that $\chi_q(q) = -1$ and $\chi_q|_{\mathbb{Z}_{q^n}^\times}$ is of order p (cf. Section 3.1 of [KLS08] and the definition of maximal induced places of order p made in Part I (Section 6 of [AdDW13a]). By local class field theory we also regard χ_q as a character of $G_{\mathbb{Q}_q}$ (or $\mathrm{W}_{\mathbb{Q}_q}$). Put

$$\rho_q := \mathrm{Ind}_{G_{\mathbb{Q}_{q^n}}}^{G_{\mathbb{Q}_q}}(\chi_q).$$

We write $\mathrm{WD}(\rho_q)$ for the associated Weil-Deligne representation, giving rise to a local L-parameter ϕ_q for $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{Q}_q)$. Since ρ_q is irreducible and symplectic ([KLS08, Prop 3.1]), the parameter ϕ_q factors through $\widehat{\mathrm{SO}_{n+1}(\mathbb{C})} = \mathrm{Sp}_n(\mathbb{C}) \subset \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{C})$ (after conjugation if necessary) and defines a discrete L-parameter of $\mathrm{SO}_{n+1}(\mathbb{Q}_q)$. So the L-packet Π_{ϕ_q} consists of finitely many discrete series of $\mathrm{SO}_{n+1}(\mathbb{Q}_q)$. (In fact [KLS08, §5.3] exploits the fact due to Jiang and Soudry, cf. [JS03, Thm 6.4] and [JS04, Thm 2.1], that Π_{ϕ_q} contains a generic supercuspidal representation. In our method it suffices to have the weaker fact that π_{ϕ_q} contains a discrete series.)

It is a little more complicated to explain the objects at t. Let St_2 denote the Steinberg representation of $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Q}_t)$ which appears as a subquotient of the unnormalized parabolic induction of the trivial character. Since St_2 has trivial central character, it corresponds to an L-parameter valued in $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C})$. Let M be a Levi subgroup of SO_{n+1} isomorphic to $\mathrm{SO}_3 \times (\mathrm{GL}_1)^{\frac{n}{2}-1}$ so that $\hat{M} \simeq \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C}) \times \mathrm{GL}_1(\mathbb{C})^{\frac{n}{2}-1}$. Consider a local L-parameter $\phi_t^M : \mathrm{W}_{\mathbb{Q}_t} \times \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{C}) \to \hat{M}$ having the form

$$\phi_t^M = \left(\mathrm{rec}_t(\mathrm{St}_2), \phi_1, \cdots, \phi_{\frac{n}{2}-1}\right), \quad \phi_i \in X^{\mathrm{ur}}_{\mathrm{unit}}(\mathrm{W}_{\mathbb{Q}_t}),$$

where $X^{\mathrm{ur}}_{\mathrm{unit}}(\mathrm{W}_{\mathbb{Q}_t})$ denotes the set of unitary unramified characters of $\mathrm{W}_{\mathbb{Q}_t}$. Then ϕ_t^M is a discrete parameter for M. Writing $\eta^M : \hat{M} \hookrightarrow \mathrm{Sp}_n(\mathbb{C})$ for a Levi embedding (canonical up to conjugacy), we see that $\xi\eta^M\phi_t^M$ is the L-parameter for GL_n corresponding to the n-dimensional Weil-Deligne representation

$$\mathrm{rec}_t(\mathrm{St}_2) \oplus \left(\bigoplus_{i=1}^{\frac{n}{2}-1} \phi_i \oplus \phi_i^{-1}\right).$$

