

**Summary** We prove equidistribution results for certain exponential sums that arise in the work of Kurlberg–Rudnick on "cat maps". We show (Theorems 1 and 2) that suitable normalizations of these sums behave like the traces of random matrices in  $SU(2)$ . We also show that as a suitable parameter varies, the corresponding sums are statistically independent (Theorems 3 and 4). The main tools are Deligne's Equidistribution Theorem, the Feit–Thompson Theorem, the Goursat–Kolchin–Ribet Theorem, and Laumon's Theorem of Stationary Phase.

### Introduction, and Statement of Results

Fix a finite field  $k$  of **odd** characteristic  $p$  and cardinality  $q$ , a nontrivial  $\mathbb{C}$ -valued additive character  $\psi$  of  $k$ ,

$$\psi : (k, +) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times,$$

and a nontrivial  $\mathbb{C}$ -valued multiplicative character of  $k^\times$ ,

$$\chi : (k, \times) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times.$$

We extend  $\chi$  to a function on all of  $k$  by defining  $\chi(0) := 0$ .

Kurlberg–Rudnick [Kur–Rud], in their study of "cat maps", encounter the  $\mathbb{C}$ -valued function  $H(\psi, \chi)$  on  $k$  defined by

$$H(\psi, \chi)(t) := \sum_{x \text{ in } k} \psi(x^2 + tx)\chi(x).$$

It will be convenient to consider a "normalized" version  $F(\psi, \chi)$  of this function. Denote by  $\chi_{\text{quad}}$  the quadratic character of  $k^\times$ . Recall that for any nontrivial  $\chi$ , the Gauss sum  $G(\psi, \chi)$  is defined by

$$G(\psi, \chi) := \sum_{x \text{ in } k} \psi(x)\chi(x).$$

It is well known that  $|G(\psi, \chi)| = \text{Sqrt}(q)$ .

Denote by  $A(\psi, \chi)$  the complex constant of absolute value  $q$  defined as the product

$$A(\psi, \chi) := \chi(-1/2)(-G(\psi, \chi))(-G(\psi, \chi_{\text{quad}})).$$

**Choose** a square root  $B(\psi, \chi)$  of  $1/A(\psi, \chi)$ . With this choice, we define the  $\mathbb{C}$ -valued function  $F(\psi, \chi)$  on  $k$  by

$$F(\psi, \chi)(t) := -H(\psi, \chi)(t)(\psi(t^2/8)B(\psi, \chi)).$$

**Theorem 1** Notations as above, the function  $F(\psi, \chi)$  on  $k$  takes real values which lie in the closed interval  $[-2, 2]$ .

For each  $t$  in  $k$ , denote by  $\theta(\psi, \chi)(t)$  in  $[0, \pi]$  the unique angle for which

$$F(\psi, \chi)(t) = 2\cos(\theta(\psi, \chi)(t)).$$

Denote by  $\mu_{\text{ST}}$  the Sato–Tate measure  $(2/\pi)\sin^2(\theta)d\theta$  on  $[0, \pi]$ . Denote by  $\{S_n\}_{n \geq 1}$  the orthonormal basis of  $L^2([0, \pi], \mu_{\text{ST}})$  given by

$$S_n(\theta) := \sin(n\theta)/\sin(\theta).$$

We interpret  $[0, \pi]$  as the space of conjugacy classes in the group  $\text{SU}(2)$ , by mapping  $A$  in  $\text{SU}(2)$  to the unique  $\theta(A)$  in  $[0, \pi]$  for which  $\text{trace}(A) = 2\cos(\theta(A))$ . Then the Sato–Tate measure becomes the measure induced on conjugacy classes by the (total mass one) Haar measure on  $\text{SU}(2)$ . The function  $S_n(\theta)$  becomes the character of the unique  $n$ –dimensional irreducible representation of  $\text{SU}(2)$ . From this interpretation, and the representation theory of  $\text{SU}(2)$ , we see that  $S_{n+1}(\theta)$  is a monic polynomial with integer coefficients  $P_n$  of degree  $n$  in  $S_2(\theta) = 2\cos(\theta)$ .

Moreover, the sequence  $\{S_{n+1}\}_{n \geq 0}$  is obtained from the sequence  $\{(2\cos(\theta))^n\}_{n \geq 0}$  by applying Gram–Schmid orthonormalization. The **Chebyshev polynomials of the second kind**,  $U_n$ , defined by

$$U_n(\cos(\theta)) = S_{n+1}(\theta),$$

are thus related to our  $P_n$  by

$$U_n(u) = P_n(2u).$$

The representation theoretic interpretation of the functions  $S_n$  shows that have the integration formula

$$\int_{[0, \pi]} S_n d\mu_{\text{ST}} = \delta_{n,1}.$$

So if we expand a continuous  $\mathbb{C}$ –valued function  $f$  on  $[0, \pi]$  into its "representation–theoretic fourier series"

$$f = \sum_{n \geq 1} a_n S_n,$$

then its integral against Sato–Tate measure is given by

$$\int_{[0, \pi]} f d\mu_{\text{ST}} = a_1.$$

### Interlude: review of equidistribution

We now recall some basic notions of equidistribution. Given a compact Hausdorff space  $X$  and a Borel probability measure  $\mu$  on  $X$ , a sequence of Borel probability measures  $\mu_i$  on  $X$  is said to converge "weak  $*$ " to  $\mu$  if for every continuous  $\mathbb{C}$ –valued function  $f$  on  $X$ , we have the integration formula

$$\int_X f d\mu = \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \int_X f d\mu_i.$$

If this integration formula holds for a set of test functions  $f_n$  whose finite  $\mathbb{C}$ –linear combinations are uniformly dense in the space of all continuous functions on  $X$ , then it holds for all continuous functions  $f$ .

In many applications, the measures  $\mu_i$  arise as follows. For each  $i$ , one is given a nonempty finite set  $X_i$ , and a map  $\theta_i : X_i \rightarrow X$

of sets. One takes for  $\mu_i$  the average of the Dirac delta measures  $\delta_{\theta_i(x)}$  as  $x$  runs over  $X_i$ :

$$\mu_i := (1/|X_i|) \sum_{x \text{ in } X_i} \delta_{\theta_i(x)}.$$

More concretely, for any continuous  $\mathbb{C}$ -valued function  $f$  on  $X$ ,

$$\int_X f d\mu_i = (1/|X_i|) \sum_{x \text{ in } X_i} f(\theta_i(x)).$$

In this situation, if the measures  $\mu_i$  converge weak \* to  $\mu$ , we will say that the points  $\theta_i(x)$ , as  $x$  varies in  $X_i$ , are "approximately equidistributed" in  $X$  for the measure  $\mu$ .

