

# Weight Reduction for Mod $\ell$ Bianchi Modular Forms

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## Abstract

Let  $K$  be an imaginary quadratic field with class number one. We prove that mod  $\ell$ , a system of Hecke eigenvalues occurring in the first cohomology group of some congruence subgroup  $\Gamma$  of  $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathcal{O}_K)$  can be realized, up to twist, in the first cohomology with trivial coefficients after increasing the level of  $\Gamma$  by  $(\ell)$ .

## 1. Motivation and Summary

Let  $\mathbf{G}$  be a connected semisimple algebraic group defined over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Let  $K$  be a maximal compact subgroup of the group of real points  $G = \mathbf{G}(\mathbb{R})$  of  $\mathbf{G}$  and denote by  $X = G/K$  the associated global Riemannian symmetric space. A torsion-free arithmetic subgroup  $\Gamma$  of  $G$  acts properly and freely on  $X$ . In this case, the locally symmetric space  $\Gamma \backslash X$  is an Eilenberg-MacLane space for  $\Gamma$  and the cohomology of  $\Gamma$  is equal to the cohomology of  $\Gamma \backslash X$ . That is

$$H^*(\Gamma, E) \simeq H^*(\Gamma \backslash X, \tilde{E})$$

where  $E$  is a rational finite dimensional representation of  $G$  over  $\mathbb{C}$  and  $\tilde{E}$  is the local system that  $E$  induces on  $\Gamma \backslash X$ . A theorem of Franke [Fr] describes the cohomology spaces  $H^*(\Gamma, E)$  in terms of the automorphic forms attached to  $\mathbf{G}$ . If we take  $\mathbf{G} = \mathbf{SL}_2$ , then the Eichler-Shimura theorem [Sh, Chapter 8] says that the automorphic forms that appear in the cohomology spaces  $H^1(\Gamma, E)$  are the classical modular forms.

Motivated by the above paragraph, we define a *Bianchi modular form* over an imaginary quadratic field  $K$  as an automorphic form attached to  $G = \mathrm{Res}_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathbf{SL}_2)$  that appears in some  $H^1(\Gamma, E(\mathbb{C}))$  where  $\Gamma$  is a congruence subgroup of  $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathcal{O}_K)$  (the level) and  $E(\mathbb{C})$  is a rational finite-dimensional representation of  $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{C})$  over  $\mathbb{C}$  (the weight).

Harris-Soudry-Taylor, Taylor and Berger-Harcos [HST, Ta1, BH], under some hypothesis, were able to attach compatible families of  $\lambda$ -adic Galois representations of  $K$  to Bianchi modular forms in accordance with Langlands philosophy. In the reverse direction, it is natural to ask if mod  $\ell$  Galois representations of  $K$  arise from mod  $\ell$  Bianchi modular forms. We define a *mod  $\ell$  Bianchi modular form* as a cohomology class in some  $H^1(\Gamma, E \otimes \overline{\mathbb{F}}_\ell)$  where  $E$  is a rational finite-dimensional representation of  $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathcal{O}_K/(\ell))$  over  $\mathbb{F}_\ell$ . Unlike the case of the classical modular forms, mod  $\ell$  Bianchi modular forms are not merely reductions of the (char 0) Bianchi modular forms. This is due to the possible torsion in the cohomology with coefficients over  $\mathcal{O}_K$ , see Taylor's thesis [Ta2].

Elstrod-Grunewald-Mennicke [EGM] were the first investigators of the connection between mod  $\ell$  Bianchi modular forms and mod  $\ell$  Galois representations of imaginary quadratic fields. In his paper [Fi], Figueiredo considered an analogue of Serre's conjecture in this setting but he only considered mod  $\ell$  Bianchi modular forms in cohomology spaces with trivial coefficients. Motivated by a result of Ash and Stevens [AS2] for the classical modular forms, he assumed that a Hecke eigenvalue system attached to a mod  $\ell$  Bianchi modular form, after increasing the level, would be attached to another form with trivial weight.

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In this paper, we prove that what Figueiredo assumed is true following the technique used by Ash and Stevens in [AS2]. Our main corollary is as follows

**Corollary 1.1.** *Let  $K$  be an imaginary quadratic field of class number one and  $\mathcal{O}$  be its ring of integers. Let  $\mathfrak{a}$  be an ideal of  $\mathcal{O}$  that is prime to the ideal  $(\ell)$  where  $\ell$  is a rational prime that is split in  $\mathcal{O}$ . Let  $\Phi$  be a Hecke eigenvalue system occuring in  $H^1(\Gamma_1(\mathfrak{a}), E)$  where  $E$  is a finite dimensional  $\mathbb{F}_\ell[GL_2(\mathcal{O}/(\ell))]$ -module. Then  $\Phi$  occurs in  $H^1(\Gamma_1(\mathfrak{a}\ell), \mathbb{F}_\ell)$ , up to twist.*

As an immediate corollary of the above, we get

**Corollary 1.2.** *Mod  $\ell$ , there are only finitely many eigenvalue systems with fixed level.*

Note that due to the possible existence of torsion in the second cohomology with integral coefficients, we cannot in general lift mod  $\ell$  forms to characteristic 0. So this result does not immediately imply mod  $\ell$  congruences between Bianchi modular forms.

