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of $GL_n(\mathbb{F})$ and its inner forms*

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BLOCK DECOMPOSITION OF THE CATEGORY OF ℓ -MODULAR SMOOTH REPRESENTATIONS OF $GL_n(\mathbb{F})$ AND ITS INNER FORMS

BY VINCENT SÉCHERRE AND SHAUN STEVENS

ABSTRACT. – Let F be a nonarchimedean locally compact field of residue characteristic p , let D be a finite dimensional central division F -algebra and let R be an algebraically closed field of characteristic different from p . To any irreducible smooth representation of $G = GL_m(D)$, $m \geq 1$ with coefficients in R , we can attach a uniquely determined inertial class of supercuspidal pairs of G . This provides us with a partition of the set of all isomorphism classes of irreducible representations of G . We write $\mathcal{R}(G)$ for the category of all smooth representations of G with coefficients in R . To any inertial class Ω of supercuspidal pairs of G , we can attach the subcategory $\mathcal{R}(\Omega)$ made of smooth representations all of whose irreducible subquotients are in the subset determined by this inertial class. We prove that the category $\mathcal{R}(G)$ decomposes into the product of the $\mathcal{R}(\Omega)$'s, where Ω ranges over all possible inertial class of supercuspidal pairs of G , and that each summand $\mathcal{R}(\Omega)$ is indecomposable.

RÉSUMÉ. – Soit F un corps commutatif localement compact non archimédien de caractéristique résiduelle p , soit D une F -algèbre à division centrale de dimension finie et soit R un corps algébriquement clos de caractéristique différente de p . A toute représentation lisse irréductible du groupe $G = GL_m(D)$, $m \geq 1$ à coefficients dans R correspond une classe d'inertie de paires supercuspidales de G . Ceci définit une partition de l'ensemble des classes d'isomorphisme de représentations irréductibles de G . Notons $\mathcal{R}(G)$ la catégorie des représentations lisses de G à coefficients dans R et, pour toute classe d'inertie Ω de paires supercuspidales de G , notons $\mathcal{R}(\Omega)$ la sous-catégorie formée des représentations lisses dont tous les sous-quotients irréductibles appartiennent au sous-ensemble déterminé par cette classe d'inertie. Nous prouvons que $\mathcal{R}(G)$ est le produit des $\mathcal{R}(\Omega)$, où Ω décrit les classes d'inertie de paires supercuspidales de G , et que chaque facteur $\mathcal{R}(\Omega)$ est indécomposable.

Introduction

When considering a category of representations of some group or algebra, a natural step is to attempt to decompose the category into *blocks*; that is, into subcategories which are indecomposable summands. Thus any representation can be decomposed uniquely as a direct sum of pieces, one in each block; any morphism comes as a product of morphisms, one in

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each block; and this decomposition of the category is the finest decomposition for which these properties are satisfied. Then a full understanding of the category is equivalent to a full understanding of all of its blocks.

In the case of representations of a finite group G , over an algebraically closed field R , there is always a block decomposition. In the simplest case, when the characteristic of R is prime to the order of G , this is particularly straightforward: all representations are semisimple so each block consists of representations isomorphic to a direct sum of copies of a fixed irreducible representation. In the general case, there is a well-developed theory, beginning with the work of Brauer and Nesbitt, and understanding the block structure is a major endeavor.

Now suppose G is the group of rational points of a connected reductive algebraic group over a nonarchimedean locally compact field F , of residue characteristic p . When R has characteristic zero, a block decomposition of the category $\mathcal{R}_R(G)$ of smooth R -representations of G was given by Bernstein [1], in terms of the classification of representations of G by their cuspidal support. Any irreducible representation π of G is a quotient of some (normalized) parabolically induced representation $i_M^G \varrho$, with ϱ a cuspidal irreducible representation of a Levi subgroup M of G ; the pair (M, ϱ) is determined up to G -conjugacy by π and is called its *cuspidal support*. Then each such pair (M, ϱ) determines a block, whose objects are those representations of G all of whose subquotients have cuspidal support $(M, \varrho\chi)$, for some unramified character χ of M .

One important tool in proving this block decomposition is the equivalence of the following two properties of an irreducible R -representation π of G :

- π is not a quotient of any properly parabolically induced representation; equivalently, all proper Jacquet modules of π are zero (π is *cuspidal*);
- π is not a *sub*quotient of any properly parabolically induced representation $i_M^G \varrho$ with ϱ an irreducible representation (π is *supercuspidal*).