In our applications below,  $(X, \mu)$  will first be  $([0, \pi], \mu_{\text{ST}})$ , and the test functions will be the functions  $S_n(\theta)$ . Later  $(X, \mu)$  will be the  $r$ -fold self product of  $([0, \pi], \mu_{\text{ST}})$  with itself, and the test functions will be the  $r$ -fold products

$$S_{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_r}(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_r) = \prod_j S_{n_j}(\theta_j).$$

Thus, concretely, a sequence of Borel probability measures  $\mu_i$  on  $[0, \pi]$  converges weak \* to the Sato–Tate measure  $\mu_{\text{ST}}$  if and only if

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \int_{[0, \pi]} S_n d\mu_i = 0, \text{ for each } n \geq 2.$$

[The point is that  $\int_{[0, \pi]} S_n d\mu_{\text{ST}} = 0$  for  $n \geq 2$ , while  $S_1$  is the constant function 1, and so each  $\int_{[0, \pi]} S_1 d\mu_i$  and  $\int_{[0, \pi]} S_1 d\mu_{\text{ST}}$  is 1.]

Similarly, for any  $r \geq 1$ , a sequence of Borel probability measures  $\mu_i$  on  $[0, \pi]^r$  converges weak \* to the Sato–Tate measure  $(\mu_{\text{ST}})^r$  if and only if for each  $r$ -tuple  $(n_1, \dots, n_r)$  of strictly positive integers with  $\sum_j n_j \geq r+1$ , we have

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \int_{[0, \pi]^r} (\prod_j S_{n_j}(\theta_j)) d\mu_i = 0.$$

### Return to Statement of Results

Given a finite field  $k$  of odd characteristic, and a pair  $(\psi, \chi)$  as above, we view the formation of the angle  $\theta(\psi, \chi)(t)$  as defining a map from  $k$  to  $[0, \pi]$ . We form the corresponding probability measure  $\mu(k, \psi, \chi)$  on  $[0, \pi]$ , defined by

$$\mu(k, \psi, \chi) := (1/q) \sum_{t \text{ in } k} \delta_{\theta(\psi, \chi)(t)},$$

i.e. for any  $\mathbb{C}$ -valued continuous function  $f$  on  $[0, \pi]$ , we have

$$\int_{[0, \pi]} f d\mu(k, \psi, \chi) := (1/q) \sum_{t \text{ in } k} f(\theta(\psi, \chi)(t)).$$

**Theorem 2** Take any sequence of data  $(k_i, \psi_i, \chi_i)$  in which each  $k_i$  has characteristic at least 7, and in which  $q_i := \text{Card}(k_i)$  is strictly increasing. Then the angles  $\{\theta(\psi_i, \chi_i)(t)\}_{t \text{ in } k_i}$  are approximately equidistributed in the interval  $[0, \pi]$  with respect to the Sato–Tate measure  $\mu_{\text{ST}}$ , in the sense that as  $i \rightarrow \infty$ , the measures  $\mu(k_i, \psi_i, \chi_i)$  tend weak \* to the Sato–Tate measure  $\mu_{\text{ST}}$ . More precisely, for any integer  $n \geq 2$ , and any datum  $(k, \psi, \chi)$  with  $k$  of characteristic at least 7 we have the estimate

$$|\int_{[0, \pi]} S_n d\mu(k, \psi, \chi) - (1/q) \sum_{t \text{ in } k} S_n(\theta(\psi, \chi)(t))| \leq n/\text{Sqrt}(q).$$

Another way to state this last result is in terms of "semi–circle measure"

$$\mu_{\text{scir}} := (2/\pi)\text{Sqrt}(1 - u^2)du$$

on the closed interval  $[-1, 1]$ , which corresponds to Sato–Tate measure on  $[0, \pi]$ , via  $u := \cos(\theta)$ . By means of this change of variable, the functions  $\{S_{n+1}(\theta)\}_{n \geq 0}$  become the Chebychev polynomials of the second kind  $\{U_n(u)\}_{n \geq 0}$ , and the measure  $\mu(k, \psi, \chi)$  on  $[0, \pi]$  becomes the measure  $\nu(k, \psi, \chi)$  on  $[-1, 1]$  defined by

$$\nu(k, \psi, \chi) := (1/q)\sum_{t \text{ in } k} \delta_{F(\psi, \chi)(t)/2},$$

i.e. for any  $\mathbb{C}$ -valued continuous function  $f$  on  $[-1, 1]$ , we have

$$\int_{[-1, 1]} f d\nu(k, \psi, \chi) := (1/q)\sum_{t \text{ in } k} f(F(\psi, \chi)(t)/2).$$

**Theorem 2 bis** Take any sequence of data  $(k_i, \psi_i, \chi_i)$  in which each  $k_i$  has characteristic at least 7, and in which  $q_i := \text{Card}(k_i)$  is strictly increasing. Then the real numbers  $\{F(\psi, \chi)(t)/2\}_{t \text{ in } k}$  are approximately equidistributed in the interval  $[-1, 1]$  with respect to the semicircle measure  $\mu_{\text{scir}}$ , in the sense that as  $i \rightarrow \infty$ , the measures  $\nu(k_i, \psi_i, \chi_i)$  tend weak \* to the semicircle measure  $\mu_{\text{scir}}$ . More precisely, for any integer  $n \geq 1$ , and any datum  $(k, \psi, \chi)$  with  $k$  of characteristic at least 7, we have the estimate

$$\left| \int_{[-1, 1]} U_n d\nu(k, \psi, \chi) - (1/q)\sum_{t \text{ in } k} U_n(F(\psi, \chi)(t)/2) \right| \leq (n+1)/\text{Sqrt}(q).$$

In the next theorem, we consider several  $\chi$ 's simultaneously. Fix an integer  $r \geq 1$ . Given a finite field  $k$  of odd characteristic, a nontrivial additive character  $\psi$  of  $k$ , and  $r$  distinct nontrivial multiplicative characters  $\chi_1, \chi_2, \dots, \chi_r$  of  $k^\times$ , we define a map from  $k$  to  $[0, \pi]^r$  by

$$t \mapsto \theta(\psi, \chi\text{'s})(t) := (\theta(\psi, \chi_1)(t), \theta(\psi, \chi_2)(t), \dots, \theta(\psi, \chi_r)(t)).$$