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*Notation* Once and for all, fix a quadratic imaginary field  $K$  of class number one and an ideal  $\mathfrak{a}$  of  $\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{O}_K$ . Also fix a rational prime  $\ell$  that is coprime to  $\mathfrak{a}$  and splits in  $\mathcal{O}$  as  $\ell = \lambda\bar{\lambda}$ . Let  $\mathfrak{b}$  be an arbitrary ideal. We use the following notation:

$$\begin{aligned} M_2(\mathcal{O}) &: \text{ matrices in } GL_2(K) \text{ with entries in } \mathcal{O} \\ \Gamma_0(\mathfrak{b}) &: \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in SL_2(\mathcal{O}) : c \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathfrak{b}} \right\} \\ \Gamma_1(\mathfrak{b}) &: \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in SL_2(\mathcal{O}) : c \equiv d - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathfrak{a}} \right\} \\ \Delta &: \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in M_2(\mathcal{O}) : c \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathfrak{a}} \right\} \\ \Delta(\mathfrak{b}) &: \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in M_2(\mathcal{O}) : c \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathfrak{a}\mathfrak{b}} \right\} \\ \Gamma &: \Gamma_1(\mathfrak{a}) \\ \Gamma(\mathfrak{b}) &: \Gamma_1(\mathfrak{a} \cdot \mathfrak{b}) \\ \Gamma^0(\mathfrak{b}) &: \Gamma_1(\mathfrak{a}) \cap \Gamma_0(\mathfrak{b}) \end{aligned}$$

## 2. Hecke Operators on Cohomology

In this section, we describe the Hecke operators on the cohomology. Let  $R$  be a ring and  $\tilde{\alpha} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  where  $\alpha$  is a prime element of  $\mathcal{O}$ . We follow the standart notations and put  $\Gamma_\alpha := \Gamma \cap \tilde{\alpha}^{-1}\Gamma\tilde{\alpha}$  and  $\Gamma^\alpha := \Gamma \cap \tilde{\alpha}\Gamma\tilde{\alpha}^{-1}$ .

Let  $V$  be a right  $R[M_2(\mathcal{O})]$ -module. We define the Hecke operator  $T_\alpha$  on the cohomology as the composition

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H^1(\Gamma, V) & & H^1(\Gamma, V) \\ \downarrow \text{res} & & \uparrow \text{cores} \\ H^1(\Gamma_\alpha, V) & \xrightarrow{\hat{\alpha}} & H^1(\Gamma^\alpha, V) \end{array}$$

where the map  $\hat{\alpha}$  is defined by

$$c \mapsto (g \mapsto c(\alpha^{-1}g\alpha) \cdot \alpha')$$

where  $c$  is a cocycle in  $H^1(\Gamma_\alpha, V)$  and  $\alpha' = \det(\alpha)\alpha^{-1}$ .

One can describe Hecke operators  $T_\alpha$  explicitly: suppose  $\Gamma\alpha\Gamma = \bigsqcup_{i=1}^m \gamma_i\Gamma$ . Given  $g \in \Gamma$  and  $\gamma_i$ , there is a unique  $\gamma_{j(i)}$  such that  $\gamma_{j(i)}^{-1}g\gamma_i \in \Gamma$ . Then

$$(T_\alpha c)(g) = \sum_{1 \leq i \leq m} c(\gamma_{j(i)}^{-1}g\gamma_i) \cdot \gamma_i'$$

for all cocycles  $c$  in  $H^1(\Gamma, V)$  and  $g \in \Gamma$ . We note that this formula agrees with the one given in [AS1, p.194].

We define the *Hecke algebra*  $\mathbb{H}$  as the subalgebra of the endomorphisms algebra of  $H^1(\Gamma, V)$  that is generated by the  $T_\pi$ 's where  $\pi$  is a prime. Note that  $\mathbb{H}$  is a commutative algebra.

The induced module  $Ind(V) = Ind(\Gamma, \Gamma(\mathfrak{b}), V)$  is the set of  $\Gamma(\mathfrak{b})$ -invariant maps from  $\Gamma$  to  $V$ , that is

$$Ind(V) = \{f : \Gamma \rightarrow V \mid f(gh) = f(g) \cdot h \text{ for all } h \in \Gamma(\mathfrak{b})\}.$$

Then  $Ind(V)$  is a right  $\Gamma$ -module with the action  $(f \cdot y)(x) = f(yx)$  for  $x, y \in \Gamma$  and  $f \in Ind(V)$ .

We can extend the  $\Gamma$ -action on  $Ind(V)$  to a right  $\Delta$ -action in the following way. Let  $\alpha \in \Delta$  and  $f \in Ind(V)$  and  $x \in \Gamma$ , then there are  $\beta \in \Delta(\mathfrak{b})$  and  $y \in \Gamma$  such that  $\alpha x = y\beta$ . We define

$$(f \cdot \alpha)(x) = f(y) \cdot \beta.$$

A key tool is Shapiro's lemma:

**Proposition 2.1.** *There is an isomorphism*

$$\theta : H^1(\Gamma, Ind(V)) \rightarrow H^1(\Gamma(\mathfrak{b}), V)$$

given by  $f \mapsto f(I)$  for every cocycle  $f$  in  $H^1(\Gamma, Ind(V))$  where  $I$  denotes the identity matrix. Moreover, the Hecke operators commute with the Shapiro map  $\theta$ .