Arthur associates a local L-packet $\Pi_{\phi_t^M}$ of irreducible $M(\mathbb{Q}_t)$-representations to ϕ_t^M. Define $\hat{U}_t$ to be the set of all irreducible subquotients of the parabolic induction of $\tau_t^M \otimes \chi$ from $M(\mathbb{Q}_t)$ to $\mathrm{SO}_{n+1}(\mathbb{Q}_t)$ as τ_t^M runs over $\Pi_{\phi_t^M}$ and χ runs over $X^{\mathrm{ur}}_{\mathrm{unit}}(M(\mathbb{Q}_t))$. Since the effect of the parabolic induction on L-parameters is simply composition with η^M (this is implicit in the proof of the proposition 2.4.3 in [Art13]), the L-parameter for any $\tau_t \in \hat{U}_t$ has the following form (after composing with ξ):

$$\lambda_0\mathrm{rec}_t(\mathrm{St}_2) \oplus \left(\bigoplus_{i=1}^{\frac{n}{2}-1} \lambda_i\phi_i \oplus \lambda_i^{-1}\phi_i^{-1}\right), \quad \lambda_i \in X^{\mathrm{ur}}_{\mathrm{unit}}(\mathrm{W}_{\mathbb{Q}_t}),\ 0 \le i \le \frac{n}{2} - 1. \tag{3.2}$$

Notice that $\hat{U}_t$ is a prescribable subset. Among the conditions of Definition 3.1 we only check the last one as the others are reasonably easy. By the way $\hat{U}_t$ is constructed, the function on $X^{\mathrm{ur}}_{\mathrm{unit}}(L(F))$ in that condition is either identically zero unless $L = M$ (up to conjugacy) and σ is in the $X^{\mathrm{ur}}_{\mathrm{unit}}(L(F))$-orbit of τ_t^M for some $\tau_t^M \in \Pi_{\phi_t^M}$. So we may assume that $L = M$ and that $\sigma = \tau_t^M$. Then a version of the generic irreducibility of parabolic induction (see [Sau97, Thm 3.2] attributed to Waldspurger, cf. the fourth entry in Appendix A of [Shi12] for a minor correction) implies that the function is the constant function 1 away from a closed measure zero set. This verifies the condition as desired.

Theorem 3.4. *There exists a cuspidal automorphic representation π of $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{A}_\mathbb{Q})$ such that*

(i) π is unramified away from q and t,

(ii) $\mathrm{rec}_q(\pi_q) \simeq \mathrm{WD}(\rho_q)$,

(iii) $\mathrm{rec}_t(\pi_t)$ *has the form* (3.2),

(iv) π_∞ *is of symplectic type and regular algebraic,*

(v) $\pi \simeq \pi^\vee$*, and*

(vi) the central character of π *is trivial.*

As we rely on Arthur's work [Art13], our theorem is conditional as explained in Remark 3.3.

Proof. Apply Proposition 3.2 with $S = \{q, t\}$, $\hat{U}_q = \Pi_{\phi_q}$ and $\hat{U}_t$ as above. We have seen that $\hat{U}_q$ and $\hat{U}_t$ are prescribable. Hence there exists a cuspidal automorphic representation τ of $\mathrm{SO}_{2n+1}(\mathbb{A}_\mathbb{Q})$ such that

1. τ_v is unramified at every finite place $v \notin \{q, t\}$,
2. $\tau_q \in \Pi_{\phi_q}$,
3. $\tau_t \in \hat{U}_t$,
4. τ_∞ is a discrete series whose infinitesimal character is sufficiently regular.

Then the functorial lift π of τ as in §3.3 has the desired properties (i)–(v) of the theorem by construction. (To verify the regular algebraicity of π, it is enough to note that the $2n$-many exponents for $z/\bar{z}$ in the parameter for π_∞, coming from that of τ_∞, at infinite places are in $\frac{1}{2}\mathbb{Z}\backslash\mathbb{Z}$ and mutually distinct, cf. the bottom line of [KLS08, p.557].) To see the cuspidality of π, it suffices to note that the parameter for π is generic in Arthur's sense thanks to condition 4 above,[1] hence π_q is supercuspidal since $\mathrm{rec}_q(\pi_q) \simeq \mathrm{WD}(\rho_q)$, which is irreducible. Finally (vi) is derived from the fact that the central character is trivial at (almost) all finite places. Indeed the central character corresponds to the determinant of the L-parameter for π at each place via local class field theory, but the determinant is trivial since the parameter factors through $\mathrm{SO}_{n+1}(\mathbb{C})$. □

The existence of τ can be shown by using Theorem 5.13 of [Shi12], which is obtained via the simple trace formula for G, instead of using Proposition 3.2, at the expense of losing control of ramification at two auxiliary primes (but with the ability to choose τ_∞ to be any discrete series).