We form the corresponding probability measure  $\mu(k, \psi, \chi\text{'s})$  on  $[0, \pi]^r$ , defined by

$$\mu(k, \psi, \chi\text{'s}) := (1/q)\sum_{t \text{ in } k} \delta_{\theta(\psi, \chi\text{'s})(t)}$$

i.e. for any  $\mathbb{C}$ -valued continuous function  $f$  on  $[0, \pi]^r$ , we have

$$\int_{[0, \pi]^r} f d\mu(k, \psi, \chi\text{'s}) := (1/q)\sum_{t \text{ in } k} f(\theta(\psi, \chi\text{'s})(t)).$$

**Theorem 3** Fix  $r \geq 1$ . Take any sequence of data  $(k_i, \psi_i, \chi_i\text{'s})$  in which each  $k_i$  has characteristic at least 7, and in which  $q_i := \text{Card}(k_i)$  is strictly increasing. Then the  $r$ -tuples of angles

$$\{\theta(\psi_i, \chi_i\text{'s})(t)\}_{t \text{ in } k_i}$$

are approximately equidistributed in  $[0, \pi]^r$  with respect to  $(\mu_{\text{ST}})^r$ , in the sense that as  $i \rightarrow \infty$ , the measures  $\mu(k_i, \psi_i, \chi_i\text{'s})$  tend weak \* to  $(\mu_{\text{ST}})^r$ . More precisely, for any  $r$  tuple of strictly positive integers  $(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_r)$  with  $\sum_j n_j \geq r+1$ , and any datum  $(k, \psi, \chi\text{'s})$  with  $k$  of characteristic at least 7, we have the estimate

$$\int_{[0, \pi]^r} S_{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_r} d\mu(k, \psi, \chi's) = |(1/q) \sum_{t \in k} S_{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_r}(\theta(\psi, \chi's)(t))| \leq (\prod_i n_i) / \text{Sqrt}(q).$$

In terms of semicircle measure, the measure  $(\mu_{ST})^r$  on  $[0, \pi]^r$  becomes the measure  $(\mu_{\text{scir}})^r$  on  $[-1, 1]^r$ , the test functions

$$S_{n_1 + 1, \dots, n_r + 1}(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_r)$$

become the functions

$$U_{n_1, \dots, n_r}(\theta's) := \prod_j U_{n_j}(u_j).$$

The measures

$$\mu(k, \psi, \chi's) := (1/q) \sum_{t \in k} \delta_{\theta(\psi, \chi's)(t)}$$

on  $[0, \pi]^r$  become the measures

$$\nu(k, \psi, \chi's) := (1/q) \sum_{t \in k} \delta_{F(\psi, \chi's)(t)/2}$$

on  $[-1, 1]^r$ .

**Theorem 3 bis** Fix  $r \geq 1$ . Take any sequence of data  $(k_i, \psi_i, \chi_i's)$  in which each  $k_i$  has characteristic at least 7, and in which  $q_i := \text{Card}(k_i)$  is strictly increasing. Then the  $r$ -tuples in  $[-1, 1]^r$

$$\{F(\psi, \chi's)(t)/2\}_{t \in k}$$

are approximately equidistributed in  $[-1, 1]^r$  with respect to  $(\mu_{\text{scir}})^r$ , in the sense that as  $i \rightarrow \infty$ , the measures  $\nu(k_i, \psi_i, \chi_i's)$  tend weak \* to  $(\mu_{\text{scir}})^r$ . More precisely, for any nonzero  $r$ -tuple of nonnegative integers  $(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_r)$ , we have the estimate

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{[-1, 1]^r} U_{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_r} d\nu(k, \psi, \chi's) &= |(1/q) \sum_{t \in k} U_{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_r}(F(\psi, \chi's)(t)/2)| \\ &\leq (\prod_i (n_i + 1)) / \text{Sqrt}(q). \end{aligned}$$

Here is a strengthening of Theorem 3, where we vary not just  $\chi$  but the pair  $(\psi, \chi)$ . Given  $\psi$  and  $\chi$ , we denote by  $\bar{\psi}$  and  $\bar{\chi}$  the complex conjugate characters

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\psi}(x) &:= \psi(-x) = 1/\psi(x), \\ \bar{\chi}(x) &:= \chi(x^{-1}) = 1/\chi(x). \end{aligned}$$

Fix an integer  $r \geq 1$ . Given a finite field  $k$  of odd characteristic, suppose we are given  $r$  pairs

$$\{(\psi_i, \chi_i)\}_{i=1 \text{ to } r}$$

each consisting of a non-trivial additive character  $\psi_i$  and a nontrivial multiplicative character  $\chi_i$ .

Suppose that for all  $i \neq j$ , we have

$$(\psi_i, \chi_i) \neq (\psi_j, \chi_j), \text{ and } (\psi_i, \chi_i) \neq (\bar{\psi}_j, \bar{\chi}_j).$$

[Equivalently, the  $(\psi_i, \chi_i)$  and their complex conjugates form  $2r$  distinct pairs.] We define a map

from  $k$  to  $[0, \pi]^r$  by

$$t \mapsto \theta(\psi's, \chi's)(t) := (\theta(\psi_1, \chi_1)(t), \theta(\psi_2, \chi_2)(t), \dots, \theta(\psi_r, \chi_r)(t)).$$

We form the corresponding probability measure  $\mu(k, \psi's, \chi's)$  on  $[0, \pi]^r$ , defined by

$$\mu(k, \psi, \chi's) := (1/q) \sum_{t \text{ in } k} \delta_{\theta(\psi's, \chi's)(t)}$$

i.e. for any  $\mathbb{C}$ -valued continuous function  $f$  on  $[0, \pi]$ , we have

$$\int_{[0, \pi]^r} f d\mu(k, \psi, \chi's) := (1/q) \sum_{t \text{ in } k} f(\theta(\psi's, \chi's)(t)).$$