When R is an algebraically closed field of positive characteristic different from p (the *modular* case), these properties are no longer equivalent and the methods used in the characteristic zero case cannot be applied. Instead, one can attempt to define the *supercuspidal support* of a smooth irreducible R -representation π of G : it is a pair (M, ϱ) consisting of an irreducible supercuspidal representation ϱ of a Levi subgroup M of G such that π is a *sub*quotient of $i_M^G \varrho$. However, for a general group G , it is not known whether the supercuspidal support of a representation is well-defined up to conjugacy; indeed, the analogous question for finite reductive groups of Lie type is also open.

In any case, one can define the notion of an *inertial supercuspidal class* $\Omega = [M, \varrho]_G$: it is the set of pairs (M', ϱ') , consisting of a Levi subgroup M' of G and a supercuspidal representation ϱ' of M' , which are G -conjugate to $(M, \varrho\chi)$, for some unramified character χ of M . Given such a class Ω , we denote by $\mathcal{R}_R(\Omega)$ the full subcategory of $\mathcal{R}_R(G)$ whose objects are those representations all of whose subquotients are isomorphic to a subquotient of $i_{M'}^G \varrho'$, for some $(M', \varrho') \in \Omega$.

The main purpose of this paper is then to prove the following result:

THEOREM. – *Let G be an inner form of $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{F})$ and let R be an algebraically closed field of characteristic different from p . Then there is a block decomposition*

$$\mathcal{R}_R(G) = \prod_{\Omega} \mathcal{R}_R(\Omega),$$

where the product is taken over all inertial supercuspidal classes.

This theorem generalizes the Bernstein decomposition in the case that R has characteristic zero, and also a similar statement, for general R , stated by Vignéras [24] in the split case $G = \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{F})$; however, the authors were unable to follow all the steps in [24] so our proof is independent, even if some of the ideas come from there.

Our proof builds on work of Mínguez and the first author [16, 15], in which they give a classification of the irreducible R -representations of G , in terms of supercuspidal representations, and of the supercuspidal representations in terms of the theory of types. In particular, they prove that supercuspidal support is well-defined up to conjugacy, so that the irreducible objects in $\mathcal{R}_R(\Omega)$ are precisely those with supercuspidal support in Ω .

One question we do not address here is the structure of the blocks $\mathcal{R}_R(\Omega)$. Given the explicit results on supertypes here, it is not hard to construct a progenerator Π for $\mathcal{R}_R(\Omega)$ as a compactly-induced representation; for $G = \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{F})$ this was done (independently) by Guiraud [11] (for level zero blocks) and Helm [12]. Then $\mathcal{R}_R(\Omega)$ is equivalent to the category of $\mathrm{End}_G(\Pi)$ -modules. In the case that R has characteristic zero, the algebra $\mathrm{End}_G(\Pi)$ was described as a tensor product of affine Hecke algebras of type A in [22] (or [7] in the split case); indeed, we use this description in our proof here. For R an algebraic closure $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_{\ell}$ of a finite field of characteristic $\ell \neq p$, and a block $\mathcal{R}_R(\Omega)$ with $\Omega = [\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{F}), \varrho]_{\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{F})}$, Dat [9] has described this algebra; it is an algebra of Laurent polynomials in one variable over the R -group algebra of a cyclic ℓ -group. It would be interesting to obtain a description in the general case.

We now describe the proof of the theorem, which relies substantially on the theory of semisimple types developed in [22] (see [7] for the split case). Given an inner form G of $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{F})$, in [22] the authors constructed a family of pairs $(\mathbf{J}, \boldsymbol{\lambda})$, consisting of a compact open subgroup \mathbf{J} of G and an irreducible complex representation $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$ of \mathbf{J} . This family of pairs $(\mathbf{J}, \boldsymbol{\lambda})$, called semisimple types, satisfies the following condition: for every inertial cuspidal class Ω , there is a semisimple type $(\mathbf{J}, \boldsymbol{\lambda})$ such that the irreducible complex representations of G with cuspidal support in Ω are exactly those whose restriction to \mathbf{J} contains $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$.

In [16], Mínguez and the first author extended this construction to the modular case: they constructed a family of pairs $(\mathbf{J}, \boldsymbol{\lambda})$, consisting of a compact open subgroup \mathbf{J} of G and an irreducible modular representation $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$ of \mathbf{J} , called semisimple supertypes. However, they did not give the relation between these semisimple supertypes and inertial supercuspidal classes of G . In this paper, we prove:

- for each inertial supercuspidal class Ω , there is a semisimple supertype $(\mathbf{J}, \boldsymbol{\lambda})$ such that the irreducible R -representations of G with supercuspidal support in Ω are precisely those which appear as subquotients of the compactly induced representation $\mathrm{ind}_{\mathbf{J}}^G(\boldsymbol{\lambda})$;