Remark 3.5. *We sketch the idea for a different approach, which would make the results of this section (thus also the main theorem of this paper) unconditional if the details are worked out. (However we have not pursued this path for the reason mentioned in Remark 3.3.) The idea is to imitate the arguments for [CC09, Thm 3.2] to prove the existence of* π *without going through representations of*

[1] Here we are excluding the possibility that the global parameter for τ is non-generic at the same time as τ_q belongs to a non-generic A-packet, in which case the parameter for π_q would be the transfer of the non-generic parameter for τ_q (so not supercuspidal). We thank Gordan Savin for asking to clarify.

G (thus avoiding the use of twisted endoscopy) via the simple twisted trace formula for GL_n as long as one is willing to allow ramification at one auxiliary prime in (i). (This is harmless for our purpose.) To this end one describes test functions at q, t and infinite place using the twisted Paley-Wiener theorem due to Rogawski and Mezo and show that the geometric side the trace formula is nonzero.

4 Compatible systems attached to the RAESDC representations from the previous section

Let n be an even integer and let t be an arbitrary prime. Choose a prime p different from t such that $p \equiv 1 \mod n$. Chebotarev's density theorem allows us to choose a prime q different from t (out of a positive density set) such that $q^{n/2} \equiv -1 \mod p$.

From now on, we will restrict to triples of primes satisfying these conditions, and we will keep the notation p, q, t for these primes, chosen in the order specified above. This notation is also compatible with the one in the previous section.

Consider an automorphic representation π as in Theorem 3.4 and the trivial character $\mathbf{1}$ of $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}}^{\times}/\mathbb{Q}^{\times}$. Then $(\pi, \mathbf{1})$ is a RAESDC representation by construction, to which the facts of Section 2 apply. So there are a number field $M \subset \mathbb{C}$ and a compatible system of Galois representations $\rho_\lambda(\pi) : G_{\mathbb{Q}} \to \mathrm{GL}_n(\overline{M}_\lambda)$ as λ ranges over all places of M with the following properties for every λ (below, ℓ denotes the rational prime dividing λ).

(1) $\rho_\lambda(\pi) \cong \rho_\lambda(\pi)^\vee \otimes \chi_{\mathrm{cyc}}^{1-n}$ and $\det \rho_\lambda(\pi) = \chi_{\mathrm{cyc}}^{n(1-n)/2}$,

(2) $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ and its residual representation are absolutely irreducible if $\lambda \nmid p, q$,

(3) $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ is unramified away from $R = \{q, t\}$ and the residue characteristic of λ,

(4) $\rho_\lambda(\pi)|_{G_{\mathbb{Q}_\ell}}$ is de Rham and has Hodge-Tate weights as described in Section 2; in particular they are independent of λ and distinct,

(5) $\rho_\lambda(\pi)|_{G_{\mathbb{Q}_\ell}}$ is crystalline if $\ell \notin R$,

(6) $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ has image in $\mathrm{GSp}_n(\mathcal{O}_{\overline{M}_\lambda})$ (after a conjugation) by Lemma 2.4 if $\lambda \nmid p, q$,

(7) The multiplier of $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ is $\chi_{\mathrm{cyc}}^{1-n}$,