The fact that the Hecke operators commute with the Shapiro isomorphism  $\theta$  was proved in a more general setting in [AS1]. See also [Wi] for a proof in the case of  $PSL_2(\mathbb{Z})$  using the same construction as ours for the Hecke operators.

A *system of eigenvalues* of  $\mathbb{H}$  with values in a ring  $R$  is a ring homomorphism  $\Phi : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow R$ . We say that an eigenvalue system  $\Phi$  occurs in the  $R\mathbb{H}$ -module  $A$  if there is a nonzero element  $a \in A$  such that  $Ta = \Phi(T)a$  for all  $T$  in  $\mathbb{H}$ .

The following lemma is proved in [AS1, Lemma 2.1].

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $F$  be a field and  $V$  be a  $F\Delta$ -module which is finite dimensional over  $F$ . If an eigenvalue system  $\Phi : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow F$  occurs in  $H^n(\Gamma, V)$ , then  $\Phi$  occurs in  $H^n(\Gamma, W)$  for some irreducible  $F\Delta$ -subquotient  $W$  of  $V$ .*

Thus it is enough to investigate the cohomology with irreducible coefficient modules if we are only interested in the eigenvalue systems. In the next two sections, we discuss the irreducible  $\mathbb{F}_\ell[GL_2(\mathcal{O}/(\ell))]$ -modules.

### 3. The Irreducible Modules

For a nonnegative integer  $k$ , we are interested in the right representation  $\tilde{E}_k$  of  $GL_2$  on  $Sym^k(\mathbf{A}^2)$  where  $\mathbf{A}^2$  is the affine plane. Another model of this representation is given as follows. Given a commutative a ring  $R$ , we have  $E_k(R) \simeq R[x, y]_k$  where the latter is the space of homogeneous degree  $k$  polynomials in two variables over  $R$ . Note that  $\{X^{k-i}Y^i : 0 \leq i \leq k\}$  is an  $R$ -basis of  $E_k(R)$ .

For a polynomial  $P(X, Y)$  in  $E_k(\mathcal{O})$  and a matrix  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$  in  $M_2(\mathcal{O})$ , the above mentioned representation is defined as

$$(P \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix})(X, Y) = P\left(\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \end{pmatrix}\right) = P(aX + bY, cX + dY).$$

The quotient rings  $\mathcal{O}/\lambda$  and  $\mathcal{O}/\bar{\lambda}$  are canonically isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}_\ell$ . Then  $M_2(\mathcal{O})$  acts on  $E_k(\mathbb{F}_\ell)$  in two different ways: through reduction by  $\lambda$  and by  $\bar{\lambda}$ .

In this note, we are interested in the absolutely irreducible representations of  $GL_2(\mathcal{O}/(\ell))$  over  $\mathbb{F}_\ell$ . Given nonnegative  $a, r$ , put

$$E_r^a(\mathbb{F}_\ell) := \det^a \otimes_{\mathbb{F}_\ell} E_r(\mathbb{F}_\ell)$$

It follows from a result of [BN] that the absolutely irreducible representations of  $GL_2(\mathcal{O}/(\ell)) = GL_2(\mathcal{O}/\lambda) \times GL_2(\mathcal{O}/\bar{\lambda})$  over  $\mathbb{F}_\ell$  are

$$E_{r,s}^{a,b}(\mathbb{F}_\ell) := E_r^a(\mathbb{F}_\ell) \otimes_{\mathbb{F}_\ell} E_s^b(\mathbb{F}_\ell) \quad , \quad 0 \leq r, s \leq \ell - 1, \quad 0 \leq a, b \leq \ell - 2$$

These are  $M_2(\mathcal{O})$  modules as well:  $M_2(\mathcal{O})$  acts on the first module through reduction by  $\lambda$  and on the second through reduction by  $\bar{\lambda}$ . For the rest of the paper, we will work over  $\mathbb{F}_\ell$ . So we simply write  $E_{r,s}^{a,b}$ . Moreover, we write  $E_{r,s}$  when  $a = b = 0$ .

Let  $E$  be a  $\mathbb{F}_\ell[M_2(\mathcal{O})]$ -module. Given  $0 \leq a, b \leq l-2$ , we mean by

$$H^*(\Gamma, E)^{(a,b)}$$

the cohomology group  $H^*(\Gamma, E)$  twisted as a Hecke module. More precisely, let  $v$  be an element of  $H^*(\Gamma, E)$ . Denote it as  $v'$  when viewed as an element of  $H^*(\Gamma, E)^{(a,b)}$ . Let  $\tau_1, \tau_2$  be the reduction maps from  $\mathcal{O}$  to  $\mathbb{F}_\ell$  by  $\lambda$  and  $\bar{\lambda}$  respectively. Given a Hecke operator  $T_\pi$ , we have

$$T_\pi(v') = \tau_1(\pi)^a \tau_2(\pi)^b T_\pi(v)$$

As  $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$ -modules  $E_{r,s}^{a,b}$  is the same as  $E_{r,s}$ . The difference occurs when they are considered as Hecke modules. The following observation is immediate.