**Theorem 4** Fix  $r \geq 1$ . Take any sequence of data  $(k_i, \psi_i's, \chi_i's)$  as above (i.e. we are given  $r$  distinct pairs  $(\psi_{i_j}, \chi_{i_j})_{j=1 \text{ to } r}$  which together with their complex conjugates form  $2r$  distinct pairs) in which each  $k_i$  has characteristic at least 7, and in which  $q_i := \text{Card}(k_i)$  is strictly increasing. Then the  $r$ -tuples of angles

$$\{\theta(\psi_i's, \chi_i's)(t)\}_{t \text{ in } k_i}$$

are approximately equidistributed in  $[0, \pi]^r$  with respect to  $(\mu_{\text{ST}})^r$ , in the sense that as  $i \rightarrow \infty$ , the measures  $\mu(k_i, \psi_i, \chi_i's)$  tend weak \* to  $(\mu_{\text{ST}})^r$ . More precisely, for any  $r$  tuple of strictly positive integers  $(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_r)$  with  $\sum_j n_j \geq r+1$ , and any datum  $(k, \psi's, \chi's)$  with  $k$  of characteristic at least 7, we have the estimate

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \int_{[0, \pi]^r} S_{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_r} d\mu(k, \psi's, \chi's) \right| \\ &= \left| (1/q) \sum_{t \text{ in } k} S_{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_r}(\theta(\psi's, \chi's)(t)) \right| \leq (\prod_i n_i) / \text{Sqrt}(q). \end{aligned}$$

**Remark** Theorem 3 is the special case of Theorem 4 in which all the  $\psi_i$  are equal to a single  $\psi$  [The point is that  $\psi \neq \bar{\psi}$ , because the characteristic  $p$  is odd.]

In terms of semicircle measure, the measures

$$\mu(k, \psi's, \chi's) := (1/q) \sum_{t \text{ in } k} \delta_{\theta(\psi, \chi's)(t)}$$

on  $[0, \pi]^r$  become the measures

$$\nu(k, \psi's, \chi's) := (1/q) \sum_{t \text{ in } k} \delta_{F(\psi's, \chi's)(t)/2}$$

on  $[-1, 1]^r$ .

The statement of Theorem 4 becomes

**Theorem 4 bis** Fix  $r \geq 1$ . Take any sequence of data  $(k_i, \psi_i's, \chi_i's)$  as above (i.e. we are given  $r$  distinct pairs  $(\psi_{i_j}, \chi_{i_j})_{j=1 \text{ to } r}$  which together with their complex conjugates form  $2r$  distinct pairs) in which each  $k_i$  has characteristic at least 7, and in which  $q_i := \text{Card}(k_i)$  is strictly increasing. Then the  $r$ -tuples in  $[-1, 1]^r$ ,

$$\{F(\psi's, \chi's)(t)/2\}_{t \text{ in } k_i}$$

are approximately equidistributed in the  $r$ -fold product  $[-1, 1]^r$  with respect to the  $r$ -fold product

measure  $(\mu_{\text{Scir}})^r$  in the sense that as  $i \rightarrow \infty$ , the measures  $\mu(k_i, \psi_i, \chi_i$ 's) tend weak \* to  $(\mu_{\text{Scir}})^r$ . More precisely, for any nonzero  $r$ -tuple of nonnegative integers  $(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_r)$ , we have the estimate

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{|t| \leq 1} |U_{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_r}(k, \psi$$
's,  $\chi$ 's)| \\ &= (1/q) \sum\_{t \in k} U\_{n\_1, n\_2, \dots, n\_r}(F(\psi's,  $\chi$ 's)(t)/2) \\ &\leq (\prod\_i (n\_i + 1))/\text{Sqrt}(q) \end{aligned}

### Proofs of the theorems

Let us fix the finite field  $k = \mathbb{F}_q$ . For any pair  $(\psi, \chi)$  consisting of a nontrivial additive character  $\psi$  and a nontrivial multiplicative character  $\chi$ , both  $\psi$  and  $\chi$  take values in the field  $\mathbb{Q}(\xi_p, \xi_{q-1})$ , viewed as a subfield of  $\mathbb{C}$ . The quantity  $A(\psi, \chi)$  is an algebraic integer in  $\mathbb{Q}(\xi_p, \xi_{q-1})$ , which is a unit outside of  $p$ . If we adjoin to  $\mathbb{Q}(\xi_p, \xi_{q-1})$  the square roots  $B(\psi, \chi)$  of the  $1/A(\psi, \chi)$  for all the finitely many such pairs  $(\psi, \chi)$ , we get a finite extension  $F/\mathbb{Q}$  inside  $\mathbb{C}$ , in which the  $B(\psi_i, \chi_i)$  are algebraic numbers, and units outside of  $p$ . The functions  $H(\psi, \chi)$  and  $F(\psi, \chi)$  take values in the number field  $K$ .

Now pick a prime number  $\ell \neq p$ , an algebraic closure  $\bar{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$  of the field  $\mathbb{Q}_\ell$  of  $\ell$ -adic numbers, and an embedding of the number field  $F$  into  $\bar{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$ . Extend this embedding to a field isomorphism  $\mathbb{C} \cong \bar{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$ . By means of this isomorphism, we may and will view the characters  $\psi$  and  $\chi$ , and the functions  $H(\psi, \chi)$  and  $F(\psi, \chi)$ , as taking values in  $\bar{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$ . The quantity  $B(\psi, \chi)$  is an  $\ell$ -adic unit in  $\bar{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$ .

On the affine line  $\mathbb{A}^1 \otimes k$ , we have the Artin–Schreier sheaf  $\mathcal{L}_\psi$  and the (extension by zero across 0 of) the Kummer sheaf  $\mathcal{L}_\chi$ . The  $\bar{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$ -sheaf  $\mathcal{L}_{\psi(x^2)} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\chi(x)}$  on  $\mathbb{A}^1 \otimes k$  is lisse on  $\mathbb{G}_m \otimes k$  of rank one, and it vanishes at  $x=0$ . Its naive Fourier Transform  $\text{NFT}_\psi(\mathcal{L}_{\psi(x^2)} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\chi(x)})$ , cf. [Ka–GKM, 8.2], will be denoted  $\mathcal{H}(\psi, \chi)$ :

$$\mathcal{H}(\psi, \chi) := \text{NFT}_\psi(\mathcal{L}_{\psi(x^2)} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\chi(x)}).$$