(8) $\mathrm{WD}(\rho_\lambda(\pi)|_{G_{\mathbb{Q}_q}})^{\mathrm{F-ss}} \simeq \mathrm{WD}(\rho_q) \otimes |\cdot|^{(1-n)/2}$ if $\lambda \nmid q$. In particular, $\rho_\lambda(\pi)|_{G_{\mathbb{Q}_q}} \simeq \rho_q \otimes \alpha_\lambda$, where $\alpha_\lambda : G_{\mathbb{Q}_q} \to \overline{M}_\lambda^{\times}$ is an unramified character (i.e. q is a maximally induced place of order p in the terminology of Part I [AdDW13a]), Section 6, and

(9) $\mathrm{WD}(\rho_\lambda(\pi)|_{G_{\mathbb{Q}_t}})^{\mathrm{F-ss}}$ has the form (3.2) if $\lambda \nmid t$. In particular the image of I_t under $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ is generated by a transvection, because $\mathrm{rec}_t(\mathrm{St}_2)$ is the Weil-Deligne representation having restriction to I_t of the form $(1, N)$ with $N = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$.

All these are easy consequences of the facts recollected in Section 2. Note that for $\lambda \nmid p, q$, the residual representation of $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ is irreducible since its restriction to $G_{\mathbb{Q}_q}$ is irreducible for the reason that ρ_q modulo λ is irreducible ([KLS08, Prop 3.1]). In particular the irreducibility hypothesis of Lemma 2.4 is satisfied. After a conjugation we may and will assume that the image lies in $\mathrm{GSp}_n(\mathcal{O}_{M_\lambda})$. The determinant of $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ is computed easily by relating it to the central character of π, which is trivial (Theorem 3.4 (vi)), keeping in mind that the normalisation of the correspondence involves a twist by $|\cdot|^{(1-n)/2}$, cf. part (5) of Section 2. Finally in order to see the second isomorphism follows from the first in (8), observe that $\mathrm{WD}(\rho_q)$ is already Frobenius semisimple. Since ρ_q is irreducible, this forces $WD(\rho_\lambda(\pi)|_{G_{\mathbb{Q}_q}})$ to be already Frobenius semisimple. Thus $\mathrm{WD}(\rho_\lambda(\pi)|_{G_{\mathbb{Q}_q}}) \simeq \mathrm{WD}(\rho_q) \otimes |\cdot|^{(1-n)/2}$, which implies that $\rho_\lambda(\pi)|_{G_{\mathbb{Q}_q}} \simeq \rho_q \otimes |\cdot|^{(1-n)/2}$ since WD is a fully faithful functor.

5 Level-lowering and transvections

Throughout this section π will denote the (fixed) automorphic representation considered in Section 4, and $(\rho_\lambda(\pi))_\lambda$, for λ running through the primes of a number field $M \subset \mathbb{C}$, the compatible system attached to π. As before we denote by $\overline{\rho}_\lambda(\pi)$ the residual representation of $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$.

The aim of this section is to study the transvection contained in the image of $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ given by its restriction to I_t, for every $\ell \neq t$, $\lambda \mid \ell$. We want to show that when reducing modulo λ this transvection is preserved, or equivalently, that the residual mod λ representation is ramified at t, at least for a density one set of primes ℓ and every $\lambda \mid \ell$. The main tool will be a level-lowering argument based on Theorem 4.4.1 of [BLGGT14].

One of the hypotheses in this theorem is that, when restricted to the Galois group of a suitable cyclotomic extension, the residual representation is irreducible. The following lemma will be used to meet this requirement:

Lemma 5.1. *There exists a set $\mathcal{L}$ of Dirichlet density one of rational primes with the following property:*

> *For any $\ell \in \mathcal{L}$, for any $\lambda \mid \ell$ and any quadratic field extension $F/\mathbb{Q}$ such that q and t are unramified, the representation $\overline{\rho}_\lambda(\pi)|_{G_{F(\zeta_\ell)}}$ is irreducible.*

Proof. By Proposition 5.3.2 of [BLGGT14], there exists a set $\mathcal{L}_0$ of Dirichlet density one of rational primes ℓ such that, for any $\lambda \mid \ell$, if $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ is irreducible, then $\overline{\rho}_\lambda(\pi)|_{G_{\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_\ell)}}$ is irreducible. The set $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_0 \setminus \{q\}$ satisfies that, for all $\ell \in \mathcal{L}$, for all $\lambda \mid \ell$, $\overline{\rho}_\lambda(\pi)|_{G_{\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_\ell)}}$ is irreducible because so is $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ due to the parameter at q. We will now prove that $\mathcal{L}$ has the property stated in the lemma.