**Lemma 3.1.** *We have*

$$H^*(\Gamma, E_{r,s}^{a,b}) \simeq H^*(\Gamma, E_{r,s})^{(a,b)}$$

as Hecke modules.

## 4. Induced Modules

As we announced in the introduction we want to go down to trivial weight by increasing the level by  $\ell$ . Thus we are interested in the Hecke module  $H^1(\Gamma(\ell), \mathbb{F}_\ell)$ . We investigate these in this section.

Let  $\chi : \Gamma^0(\ell)/\Gamma(\ell) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_\ell^*$  be a homomorphism. For any  $\mathbb{F}_\ell[\Delta]$ -module  $E$ , we define  $H^*(\Gamma(\ell), \chi, E)$  as the submodule of all  $v \in H^*(\Gamma(\ell), E)$  such that  $v \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = v \cdot \chi(d)$  for every  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma^0(\ell)$ .

We have

$$H^1(\Gamma(\ell), \mathbb{F}_\ell) \simeq \bigoplus_{\chi} H^1(\Gamma(\ell), \chi, \mathbb{F}_\ell) \simeq \bigoplus_{\chi} H^1(\Gamma^0(\ell), (\mathbb{F}_\ell)^\chi)$$

where  $(\mathbb{F}_\ell)^\chi$  is the rank one  $\mathbb{F}_\ell$ -module on which  $\Gamma^0(\ell)$  acts via  $\chi$ . The last isomorphism follows from Lemma 1.1.5 of [AS1]. Using Shapiro's lemma, we relate these to the cohomology of  $\Gamma$ .

$$H^1(\Gamma(\ell), \mathbb{F}_\ell) \simeq \bigoplus_{\chi} H^1(\Gamma, \text{Ind}(\Gamma^0(\ell), \Gamma, (\mathbb{F}_\ell)^\chi)).$$

We follow Ash and Stevens and use the following space of functions in order to study the module  $\text{Ind}(\Gamma^0(\ell), \Gamma, (\mathbb{F}_\ell)^\chi)$ . Let  $I$  be the set of  $\mathbb{F}_\ell$  valued functions on  $\mathbb{F}_\ell^2$  which vanish at the origin. The semigroup  $\Delta$  acts on  $I$  both by reduction by  $\lambda$  and by  $\bar{\lambda}$ . The action is given by

$$(f \cdot M)(a, b) = f((a, b)M^t)$$

for  $f \in I$ ,  $(a, b) \in \mathbb{F}_\ell^2$  and  $M \in \Delta$ .

For each integer  $n$ , let  $I_n$  be the  $\Delta$ -submodule of  $I$  consisting of homogeneous functions of degree  $n$ , that is, the collection of functions  $f \in I$  such that  $f((xa, xb)) = x^n f((a, b))$ . Observe that  $I_k = I_{k+l-1}$ . A function  $f \in I_n$  is determined by its values on the set  $\{(1, 0), \dots, (1, \ell-1), (0, 1)\}$ , which can be identified with  $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{F}_\ell)$ . Thus every  $I_n$  is  $\ell+1$  dimensional. We have the decomposition

$$I \simeq \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\ell-2} I_n.$$

Let  $\chi_1 : (\mathcal{O}/\lambda)^* \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_\ell^*$  and  $\chi_2 : (\mathcal{O}/\bar{\lambda})^* \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_\ell^*$  be the restrictions of the canonical isomorphisms to the units. We have the following isomorphisms of  $\Delta$ -modules

$$\mathrm{Ind}(\Gamma^0(\lambda), \Gamma, (\mathbb{F}_\ell)^{\chi_1^k}) \simeq I_k$$

and

$$\mathrm{Ind}(\Gamma^0(\bar{\lambda}), \Gamma, (\mathbb{F}_\ell)^{\chi_2^k}) \simeq I_k$$

for  $0 \leq k \leq l-2$ . Of course, in the first case  $\Delta$  acts on  $I_k$  via reduction through  $\lambda$  and in the second case via reduction through  $\bar{\lambda}$ .

As the quotient  $\Gamma^0(\ell)/\Gamma(\ell)$  is isomorphic to  $(\mathcal{O}/\ell)^* \simeq (\mathcal{O}/\lambda)^* \times (\mathcal{O}/\bar{\lambda})^*$ , any homomorphism  $\chi : \Gamma^0(\ell)/\Gamma(\ell) \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_\ell^*$  can be written uniquely as a product  $\chi_1^r \cdot \chi_2^s$  for some  $0 \leq r, s \leq l-1$ . In this case, we denote  $\chi$  as  $\chi(r, s)$ .

The following is a straightforward generalization of Lemma 2.6 of [AS2].