Because  $\mathcal{L}_{\psi(x^2)} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\chi(x)}$  is a geometrically irreducible middle extension on  $\mathbb{A}^1$  which is pure of weight zero, lisse of rank one on  $\mathbb{G}_m$ , ramified but tame at 0 and with Swan conductor 2 at  $\infty$ , its naive Fourier Transform  $\mathcal{H}(\psi, \chi)$  is a lisse  $\bar{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$ -sheaf of rank 2 on  $\mathbb{A}^1$ , which is geometrically irreducible and pure of weight one. Its trace function is given as follows. For a finite extension  $E/k$ , denote by  $\psi_E$  (resp.  $\chi_E$ ) the nontrivial character of  $E$  obtained by composing  $\psi$  (resp.  $\chi$ ) with the relative trace  $\text{Trace}_{E/k}$  (resp. the relative norm  $\text{Norm}_{E/k}$ ). For any point  $t$  in  $E = \mathbb{A}^1(E)$ , we have

$$\text{Trace}(\text{Frob}_{t,E} | \mathcal{H}(\psi, \chi)) = -\sum_{x \in E} \psi_E(x^2 + tx)\chi_E(x).$$

In particular, for  $t$  in  $k$ , we have

$$\text{Trace}(\text{Frob}_{t,k} | \mathcal{H}(\psi, \chi)) = -H(\psi, \chi)(t).$$

Now define a second geometrically irreducible lisse  $\bar{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$ -sheaf of rank 2 on  $\mathbb{A}^1 \otimes k$ ,  $\mathcal{F}(\psi, \chi)$ , now pure of weight zero, to be the following twist of  $\mathcal{H}(\psi, \chi)$ :

$$\mathcal{F}(\psi, \chi) := \mathcal{H}(\psi, \chi) \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\psi(t^2/8)} \otimes \mathcal{B}(\psi, \chi)^{\deg}.$$

For any finite extension  $E/k$ , and any point  $t$  in  $E$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Trace}(\text{Frob}_{t,E} \mid \mathcal{F}(\psi, \chi)) \\ &= (\text{Trace}(\text{Frob}_{t,k} \mid \mathcal{H}(\psi, \chi)) \psi_E(t^2/8) \mathcal{B}(\psi, \chi)^{\deg(E/k)}). \end{aligned}$$

In particular, for  $t$  in  $k$ , we have

$$\text{Trace}(\text{Frob}_{t,k} \mid \mathcal{F}(\psi, \chi)) = F(\psi, \chi)(t).$$

**Lemma 1** The lisse rank two sheaf  $\mathcal{F}(\psi, \chi)$  on  $\mathbb{A}^1 \otimes k$  has trivial determinant. Equivalently, the determinant of the lisse rank two sheaf  $\mathcal{H}(\psi, \chi)$  on  $\mathbb{A}^1 \otimes k$  is given by

$$\det(\mathcal{H}(\psi, \chi)) \cong \mathcal{L}_{\psi(-t^2/4)} \otimes \mathcal{A}(\psi, \chi)^{\deg}.$$

**proof** By Chebotarov, it suffices to prove that for any finite extension  $E/k$ , and for any  $t$  in  $E$ , we have

$$\det(\text{Frob}_{t,E} \mid \mathcal{H}(\psi, \chi)) = \mathcal{L}_{\psi_E(-t^2/4)} \otimes \mathcal{A}(\psi, \chi)^{\deg(E/k)}.$$

By the Hasse–Davenport theorem, the Gauss sum  $G(\psi_E, \chi_E)$  over  $E$  is related to the Gauss sum  $G(\psi, \chi)$  over  $k$  by

$$(-G(\psi_E, \chi_E)) = (-G(\psi, \chi))^{\deg(E/k)}.$$

In view of the definition of  $\mathcal{A}(\psi, \chi)$ , we have

$$\mathcal{A}(\psi_E, \chi_E) = \mathcal{A}(\psi, \chi)^{\deg(E/k)}.$$

So it is the same to prove

$$\det(\text{Frob}_{t,E} \mid \mathcal{H}(\psi_E, \chi_E)) = \mathcal{L}_{\psi_E(-t^2/4)} \otimes \mathcal{A}(\psi_E, \chi_E).$$

So we are reduced to proving universally that for any  $t$  in  $k$ , we have

$$\det(\text{Frob}_{t,k} \mid \mathcal{H}(\psi, \chi)) = \mathcal{L}_{\psi(-t^2/4)} \otimes \mathcal{A}(\psi, \chi).$$

For this we use the classical Hasse–Davenport argument, cf. [Ka–MG, p. 53]. From the definition of  $\mathcal{H}(\psi, \chi)$  as a naive Fourier Transform, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \det(1 - \text{TFrob}_{t,k} \mid \mathcal{H}(\psi, \chi)) \\ &= \det(1 - \text{TFrob}_k \mid H^1_c(\mathbb{G}_m \otimes \bar{k}, \mathcal{L}_{\psi(x^2 + tx)} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\chi(x)})) \end{aligned}$$

As this  $H^1_c$  is the only nonvanishing cohomology group, the Lefschetz Trace formula expresses the L–function on  $\mathbb{G}_m \otimes k$  with coefficients in  $\mathcal{L}_{\psi(x^2 + tx)} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\chi(x)}$  as

$$\begin{aligned} & L(\mathbb{G}_m \otimes k, \mathcal{L}_{\psi(x^2 + tx)} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\chi(x)})(T) \\ &= \det(1 - \text{TFrob}_k \mid H^1_c(\mathbb{G}_m \otimes \bar{k}, \mathcal{L}_{\psi(x^2 + tx)} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\chi(x)})). \end{aligned}$$

Because this  $H^1_c$  has dimension 2, we obtain the determinant in question as the coefficient of  $T^2$  in the power series expansion of the L–function:



$$\begin{aligned} & \det(\text{Frob}_{t,k} | \mathcal{H}(\psi, \chi)) \\ &= \text{coef. of } T^2 \text{ in } L(\mathbb{G}_m^{\otimes k}, \mathcal{L}_{\psi(x^2 + tx)} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\chi(x)})(T). \end{aligned}$$

From the additive expression of this abelian L–function as a sum over all effective divisors on  $\mathbb{G}_m^{\otimes k}$ , i.e. over all monic polynomials in  $k[X]$  with nonzero constant term, we see that for any integer  $d \geq 1$ , the coefficient of  $T^d$  is

$$\sum_{\text{monic } f \text{ of deg. } d, f(0) \neq 0} \psi(\sum_{\text{roots } \alpha \text{ of } f} (\alpha^2 + t\alpha)) \chi(\prod_{\text{roots } \alpha \text{ of } f} (\alpha))$$