Let $2 < \ell \in \mathcal{L}$, $\lambda \mid \ell$ and let $F/\mathbb{Q}$ be a quadratic field extension, unramified at q and t. If the equality $\overline{\rho}_\lambda(\pi)(G_{F(\zeta_\ell)}) = \overline{\rho}_\lambda(\pi)(G_{\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_\ell)})$ holds then we are done. Otherwise, denote by K the number field such that $G_K = \ker \overline{\rho}_\lambda(\pi)$. Since the equality above does not hold, $F(\zeta_\ell) \cap K \not\subseteq \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_\ell)$. But the only primes in $K/\mathbb{Q}$ which can ramify are q, t and ℓ. Hence the field extension $(F \cap K)/\mathbb{Q}$ has degree at most 2, ramifies only at ℓ, and is not contained in $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_\ell)$. This is a contradiction. □

For the remainder of the section, let $\mathcal{L}$ be a set of Dirichlet density one of rational primes satisfying the property in Lemma 5.1.

The following lemma allows us to control the case where a residual representation in our system can lose ramification at t, at least over certain imaginary quadratic fields.

Lemma 5.2. *Let F be an imaginary quadratic field such that t and q, the primes where π ramifies, are split. Then among the primes $\ell \in \mathcal{L}$ that are split in F, there are only finitely many ℓ such that the residual representation $\overline{\rho}_\lambda(\pi)$ is unramified at t for some λ above ℓ. In particular, the residual mod λ representation contains a transvection given by the image of I_t for all but finitely many primes $\ell \in \mathcal{L}$ that are split in F, for every $\lambda \mid \ell$.*

Proof. We restrict our reasoning to primes ℓ that are split in F, different from q, t, and belonging to $\mathcal{L}$. Note that we can apply Lemma 5.1 to the residual mod λ representation.

Observe that, since t is split in F, for every $\ell \neq t$ and every $\lambda \mid \ell$, the restriction $\rho_\lambda(\pi)|_{G_F}$ ramifies at the primes in F above t, and of course, if we assume that the mod λ representation becomes unramified at t then the same happens to its restriction to G_F. Thus, we can work over G_F and this is the setting where the problem of losing ramification can be attacked because the available level-lowering results only work, to this day, over CM fields. By (quadratic) base change due to Arthur and Clozel, the restriction to G_F of our compatible system is also attached to an automorphic representation, namely the base change π_F of π, an automorphic representation of $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{A}_F)$. (Note that π_F is cuspidal since $\rho_\lambda(\pi)|_{G_F}$ is absolutely irreducible and that π_F paired with the trivial character is a polarised representation in the sense of [BLGGT14]. Obviously π_F is also regular algebraic, so we can speak of a compatible system attached to π_F.)