**Lemma 4.1.** *Let  $0 \leq r, s \leq l-1$ . Then*

$$H^1(\Gamma, I_r \otimes_{\mathbb{F}_\ell} I_s) \simeq H^1(\Gamma(\ell), \chi(r, s), \mathbb{F}_\ell)$$

as Hecke modules.

*Proof.* As  $\Gamma^0(\ell) \backslash \Gamma \simeq (\Gamma^0(\lambda) \backslash \Gamma) \times (\Gamma^0(\bar{\lambda}) \backslash \Gamma)$ , it follows that

$$\mathrm{Ind}(\Gamma^0(\ell), \Gamma, (\mathbb{F}_\ell)^{\chi(r,s)}) \simeq \mathrm{Ind}(\Gamma^0(\lambda), \Gamma, (\mathbb{F}_\ell)^{\chi_1^r}) \otimes \mathrm{Ind}(\Gamma^0(\bar{\lambda}), \Gamma, (\mathbb{F}_\ell)^{\chi_2^s}).$$

We are done. □

## 5. Exact Sequences

We will need the following two facts, see [AS2, Section 3].

**Lemma 5.1.** *For  $0 \leq r \leq \ell-1$ , there are  $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$ -invariant perfect pairings*

- (1)  $E_r \times E_r \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_\ell$
- (2)  $I_r \times I_{\ell-1-r} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_\ell$

Let  $0 \leq r \leq \ell-1$ . As in [AS2], we consider the following  $SL_2(\mathcal{O})$ -invariant maps. Each polynomial in  $E_r$  can be seen as a function on  $\mathbb{F}_\ell^2$ . This gives us a morphism  $\alpha_r : E_g \rightarrow I_r$ . Let  $\beta_r : I_r \rightarrow E_{\ell-1-r}^r$  be given by

$$\beta_r(f) = \sum_{(a,b) \in \mathbb{F}_\ell^2} f(a,b)(bX - aY)^{\ell-1-r}.$$

**Lemma 5.2.** *For  $0 \leq r \leq \ell-1$ , we have the following exact sequence of  $\Delta$ -modules*

$$0 \longrightarrow E_r \xrightarrow{\alpha_r} I_r \xrightarrow{\beta_r} E_{\ell-1-r}^r \longrightarrow 0$$

**Remark 5.3.** Lemma 5.2 shows that the semisimplification of  $I_r$  is  $E_r \oplus E_{\ell-1-r}^r$ . There is another way to see this. The action of  $\Gamma$  on the induced module factors through the intersection of the principal congruence subgroup of level  $\ell$  and  $\Gamma$ . Thus one can look at  $I_r$  as the induction of the one dimensional representation  $\chi^r$  of the Borel subgroup of  $SL_2(\mathbb{F}_\ell)$  to all of  $SL_2(\mathbb{F}_\ell)$ . One can identify the semisimplification of this  $\ell+1$  dimensional representation by a calculation of Brauer characters. This has been done by Diamond in [Di, Prop 1.1.].

**Definition 5.4.** For given nonnegative integers  $r, s$ , we define the following  $\Delta$ -modules where  $\Delta$  acts on the components of every tensor product through reduction by  $\lambda$  and  $\bar{\lambda}$  respectively.

1.  $I_{r,s} := I_r \otimes I_s$ ;
2.  $U_{r,s} := [E_{\ell-1-r}^r \otimes I_s] \oplus [I_r \otimes E_{\ell-1-s}^s]$ ;
3.  $V_{r,s} := E_{\ell-1-r}^r \otimes E_{\ell-1-s}^s$ .

We have  $\Delta$ -module morphisms

$$\pi : I_{r,s} \rightarrow U_{r,s} \quad \text{defined by} \quad \pi := [\beta_r \otimes \text{id}] \oplus [\text{id} \otimes \beta_s]$$

and

$$\pi' : U_{r,s} \rightarrow V_{r,s} \quad \text{defined by} \quad \pi' := \text{id} \otimes \beta_s - \beta_r \otimes \text{id}.$$

**Lemma 5.5.** *Let the notation be as above. Let  $0 \leq r \leq \ell - 1$  and  $0 \leq s \leq \ell - 1$ . We have the following exact sequence  $\Delta$ -modules:*

$$0 \longrightarrow E_{r,s} \xrightarrow{\iota} I_{r,s} \xrightarrow{\pi} U_{r,s} \xrightarrow{\pi'} V_{r,s} \longrightarrow 0.$$

*Proof.* Note that  $\Delta$ -modules in question are flat since they are also  $\mathbb{F}_\ell$ -vector spaces. So, by Lemma 5.2,  $\iota$  is injective. One can easily see that  $\text{Im}(\iota) \subseteq \text{Ker}(\pi)$  and  $\pi'$  is surjective. Thus, in order to complete the proof, it suffices to show that  $\dim(\text{Im}(\pi)) = (\ell + 1)^2 - (r + 1)(s + 1)$ ; this is what we do below.