Denote by  $S_1(f)$  and by  $N_1(f)$  the elementary and the Newton symmetric functions of the roots of  $f$ . Then the coefficient of  $T^d$  is

$$\sum_{\text{monic } f \text{ of deg. } d, f(0) \neq 0} \psi(N_2(f) + tS_1(f)) \chi(S_d(f)).$$

The expression of  $N_2$  in terms of  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  is

$$N_2 = (S_1)^2 - 2S_2.$$

So all in all we find that the coefficient of  $T^d$  is

$$\sum_{\text{monic } f \text{ of deg. } d, f(0) \neq 0} \psi((S_1(f))^2 + tS_1(f) - 2S_2(f)) \chi(S_d(f)).$$

Now a monic  $f$  of degree  $d$  with  $f(0) \neq 0$  is precisely given by its coefficients, which are the elementary symmetric functions of its roots:

$$f(X) = X^d - S_1(f)X^{d-1} + S_2(f)X^{d-2} + \dots + (-1)^d S_d(f).$$

So we may write the coefficient of  $T^d$  as

$$\sum_{s_1, s_2, \dots, s_d \text{ in } k, s_d \neq 0} \psi(s_1^2 + ts_1 - 2s_2) \chi(s_d).$$

This expression shows that for  $d > 2$  the coefficient of  $T^d$  vanishes (because the sum of  $\chi(s_d)$  over nonzero  $s_d$  vanishes), as it must. The coefficient of  $T^2$  is

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{s_1, s_2 \text{ in } k, s_2 \neq 0} \psi((s_1^2 + ts_1 - 2s_2) \chi(s_2)) \\ &= (\sum_{s_1 \text{ in } k} \psi(s_1^2 + ts_1)) (\sum_{s_2 \text{ in } k^\times} \psi(-2s_2) \chi(s_2)). \end{aligned}$$

The second factor is  $\chi(-1/2)G(\psi, \chi)$ , and the first factor is

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{s_1 \text{ in } k} \psi(s_1^2 + ts_1) &= \sum_{s_1 \text{ in } k} \psi((s_1 + t/2)^2 - t^2/4) \\ &= \psi(-t^2/4) \sum_{s \text{ in } k} \psi(s^2) \\ &= \psi(-t^2/4) G(\psi, \chi_{\text{quad}}). \end{aligned}$$

Putting this all together, we find that  $\det(\text{Frob}_{t,k} | \mathcal{H}(\psi, \chi))$ , the coefficient of  $T^2$  in the L function, is indeed equal to

$$\chi(-1/2)G(\psi, \chi) \psi(-t^2/4)G(\psi, \chi_{\text{quad}}) = \psi(-t^2/4)A(\psi, \chi),$$

as asserted. QED

**Lemma 2** For  $p \geq 7$ , the lisse rank two sheaf  $\mathcal{F}(\psi, \chi)$  on  $\mathbb{A}^1 \otimes k$  has geometric monodromy group  $G_{\text{geom}}$  equal to  $\text{SL}(2)$ , and under the  $\ell$ -adic representation  $\rho$  of  $\pi_1 := \pi_1(\mathbb{A}^1 \otimes k)$  corresponding to  $\mathcal{F}(\psi, \chi)$ , we have  $\rho(\pi_1) \subset G_{\text{geom}}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)$ .

**proof** We have already proven that  $\mathcal{F}(\psi, \chi)$  has trivial determinant, so we trivially have the inclusions

$$\rho(\pi_1) \subset \text{SL}(2)(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)$$

and

$$G_{\text{geom}} \subset \text{SL}(2).$$

So it remains only to prove that  $G_{\text{geom}}$  contains  $\text{SL}(2)$ . As the sheaf  $\mathcal{F}(\psi, \chi)$  is geometrically irreducible and starts life on  $\mathbb{A}^1 \otimes k$ , its  $G_{\text{geom}}$  is a semisimple subgroup of  $\text{GL}(2)$ . So its identity component  $(G_{\text{geom}})^0$ , being a connected semisimple subgroup of  $\text{GL}(2)$ , is either the group  $\text{SL}(2)$ , or it is the trivial group. So either  $G_{\text{geom}}$  contains  $\text{SL}(2)$ , or  $G_{\text{geom}}$  is a finite irreducible subgroup  $\Gamma$  of  $\text{GL}(2, \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)$ . For  $p \geq 7$ , the second case cannot occur, thanks to the  $n = 2$  case of the Feit–Thompson theorem [F–T]: for any  $n \geq 2$ , any finite subgroup  $\Gamma$  of  $\text{GL}(n, \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)$  and any prime  $p > 2n+1$ , any  $p$ -Sylow subgroup  $\Gamma_1$  of  $\Gamma$  is both normal and abelian. Our  $\Gamma$  is a finite quotient of  $\pi_1(\mathbb{A}^1 \otimes \overline{k})$ , so it has no nontrivial quotients of order prime to  $p$ . The quotient  $\Gamma/\Gamma_1$  is prime to  $p$ , hence trivial, and hence  $\Gamma = \Gamma_1$ . Then  $\Gamma$  is abelian, which is impossible since it is an irreducible subgroup of  $\text{GL}(2, \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)$ . QED

**Lemma 3** Let  $(\psi_i, \chi_i)$  for  $i=1,2$  be two pairs, each consisting of a nontrivial additive character  $\psi_i$  and a nontrivial multiplicative character  $\chi_i$ . Put  $\mathcal{F}_i := \mathcal{F}(\psi_i, \chi_i)$ . Suppose that  $(\psi_1, \chi_1) \neq (\psi_2, \chi_2)$  and that  $(\psi_1, \chi_1) \neq (\overline{\psi_2}, \overline{\chi_2})$ . Then for any lisse rank one  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$ -sheaf  $L$  on  $\mathbb{A}^1 \otimes \overline{k}$ , the sheaves  $L \otimes \mathcal{F}_1$  and  $\mathcal{F}_2$  are not geometrically isomorphic (i.e., isomorphic as lisse  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$ -sheaves on  $\mathbb{A}^1 \otimes \overline{k}$ ) and the sheaves  $L \otimes \mathcal{F}_1$  and  $(\mathcal{F}_2)^\vee$  are not geometrically isomorphic.