Thus, we take a prime ℓ split in F, $\ell \in \mathcal{L}$, and we assume that $\overline{\rho}_\lambda(\pi)$ (and, a fortiori, its restriction to G_F) is unramified at t (the primes in F dividing t, respectively). To ease notation, let $\overline{\rho}_{F,\lambda} := \overline{\rho}_\lambda(\pi)|_{G_F}$. This residual representation has an automorphic lift $\rho_\lambda(\pi_F)$ given by the λ-adic representation attached to π_F, and since $\rho_\lambda(\pi_F)$ is ramified at the primes above t while $\overline{\rho}_{F,\lambda}$ is not, we can apply a level-lowering result in this situation. Namely, we want to apply Theorem 4.4.1 from [BLGGT14] taking S to be the ramification set of $\bar{\rho}_{F,\lambda}$, i.e., we will take $S = \{\ell, q\}$. In particular, t will not be in S. Let us first discuss the idea informally before going into details. The theorem gives, for a residual representation that is known to be automorphic, the existence of another automorphic lift with prescribed local types, under some conditions that are met in our situation. We insist on the new automorphic lift to have the same local type at ramified primes as the given one except at the places above t where we are assuming the residual representation to be unramified, since we want this new automorphic form to be unramified at the places above t. This is the reason why, in our situation, this theorem can be considered as a level-lowering result.

Going back to Theorem 4.4.1 of [BLGGT14], we need to check the two conditions there. The λ-adic lift $\rho_\lambda(\pi_F)$ is potentially diagonalisable at the primes dividing ℓ whenever ℓ is sufficiently large, because then we are in a Fontaine-Laffaille situation (cf. Lemma 1.4.3 (2) of [BLGGT14] for a precise statement of the criterion for potential diagonalisability). This verifies the first condition. The

second condition is immediately satisfied by Lemma 5.1 and $\ell \in \mathcal{L}$. We choose one place dividing q and one place dividing ℓ in F and if we call S' the set of these two primes, for any $v \in S'$ we fix as n-dimensional λ-adic representation ρ_v of G_{F_v} the restriction to G_{F_v} of $\rho_\lambda(\pi_F)$. Having this fixed, we can apply Theorem 4.4.1 in [BLGGT14] to conclude that there exists another automorphic representation π'_F of $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{A}_F)$ such that:

(1) π'_F is cuspidal, regular algebraic, and polarisable in the sense of [BLGGT14] (more precisely RAECSDC when paired with a suitable Hecke character; this is analogous to the RAESDC representation in Section 2 except that conjugate self–duality replaces self–duality there), in particular equipped with an associated compatible system $(\rho_\mu(\pi'_F))_\mu$, indexed by the primes μ of some number field M',

(2) π'_F is unramified outside S,

(3) there is a place λ' of M' above ℓ such that $\overline{\rho}_{\lambda'}(\pi'_F) \cong \bar{\rho}_{F,\lambda}$,

(4) if $v \in S'$, then $\rho_{\lambda'}(\pi'_F)|_{G_{F_v}}$ connects to ρ_v (see [BLGGT14] for the definition of *connects*).

On the one hand, by known properties of the connected relation (cf. [BLGGT14], Section 1.4), Condition (4) at $v \mid \ell$ implies that the Weil-Deligne representations of $\rho_{\lambda'}(\pi'_F)|_{G_{F_v}}$ and ρ_v, restricted to the inertia group at v, are isomorphic. Since ρ_v is known to be crystalline, we can conclude that $\rho_{\lambda'}(\pi'_F)|_{G_{F_v}}$ is crystalline. Moreover the connected relation implies (by definition) that they have both the same Hodge-Tate numbers. From this (and conjugate essential self-duality) we deduce that π'_F has level prime to ℓ and that it has the same infinitesimal character as π_F.

On the other hand, at the prime in S' above q, say w, the Weil-Deligne representations corresponding to $\rho_{\lambda'}(\pi'_F)|_{G_{F_w}}$ and ρ_w have isomorphic restrictions to inertia. Indeed, since π_F and π'_F are cuspidal automorphic representations of $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{A}_F)$, the local components π_w and $\pi'_{F,w}$ are generic. Hence, by Lemma 1.3.2 of [BLGGT14], $\rho_\lambda(\pi)|_{G_{F_w}} = \rho_w$ and $\rho_{\lambda'}(\pi'_F)|_{G_{F_w}}$ are smooth. From Lemma 1.3.4 (2) of [BLGGT14] (due to Choi) we conclude that the inertial types of π_F and π'_F at w agree.

