

**CELL DECOMPOSITION OF SOME UNITARY GROUP  
RAPOPORT-ZINK SPACES**

XU SHEN

Let  $p > 2$  be a fixed prime,  $\mathbb{Q}_{p^2}|\mathbb{Q}_p$  be a quadratic unramified extension. Let  $(V, \langle, \rangle)$  be a hermitian space over  $\mathbb{Q}_{p^2}$ , and  $G = GU(V, \langle, \rangle)$  be the associated unitary similitude group over  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ . Denote by  $n = \dim_{\mathbb{Q}_{p^2}} V$ , and assume there exists an autodual  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^2}$ -lattice in  $V$ . This implies that  $G$  is unramified. Let  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}$  be an algebraic closure of  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ . Then after fixing a basis of  $V$  we have an isomorphism  $G_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}} \simeq GL_{n\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}} \times \mathbb{G}_{m\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}}$ . Consider the cocharacter  $\mu : \mathbb{G}_{m\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}} \rightarrow G_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}}$ , such that under the above isomorphism it is given by  $z \mapsto (\text{diag}(z, \dots, z, 1), z)$ . Let  $b = b_0 \in B(G, \mu)$  (the Kottwitz set) be the basic element,  $J_b$  be the associated inner form of  $G$ . We remark that if  $n$  is odd, then  $J_b \simeq G$ , and if  $n$  is even  $J_b$  is up to isomorphism the unique non quasi-split inner form of  $G$ .

Let  $W = W(\overline{\mathbb{F}_p}), L = W_{\mathbb{Q}}$ . Consider the associated Rapoport-Zink space  $\widehat{\mathcal{M}}$  over  $\text{Spf}W$ : for any  $S \in \text{Nilp}W, \widehat{\mathcal{M}}(S) = \{(H, \iota, \lambda, \rho)\} / \simeq$ , where  $H$  is a  $p$ -divisible group over  $S$ ,  $\iota$  is a  $\mathbb{Z}_{p^2}$ -action on  $H$  satisfying the determinant condition corresponding to  $\mu$ ,  $\lambda$  is a polarization which is compatible with  $\iota$ , and  $\rho : \mathbb{H}_{\overline{\mathbb{F}_p}} \rightarrow H_{\overline{\mathbb{F}_p}}$  is a quasi-isogeny (cf. [8] for more details). Here  $\mathbb{H}$  is the standard unitary  $p$ -divisible group over  $\overline{\mathbb{F}_p}$ . We consider the Berkovich analytic generic fiber  $\mathcal{M} = \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^{an}$  over  $L$ . As usual, there is in fact a tower of  $L$ -analytic spaces  $(\mathcal{M}_K)_{K \subset G(\mathbb{Z}_p)}$ , where the index set is the open compact subgroups  $K$  of  $G(\mathbb{Z}_p)$  and  $\mathcal{M}_{G(\mathbb{Z}_p)} = \mathcal{M}$ .  $J_b(\mathbb{Q}_p)$  acts naturally on each space  $\mathcal{M}_K$  by modifying the quasi-isogeny, and moreover,  $G(\mathbb{Q}_p)$  acts on the tower  $(\mathcal{M}_K)_{K \subset G(\mathbb{Z}_p)}$  by Hecke correspondences. Note we have the decompositions (cf. [8])

$$\widehat{\mathcal{M}} = \coprod_{i \in \mathbb{Z}, ni \text{ even}} \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^i, \mathcal{M} = \coprod_{i \in \mathbb{Z}, ni \text{ even}} \mathcal{M}^i.$$

To state the theorem, we should fix some data. If  $n$  is even, fix an element  $g_1 \in J_b(\mathbb{Q}_p)$  such that it induces an isomorphism  $\mathcal{M}^0 \rightarrow \mathcal{M}^1$ . We fix also a  $\Lambda \in \mathcal{B}(J_b^{der}, \mathbb{Q}_p)$ , the set of vertices of the Bruhat-Tits building of the derived subgroup  $J_b^{der}$  of  $J_b$ , such that  $t(\Lambda)$  is maximal (cf. [8] for the precise meaning of the function  $t$ ). Let  $\text{Stab}(\Lambda)$  be the stabilizer of  $\Lambda$  in  $J_b^{der}(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ .

**Theorem 1.** *There exists a relatively compact analytic domain  $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathcal{M}^0$ , such that we have a locally finite covering*

$$\mathcal{M} = \bigcup_{\substack{T \in G(\mathbb{Z}_p) \backslash G(\mathbb{Q}_p) / G(\mathbb{Z}_p) \\ g \in J_b^{der}(\mathbb{Q}_p) / \text{Stab}(\Lambda)}} T.g\mathcal{D}$$

if  $n$  is odd, and

$$\mathcal{M} = \bigcup_{\substack{T \in G(\mathbb{Z}_p) \backslash G(\mathbb{Q}_p) / G(\mathbb{Z}_p) \\ g \in J_b^{der}(\mathbb{Q}_p) / \text{Stab}(\Lambda) \\ j=0,1}} T \cdot g g_1^j \mathcal{D}$$

if  $n$  is even.

The proof of this theorem is based some ideas developed in [3] and [4]. In particular we use the theory of Harder-Narasimhan filtration of finite flat group schemes to study the  $p$ -analytic geometry of  $\mathcal{M}$ . The fundamental inequality between Harder-Narasimhan polygon and Newton polygon (Théorème 21 of [4]) can be easily generalized to our case. But we have to modify Fargues's algorithm in [4] a little to produce totally isotropic finite flat group schemes to be compatible with Hecke correspondences. The analytic domain  $\mathcal{D}$  is defined as following. Let  $\mathcal{M}^{ss}$  be the semi-stable locus in  $\mathcal{M}$  (cf. Définition 4 of [4]). Consider

$$\mathcal{C} = \{x \in \mathcal{M} \mid \exists \text{ some finite extension } K' \mid \mathcal{H}(x), \text{ and a finite flat } \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} \text{ - subgroup} \\ \text{scheme } G \subset H_x[p] \text{ over } O_{K'}, \text{ such that } H_x/G \text{ is semi-stable over } O_{K'}\}.$$

Then one can prove that  $\mathcal{C}$  is a closed analytic domain of  $\mathcal{M}$ . Note  $\mathcal{M}^{ss} \subset \mathcal{C}$ . Let  $\Lambda$  be as above, and  $\mathcal{M}_\Lambda \subset \mathcal{M}_{red}^0$  be the associated projective subvariety of the reduced special fiber of  $\widehat{\mathcal{M}}^0$  defined by Vollaard-Wedhorn in [8]. Consider the specialization map  $sp : \mathcal{M}^0 \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{red}^0$ , then  $sp^{-1}(\mathcal{M}_\Lambda)$  is an open subspace of  $\mathcal{M}^0$ . The analytic domain  $\mathcal{D}$  is defined by  $\mathcal{D} := \mathcal{C} \cap sp^{-1}(\mathcal{M}_\Lambda)$ . The relatively compactness of  $\mathcal{D}$  is proved by introducing some special unitary Shimura varieties (cf. [1] and [8]), and the fact that their Harder-Narasimhan stratification and Newton stratification coincide (cf. [6] and [7]). We remark that our methods of proof of the above theorem in some other places are also different from that of [4].

This theorem has many useful applications. First, we have corresponding coverings of the associated  $p$ -adic period domain and Shimura varieties. Second, we have the locally finite coverings for all Rapoport-Zink spaces  $\mathcal{M}_K$  for any open compact subgroup  $K \subset G(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ . By studying the action of regular semi-simple elliptic elements on the coverings of the later, we can verify easily that the conditions of Theorem 3.13 in [5] hold. Thus we can establish a Lefschetz trace formula for some sufficiently large subspaces. For more details, see section 11 of [7]. This formula should be useful for proving the realization of local Jacquet-Langlands correspondence in our case.

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