**proof** Since  $\mathcal{F}_2$  has  $G_{\text{geom}} = \text{SL}(2)$ ,  $\mathcal{F}_2$  is geometrically self-dual, so it suffices to show that  $L \otimes \mathcal{F}_1$  and  $\mathcal{F}_2$  are not geometrically isomorphic. Since  $\mathcal{F}_1$  is a twist of  $\mathcal{H}_1 := \mathcal{H}(\psi_1, \chi_1)$  by a lisse rank one sheaf, it suffices to show that for any lisse rank one  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$ -sheaf  $L$  on  $\mathbb{A}^1 \otimes \overline{k}$ , the sheaves  $L \otimes \mathcal{H}_1$  and  $\mathcal{H}_2$  are not geometrically isomorphic.

If  $L$  is tame at  $\infty$ , then  $L$ , being lisse on  $\mathbb{A}^1 \otimes \overline{k}$ , is trivial. So in this case we must show that  $\mathcal{H}_1$  is not geometrically isomorphic to  $\mathcal{H}_2$ . We know that  $\det(\mathcal{H}_1) = \mathcal{L}_{\psi_1(-t^2/4)}$ . So if  $\psi_1 \neq \psi_2$ , then  $\mathcal{H}_1$  and  $\mathcal{H}_2$  have non-isomorphic determinants. Indeed, if  $\psi_1 \neq \psi_2$ , then there exists an

$\alpha \neq 1$  in  $k^\times$  for which  $\psi_1(x) = \psi_2(\alpha x)$ , and so

$$\det(\mathcal{H}_1) \otimes (\det(\mathcal{H}_2))^\vee \cong \mathcal{L}_{\psi_1}((\alpha-1)t^2/4)$$

is geometrically nontrivial, because it has Swan conductor two at  $\infty$ .

We next recover  $\chi_i$  from  $\mathcal{H}_i$ . For this, we recall that

$$\mathcal{H}_i := \text{NFT}(\mathcal{L}_{\psi_i}(x^2) \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\chi_i}(x)).$$

Laumon's stationary phase decomposition [Lau–TF] of  $\mathcal{H}_i(\infty)$  ( $:= \mathcal{H}_i$  as a representation of the inertia group  $I(\infty)$ ) has the form

$$\mathcal{H}_i(\infty) = \mathcal{L}_{\chi_i}^- \oplus \mathcal{M}_i$$

with  $\mathcal{M}_i$  a one–dimensional representation of  $I(\infty)$  of Swan conductor two. [In the notation of [Ka–ESDE, 7.4.1],

$$\mathcal{L}_{\chi_i}^- = \text{FTloc}(0, \infty)(\mathcal{L}_{\psi_i}(x^2) \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\chi_i}(x)),$$

$$\mathcal{M}_i = \text{FTloc}(\infty, \infty)(\mathcal{L}_{\psi_i}(x^2) \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\chi_i}(x)).]$$

Looking at the determinant of  $\mathcal{H}_i(\infty)$ , we see that the above decomposition of  $\mathcal{H}_i(\infty)$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}_i(\infty) &\cong \mathcal{L}_{\chi_i}^- \oplus \mathcal{L}_{\chi_i} \otimes \det(\mathcal{H}_i) \\ &\cong \mathcal{L}_{\chi_i}^- \oplus \mathcal{L}_{\chi_i} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\psi_i}(-t^2/4). \end{aligned}$$

Thus we recover  $\chi_i$  from  $\mathcal{H}_i$  from looking at the tame part of  $\mathcal{H}_i(\infty)$ .

So  $\chi_1 \neq \chi_2$ , then  $\mathcal{H}_1$  cannot be geometrically isomorphic to  $\mathcal{H}_2$ .

Thus, if either  $\psi_1 \neq \psi_2$ , or if  $\chi_1 \neq \chi_2$ , then  $\mathcal{H}_1$  is not geometrically isomorphic to  $\mathcal{H}_2$ .

Suppose now that  $L$  is not tame at  $\infty$ , but that  $L \otimes \mathcal{H}_1 \cong \mathcal{H}_2$  geometrically. Looking at  $I(\infty)$  representations, we have

$$L \otimes \mathcal{H}_1(\infty) \cong L \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\chi_1}^- \oplus L \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\chi_1} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\psi_1}(-t^2/4)$$

while

$$\mathcal{H}_2(\infty) \cong \mathcal{L}_{\chi_2}^- \oplus \mathcal{L}_{\chi_2} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\psi_2}(-t^2/4).$$

There is at most one decomposition of a two–dimensional  $I(\infty)$  representation as the sum of a tame character and of a nontame character. Since  $L$  is not tame at  $\infty$ ,  $L \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\chi_1}^-$  is not tame at  $\infty$ . So in

matching the terms, we must have

$$L \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\chi_1}^- \cong \mathcal{L}_{\chi_2} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\psi_2}(-t^2/4),$$

i.e.,

$$L \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\psi_2}(t^2/4) \cong \mathcal{L}_{\chi_2} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\chi_1}$$

as  $I(\infty)$ –representation. Thus  $L \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\psi_2}(t^2/4)$  is tame at  $\infty$ . As  $L \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\psi_2}(t^2/4)$  is lisse on  $\mathbb{A}^1_{\bar{k}}$ , it is trivial. Thus we get

$$L \cong \mathcal{L}_{\psi_2(-t^2/4)}, \text{ and } \chi_1 = \bar{\chi}_2.$$

Interchanging the indices and repeating the argument, we get

$$L^\vee \cong \mathcal{L}_{\psi_1(-t^2/4)}.$$

Thus we have  $\mathcal{L}_{\psi_2(-t^2/4)} \cong \mathcal{L}_{\psi_1(t^2/4)}$ . From this we conclude that  $\psi_1 = \bar{\psi}_2$ . So if  $L$  is not tame, the existence of a geometric isomorphism  $L \otimes \mathcal{H}_1 \cong \mathcal{H}_2$  implies that  $(\psi_1, \chi_1) = (\bar{\psi}_2, \bar{\chi}_2)$ . QED

**Lemma 4** For any pair  $(\psi, \chi)$  consisting of a nontrivial additive character  $\psi$  and a nontrivial multiplicative character  $\chi$ , the lisse sheaf  $\mathcal{F} := \mathcal{F}(\psi, \chi)$  as  $I(\infty)$ –representation is the direct sum of two inverse characters, each of Swan conductor two:

$$\mathcal{F}(\infty) \cong \mathcal{L}_{\bar{\chi}} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\psi(t^2/8)} \oplus \mathcal{L}_{\chi} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\psi(-t^2/8)}.$$