Observe that in particular, independently of ℓ, the automorphic representation π'_F has fixed infinitesimal character at ∞, fixed ramification set and fixed types at the ramified primes. It follows from the finiteness result of Harish-Chandra (cf. (1.7) and (4.4) of [BJ79]) that there are only finitely many possibilities for π'_F.[2] (We see from [BJ79] that there are finitely many π'_F with fixed infinitesimal character at ∞ such that the finite part of π'_F has a nonzero invariant vector under a fixed open compact subgroup of the finite part of $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{A}_F)$. So it boils down to showing that the conductor of π'_F is bounded. The latter can be seen via local Langlands from that we fix the ramification set of π'_F as well as the types at the primes therein.)

[2]More precisely there are only finitely many irreducible subrepresentations isomorphic to π'_F in the space of cuspforms on $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{A}_F)$ (with trivial central character).

Now assume that the residual representation of $\rho_\lambda(\pi_F)$ is unramified at t for *infinitely* many primes ℓ (we keep the assumption that we are only working with primes $\ell \in \mathcal{L}$ that are split in F). For each ℓ we find π'_F as above (which a priori depends on ℓ). Since there are only finitely many possibilities for π'_F as ℓ varies, we conclude that there exists a π'_F as in (1) and (2) such that the congruence (3) and condition (4) hold true for infinitely many λ. Let $\iota : M \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}$ (resp. $\iota' : M' \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}$) be the fixed embeddings giving rise to the compatible systems attached to π_F and π'_F. For any prime v not above q, t, we can view the trace a_v (resp. a'_v) of $\rho_\lambda(\pi_F)(\mathrm{Frob}_v)$ (resp. $\rho_{\lambda'}(\pi'_F)(\mathrm{Frob}_v)$), which is independent of the prime ℓ not below v, as elements of the compositum $\iota(M)\iota'(M')$. Since there are congruences between a_v and a'_v in infinitely many different residual characteristics, this forces them to be equal. Pick a prime ℓ, $\widetilde{\lambda} \mid \ell$ a prime of the compositum $\iota(M)\iota'(M')$ and let λ, λ' be the corresponding primes in M, M'. Using Chebotarev's density theorem combined with the Brauer-Nesbitt theorem we conclude that $\rho_\lambda(\pi_F)$ and $\rho_{\lambda'}(\pi'_F)$ are isomorphic. But looking at the restriction at a decomposition group at t we get a contradiction, because due to compatibility with local Langlands, $(\rho_\lambda(\pi_F))_\lambda$ is known to be ramified at the places above t while $(\rho_\mu(\pi'_F))_\mu$ is unramified at the places above t by construction. This contradiction proves that the residual representation $\overline{\rho}_\lambda(\pi)$ can be unramified at t only for finitely many primes ℓ (among the primes of $\mathcal{L}$ that are split in F). □

We can apply the previous lemma over any imaginary quadratic number field of the form $F = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-w})$ where w is a prime such that q and t are split in F. It is clear that there are infinitely many such fields; consider an infinite sequence $(F_n)_n$ of distinct such fields. Let us call T_n the set of primes $\ell \in \mathcal{L}$ that are split in one of the F_i, $i = 1, \dots n$, and let $\mathcal{L}'$ be the set of primes ℓ such that $\overline{\rho}_\lambda(\pi)$ is unramified at t for some $\lambda \mid \ell$. Then $\mathcal{L}' \cap T_n$ is finite for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$. But as n grows, the sets T_n have Dirichlet density arbitrarily close to 1. This implies that $\mathcal{L}'$ must have Dirichlet density 0.