Identifying  $E_r$  with its image in  $I_r$ , we can write the vector space decomposition  $I_r = E_r \oplus E_{\ell-1-r}$ . Now, it is evident that  $\dim(\pi(E_r \otimes I_s)) = (r + 1)(\ell - s)$  and that  $\dim(\pi(E_{\ell-1-r} \otimes I_s)) = (\ell - r)(\ell + 1)$ . Elementary linear algebra shows that these images have trivial intersection and this gives us the desired dimension.  $\square$

Setting  $W_{r,s} := \text{ker}(\pi' : U_{r,s} \rightarrow V_{r,s})$ , by Lemma 5.5, we get two short exact sequences

$$0 \longrightarrow E_{r,s} \xrightarrow{\iota} I_{r,s} \xrightarrow{\pi} W_{r,s} \longrightarrow 0 \quad (1)$$

and

$$0 \longrightarrow W_{r,s} \xrightarrow{i} U_{r,s} \xrightarrow{\pi'} V_{r,s} \longrightarrow 0. \quad (2)$$

## 6. Invariants

For convenience, we will write  $\mathbb{F}_\ell(g)$  for the module  $E_{0,0}^{g,g}$  which we defined in Section 3.

**Lemma 6.1.** *For any nonnegative integers  $r, s$ , we have the following isomorphism of Hecke modules*

$$H^0(\Gamma, I_{r,s}) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{F}_\ell(\ell - 1) & \text{if } r \equiv s \equiv 0 \pmod{\ell - 1} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* By Shapiro's Lemma, we have  $H^0(\Gamma, I_{r,s}) \simeq H^0(\Gamma^0(\ell), (\mathbb{F}_\ell)^{\chi(r,s)})$ . In action of  $\Gamma^0(\ell)$  on  $\mathbb{F}_{ell}$  through  $\chi(r,s)$ , either there are no nontrivial invariants or the whole space is fixed which means that  $\chi(r,s)$  acts trivially. By the Chinese Remainder Theorem, this is possible if and only if  $\chi_1^r$  and  $\chi_2^s$  act trivially. Hence the congruence condition of the claim. One can directly check that the Hecke action is as described.  $\square$

**Lemma 6.2.** *Assume  $0 \leq r, s \leq \ell - 1$ . Then, we have the following isomorphism of Hecke modules*

$$H^0(\Gamma, E_{r,s}) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{F}_\ell & \text{if } r = s = 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* The claim is obvious when  $(r, s) = (0, 0)$ . Assume  $(r, s) \neq (0, 0)$  and  $(r, s) \neq (\ell - 1, \ell - 1)$ . Then, the exact sequence (1) induces the following exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(\Gamma, E_{r,s}) \rightarrow H^0(\Gamma, I_{r,s}).$$

By Proposition 6.1,  $H^0(\Gamma, I_{r,s}) = 0$  and so is  $H^0(\Gamma, E_{r,s})$ .

Assume  $(r, s) = (\ell - 1, \ell - 1)$ . We have the isomorphism  $E_{\ell-1, \ell-1} \cong (\mathcal{O}/\ell)[x, y]_{\ell-1}$ . On the other hand, in [Ds], Dickson showed that  $\Gamma$  invariants of  $\bar{E}_*$  is generated by  $X^\ell Y - XY^\ell$  and  $\sum_{i=0}^{\ell} (X^{\ell-i} Y^i)^{\ell-1}$ . This implies that  $H^0(\Gamma, E_{\ell-1, \ell-1}) = 0$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 6.3.** *Let  $0 \leq r, s \leq \ell - 1$ . Then, we have the following isomorphism of Hecke modules*

$$H^0(\Gamma, U_{r,s}) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{F}_\ell(\ell - 1) \oplus \mathbb{F}_\ell(\ell - 1) & \text{if } (r, s) = (\ell - 1, \ell - 1) \\ \mathbb{F}_\ell(\ell - 1) & \text{if } (r, s) = (0, \ell - 1) \text{ or } (\ell - 1, 0) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Set  $U^1 := E_{\ell-1-r}(r) \otimes I_s$  and  $U^2 = I_r \otimes E_{\ell-1-s}(s)$ . Then,  $U_{r,s} = U^1 \oplus U^2$  and  $H^0(\Gamma, U^1) \oplus H^0(\Gamma, U^2)$ .

Assume  $(r, s)$  is not of  $(\ell - 1, \ell - 1)$ ,  $(0, \ell - 1)$  and  $(\ell - 1, 0)$ . Then, tensoring the exact sequence in Lemma 5.2 with  $E_{\ell-1-r}(r)$ , we get the following short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow E_{\ell-1-r}(r) \otimes E_s \longrightarrow U^1 \longrightarrow V_{r,s} \longrightarrow 0.$$

This induces the following long exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow H^0(\Gamma, E_{\ell-1-r}(r) \otimes E_s) \longrightarrow H^0(\Gamma, U^1) \longrightarrow H^0(\Gamma, V_{r,s}).$$

Since  $V_{r,s} \cong E_{\ell-1-r, \ell-1-s}$  as  $\Gamma$ -modules, by Lemma 6.2,  $H^0(\Gamma, V_{r,s}) = 0$ . On the other hand, by Lemma 6.2,  $H^0(\Gamma, E_{\ell-1-r}(r) \otimes E_s) = 0$  and  $H^0(\Gamma, U^1) = 0$ . Likewise, one tensors the exact sequence in Lemma 5.2 with  $E_{\ell-1-s}(s)$  and gets  $H^0(\Gamma, U^2) = 0$ , hence the vanishing of  $H^0(\Gamma, U_{r,s})$ .