**proof** Indeed, we have seen that  $\mathcal{H} := \mathcal{H}(\psi, \chi)$  as  $I(\infty)$ –representation is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}(\infty) &\cong \mathcal{L}_{\bar{\chi}} \oplus \mathcal{L}_{\chi} \otimes \det(\mathcal{H}) \\ &\cong \mathcal{L}_{\bar{\chi}} \oplus \mathcal{L}_{\chi} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\psi(-t^2/4)}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $\mathcal{F}$ , being an  $\alpha^{\text{deg}}$  twist of  $\mathcal{F} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\psi(t^2/8)}$ , has  $I(\infty)$ –representation given by

$$\mathcal{F}(\infty) \cong \mathcal{L}_{\bar{\chi}} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\psi(t^2/8)} \oplus \mathcal{L}_{\chi} \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\psi(-t^2/8)}. \text{ QED}$$

**Lemma 5** Fix an integer  $r \geq 1$ . Suppose that the characteristic  $p$  of  $k$  is at least 7. Suppose we are given  $r$  pairs  $\{(\psi_i, \chi_i)\}_{i=1}^r$ , each consisting of a non–trivial additive character  $\psi_i$  and a nontrivial multiplicative character  $\chi_i$ . Suppose that for all  $i \neq j$ , we have

$$(\psi_i, \chi_i) \neq (\psi_j, \chi_j), \text{ and } (\psi_i, \chi_i) \neq (\bar{\psi}_j, \bar{\chi}_j).$$

For each  $i = 1$  to  $r$ , put

$$\mathcal{F}_i := \mathcal{F}(\psi_i, \chi_i),$$

and denote by

$$\rho_i : \pi_1(\mathbb{A}^{1 \otimes k}) \rightarrow \text{SL}(2, \bar{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)$$

the  $\ell$ –adic representation which  $\mathcal{F}_i$  "is". Consider the lisse  $\bar{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$ –sheaf  $\mathcal{G}$  on  $\mathbb{A}^{1 \otimes k}$ , defined as the direct sum

$$\mathcal{G} := \bigoplus_{i=1}^r \mathcal{F}_i.$$

Denote by

$$\rho := \bigoplus_{i=1}^r \rho_i : \pi_1(\mathbb{A}^{1 \otimes k}) \rightarrow \prod_{i=1}^r \text{SL}(2, \bar{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)$$

the  $\ell$ –adic representation which  $\mathcal{G}$  "is". Then the group  $G_{\text{geom}}$  for  $\mathcal{G}$  is the largest possible, namely  $\prod_{i=1}^r \text{SL}(2)$ .

**proof** By Lemma 2, the geometric monodromy group  $G_i$  of each  $\mathcal{F}_i$  is  $\text{SL}(2)$ . So the geometric monodromy group  $G$  for  $\mathcal{G}$  is a closed subgroup of  $\prod_{i=1}^r G_i$  which maps onto each factor. By the Goursat–Kolchin–Ribet theorem [Ka–ESDE, 1.8.2], it results from Lemma 3 that  $G^{0, \text{der}}$  is the

full product  $\prod_{i=1}^r G_i^{0, \text{der}}$ . Since each  $G_i$  is  $SL(2)$ ,  $G^{0, \text{der}}$  is the full product  $\prod_{i=1}^r SL(2)$ . Since  $G$  is in any case a subgroup of this product, we have  $G = \prod_{i=1}^r SL(2)$ . QED

Theorem 4 now result immediately from Deligne's Equidistribution Theorem [De–Weil II, 3.5], cf. [Ka–GKM, 3.6, 3.6.3], [Ka–Sar, 9.2.5, 9.2.6], applied to the sheaf  $\mathcal{G}$  of Lemma 5. A maximal compact subgroup  $K$  of  $\prod_{i=1}^r SL(2, \mathbb{C})$  is the product group  $\prod_{i=1}^r SU(2)$ . Its space of conjugacy classes is the product space  $[0, \pi]^r$ , with measure the  $r$ –fold self–product of the Sato–Tate measure  $\mu_{ST}$ . Its irreducible representations are precisely the tensor products of irreducible representations of the factors. For the  $i$ 'th factor  $SU(2)$ , denote by  $\text{std}(i)$  its standard two–dimensional representation. There is one irreducible representation of the  $i$ 'th factor of each dimension  $n \geq 1$ , given by  $\text{Symm}^{n-1}(\text{std}(i))$ . Its character is the function  $S_n(\theta)$ . So the **nontrivial** irreducible representations of the product group

$$\prod_{i=1}^r SU(2)$$

are the tensor products

$$\otimes_{i=1}^r \text{Symm}^{n_i-1}(\text{std}(i))$$

with all  $n_i \geq 1$  and at least one  $n_i > 1$ . This representation has dimension  $\prod_{i=1}^r n_i$ . Its character is  $\prod_{i=1}^r S_{n_i}(\theta_i)$ .

The sheaf  $\mathcal{G}$  of Lemma 5 has all its  $\infty$ –slopes equal to two. For each point  $t$  in  $k$ , the image  $\rho(\text{Frob}_{t,k})^{\text{ss}}$  in  $\prod_{i=1}^r SL(2, \bar{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)$ , when viewed in  $\prod_{i=1}^r SL(2, \mathbb{C})$  via the chosen field isomorphism of  $\bar{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$  with  $\mathbb{C}$ , is conjugate in  $\prod_{i=1}^r SL(2, \mathbb{C})$  to an element of  $K = \prod_{i=1}^r SU(2)$ , which is itself well–defined up to conjugacy in  $K$ . The resulting conjugacy class is none other than the  $r$ –tuple

$$(\theta(\psi_1, \chi_1)(t), \theta(\psi_2, \chi_2)(t), \dots, \theta(\psi_r, \chi_r)(t)).$$

So Theorem 4 is just Deligne's Equidistribution Theorem applied to  $\mathcal{G}$ . The "more precisely" estimate results from [Ka–GKM, 3.6.3] and the fact that  $\mathcal{G}$  is lisse on  $\mathbb{A}^1$  and has highest  $\infty$ –slope two.

In more concrete terms, each  $F(\psi_i, \chi_i)(t)$  is the trace of of a conjugacy class in  $SU(2)$ , hence is real and lies in  $[-2, 2]$ . This gives Theorem 1. Theorem 2 is the special case  $r=1$  of Theorem 4, and Theorem 3 is the special case "all  $\psi_i$  equal" of Theorem 4.

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