6 Conclusion

The aim of this section is to show that the system of Galois representations studied in the previous two sections, attached to the automorphic form constructed in Section 3, does satisfy all the conditions in Corollary 1.6 of [AdDW13b]. Let us check this in detail. (In the set-up in Section 1 of [AdDW13b], we take $N_1 = t$, $N_2 = 1$, $N = t$, and $L_0 = \mathbb{Q}$). First, observe that the primes q and p as in Section 4 satisfy that q is completely split in $\mathbb{Q}$, and $p \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$, $p \mid q^n - 1$ but $p \nmid q^{\frac{n}{2}} - 1$.

The system $(\rho_\lambda(\pi))_\lambda$ of representations of $G_\mathbb{Q}$ is a. e. absolutely irreducible and symplectic, and it satisfies the following properties:

- The ramification set of the system is $R = \{q, t\}$;
- The system is Hodge-Tate regular with constant Hodge-Tate weights and for every $\ell \notin R$ and $\lambda \mid \ell$, the representation $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ is crystalline. Let $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ be the smallest Hodge-Tate weight and let k be the biggest difference between any two Hodge-Tate numbers. By Fontaine-Laffaille theory, we conclude that for every $\ell \notin R$, $\ell > k + 2$, $\lambda \mid \ell$, the representation

$\chi_\ell^a \otimes \overline{\rho}_\lambda(\pi)$ is regular in the sense of Section 3 of [AdDW13b], and the tame inertia weights of this representation are bounded by k (in fact, these weights for these ℓ agree with the Hodge-Tate numbers of the system minus a);

- As we have seen in Section 5, for a set of Dirichlet denstiy one of primes $\ell \neq t$ and for every $\lambda \mid \ell$, the transvection corresponding to the image of I_t under $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ (cf. (9) of Section 4) is preserved in the reduction mod λ, hence $\overline{\rho}_\lambda(\pi)$ contains a nontrivial transvection;

- As we have already observed (cf. (8) of Section 4), for every $\ell \neq q$, for every $\lambda \mid \ell$, the representation $\rho_\lambda(\pi)|_{G_{\mathbb{Q}_q}} \cong \rho_q \otimes \alpha_\lambda$ for some unramified character $\alpha_\lambda : G_{\mathbb{Q}_q} \to \overline{M}_\lambda^\times$ and ρ_q is, by definition, $\mathrm{Ind}_{G_{\mathbb{Q}_{q^n}}}^{G_{\mathbb{Q}_q}}(\chi_q)$ for χ_q as defined in Section 3;

- For every $\ell \neq t$ and for every $\lambda|\ell$, the image of I_t under $\rho_\lambda(\pi)$ consists of either a group generated by a transvection or the trivial group, so $\overline{\rho}_\lambda(\pi)(I_t)$ is in any case an ℓ-group, therefore it has order prime to $n!$ for any ℓ larger than n.

Thus, Corollary 1.6 of [AdDW13b] can be applied, and we deduce the following theorem:

Theorem 6.1. *Let π be the automorphic representation given by Theorem 3.4 of Section 3, with the ramified primes q and t satisfying the conditions specified in Section 4. Then, the compatible system $(\overline{\rho}_\lambda(\pi))_\lambda$ has huge residual image for a set of Dirichlet density one of primes ℓ, for every $\lambda|\ell$, i.e., $\mathrm{im}(\overline{\rho}_\lambda(\pi))$ is a huge subgroup of $\mathrm{GSp}_n(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_\ell)$ for a set of primes of Dirichlet density one.*

To derive our Galois theoretic result (i.e. Theorem 1.1), we just observe that, for any given integer $d > 0$, we can change the condition $p \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ at the beginning of Section 4 by the stronger condition $p \equiv 1 \pmod{dn}$ while choosing q and t exactly as we did in Section 4.

With this, we conclude from Corollary 1.6 of [AdDW13b] that, for such an integer d, the groups $\mathrm{PGSp}_n(\mathbb{F}_{\ell^d})$ or $\mathrm{PSp}_n(\mathbb{F}_{\ell^d})$ are realised as Galois groups over $\mathbb{Q}$ for a positive density set of primes ℓ. Since this can be done for any d, Theorem 1.1 follows.

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