Now, assume  $(r, s) = (\ell - 1, 0)$ . Then, by Lemma 6.2,  $H^0(\Gamma, E_{\ell-1-r}(r) \otimes E_s) \cong \mathbb{F}_\ell$  and  $H^0(\Gamma, V_{r,s}) = 0$ . Using the exact sequence of cohomology groups above, we conclude that  $H^0(\Gamma, U^1) \cong \mathbb{F}_\ell$  as vector spaces. Likewise, one gets  $H^0(\Gamma, U^2) = 0$ .

In case  $(r, s) = (0, \ell - 1)$ , one proceeds exactly as above and gets  $H^0(\Gamma, U^1) = 0$  and  $H^0(\Gamma, U^2) = \mathbb{F}_\ell$ .

Finally assume  $(r, s) = (\ell - 1, \ell - 1)$ . In this case,  $H^0(\Gamma, E_{\ell-1-r}(r) \otimes \bar{E}_s) = 0$  and  $H^0(\Gamma, V_{r,s}) \cong \mathbb{F}_\ell$  by Lemma 6.2. One can easily see that  $\pi'|_{U^1} : U^1 \rightarrow V_{r,s}$  is surjective and so  $H^0(\Gamma, U^1) \cong \mathbb{F}_\ell$  as vector spaces. Exactly in the same way, one gets  $H^0(\Gamma, U^2) \cong \mathbb{F}_\ell$  (as vector spaces). One checks the action of the Hecke algebra and completes the proof.  $\square$

**Lemma 6.4.** *Let  $0 \leq r, s \leq \ell - 1$ . Then, we we have the following isomorphism of Hecke modules*

$$H^0(\Gamma, W_{r,s}) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{F}_\ell & \text{if } (r, s) = (\ell - 1, \ell - 1), (0, \ell - 1) \text{ or } (\ell - 1, 0) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* First of all, the exact sequence (2) above induces the following long exact sequence of Hecke modules in cohomology

$$0 \longrightarrow H^0(\Gamma, W_{r,s}) \xrightarrow{i_*} H^0(\Gamma, U_{r,s}) \xrightarrow{\pi'_*} H^0(\Gamma, V_{r,s}) \longrightarrow H^1(\Gamma, W_{r,s}).$$

Assume  $(r, s) = (0, \ell - 1)$  or  $(\ell - 1, 0)$ . Then, by Lemma 6.2,  $H^0(\Gamma, V_{r,s}) = 0$ . The proof immediately follows from Lemma 6.3.

Assume  $(r, s) = (\ell - 1, \ell - 1)$ . Then, by Lemma 6.2,  $H^0(\Gamma, V_{r,s}) \cong \mathbb{F}_\ell$  and, by Lemma 6.3,  $H^0(\Gamma, U_{r,s}) \cong \mathbb{F}_\ell \oplus \mathbb{F}_\ell$ . Using the definition, one can easily see that  $\pi'_*$  is surjective and gets the desired result using the exact sequence of cohomology groups above.

Finally, assume  $(r, s)$  is not equal to one of  $(0, \ell - 1)$ ,  $(\ell - 1, 0)$  and  $(\ell - 1, \ell - 1)$ . Then, by Lemma 6.3,  $H^0(\Gamma, U_{r,s}) = 0$  and, using the exact sequence above, we complete the proof.  $\square$

**Remark 6.5.** One can compute the above invariants using the following approach which was suggested by Gebhard Boeckle. Let  $P(\mathfrak{a})$  stand for the principal congruence subgroup of  $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathcal{O})$  of level  $\mathfrak{a}$ . As  $P(\ell)$  acts trivially on  $E_{r,s}$ ,  $I_{r,s}$  and the direct summands of  $U_{r,s}$ , we get, for instance,  $H^0(\Gamma, E_{r,s}) \simeq H^0(\Gamma/(P(\ell) \cap \Gamma), E_{r,s})$ . Observe that  $\Gamma/(P(\ell) \cap \Gamma) \simeq (\Gamma/(P(\lambda) \cap \Gamma)) \times (\Gamma/(P(\bar{\lambda}) \cap \Gamma))$ . Since we are taking invariants, we get

$$H^0(\Gamma/(P(\ell) \cap \Gamma), E_{r,s}) \simeq H^0(\Gamma/(P(\lambda) \cap \Gamma), E_r) \otimes H^0(\Gamma/(P(\bar{\lambda}) \cap \Gamma), E_s).$$

This gives

$$H^0(\Gamma, E_{r,s}) \simeq H^0(\Gamma, E_r) \otimes H^0(\Gamma, E_s).$$

Now one can follow the proof of Lemma 3.3 of [AS2] to compute these invariants. Same approach applies to Lemmas 6.3 and 6.4 as well.

## 7. Proof Of The Theorem

We are now ready to prove our main result:

**Theorem 7.1.** *Let  $\Phi$  be a Hecke eigenvalue system occurring in  $H^1(\Gamma, E_{r,s}^{a,b})$  for some  $0 \leq a, b \leq l - 2$  and  $0 \leq r, s \leq l - 1$ . Then  $\Phi$  occurs in  $H^1(\Gamma_2, \chi(r, s), \mathbb{F}_\ell)^{(a,b)}$ .*

*Proof.* By Lemma 3.1, we have  $H^1(\Gamma, E_{r,s}^{a,b}) \simeq H^1(\Gamma, E_{r,s})^{(a,b)}$ . Exact sequence (1) induces the following long exact sequence of  $\mathbb{H}$ -modules

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(\Gamma, E_{r,s})^{(a,b)} \xrightarrow{\iota_*} H^0(\Gamma, I_{r,s})^{(a,b)} \xrightarrow{\pi'_*} H^0(\Gamma, W_{r,s})^{(a,b)} \rightarrow H^1(\Gamma, E_{r,s})^{(a,b)} \rightarrow H^1(\Gamma, I_{r,s})^{(a,b)}$$

We claim that the map  $H^1(\Gamma, E_{r,s}) \rightarrow H^1(\Gamma, I_{r,s})$  is injective. Assume that  $(r, s)$  is equal to one of the tuples  $(0, \ell - 1)$ ,  $(\ell - 1, 0)$  or  $(\ell - 1, \ell - 1)$ . Then, by Lemma 6.2,  $H^0(\Gamma, E_{r,s}) = 0$ ; by Lemma 6.1,  $H^0(\Gamma, I_{r,s}) \cong \mathbb{F}_\ell$  and, by Lemma 6.4,  $H^0(\Gamma, W_{r,s}) \cong \mathbb{F}_\ell$  (as vector spaces). By the definition,  $\pi'_*$  is surjective and thus we get the claim. Otherwise, by Lemma 6.4,  $H^0(\Gamma, W_{r,s}) = 0$ .

Now the result follows from Proposition 4.1  $\square$

Let  $\Phi$  be a Hecke eigenvalue system occurring in  $H^1(\Gamma, E)$  where  $E$  is some rational finite dimensional  $\mathbb{F}_\ell[\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathcal{O}/(\ell))]$ -module. Then Lemma 2.2 tells us that  $\Phi$  can be realized in some  $H^1(\Gamma, E_{r,s}^{a,b})$  with  $0 \leq a, b \leq l - 2$  and  $0 \leq r, s \leq l - 1$ . Thus our main theorem implies the followings as we announced in the introduction.

**Corollary 7.2.** *Let  $\Phi$  be a Hecke eigenvalue system occurring in  $H^1(\Gamma_1(\mathfrak{a}), E)$  where  $E$  is a finite dimensional  $\mathbb{F}_\ell[\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathcal{O}/(\ell))]$ -module. Then  $\Phi$  occurs in  $H^1(\Gamma_1(\mathfrak{a}\ell), \mathbb{F}_\ell)$ , up to determinant twist.*

For congruence subgroups of  $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ , the following was first proved by Tate-Serre for level 1 (unpublished), by Jochnowitz [J] for prime levels less than 19 and for arbitrary levels by Ash-Stevens [AS2].

**Corollary 7.3.** *The set of Hecke eigenvalue systems occurring in  $H^1(\Gamma_1(\mathfrak{a}), E)$  for fixed  $\mathfrak{a}$  and varying  $E$ , where  $E$  is a rational finite dimensional  $\mathbb{F}_\ell[\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathcal{O}/(\ell))]$ -module, is finite.*

It is natural to ask whether increasing the level by  $(\ell)$  is optimal. In other words, are there eigenvalue systems with nontrivial weight which have no twists that occur with trivial weight

when the level is increased by  $(\lambda)$  or  $(\bar{\lambda})$ . One can see, by the methods we used in this note, that the answer to this question is positive if  $r = 0$  or  $s = 0$ . It looks like this is the only case where the answer is positive. We present a numerical example to support this speculation.

**Example 7.4.** Let  $\mathcal{O} = \mathbb{Z}(\omega)$  where  $\omega = \sqrt{-2}$ . Using the programs developed by the first author in his doctoral thesis [Sen], we find an eigenform  $v$  in  $H^1(\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathcal{O}), E_{10,10}(\mathbb{F}_{11}))$ . The following table gives eigenvalues  $\Phi_\alpha$  of  $v$  for the first few Hecke operators  $T_\alpha$ .

$\alpha$	$\omega$	$1 + \omega$	$1 - \omega$	$3 + 2\omega$	$3 - 2\omega$	$1 + 3\omega$	$1 - 3\omega$	$3 - 4\omega$	$3 - 4\omega$
$\Phi_\alpha$	9	10	10	9	9	0	0	5	5

Note that we have  $11 = (3 + \omega)(3 - \omega)$ . The spaces  $H^1(\Gamma_0(3 + \omega), \mathbb{F}_{11})$  and  $H^1(\Gamma_0(3 - \omega), \mathbb{F}_{11})$  are isomorphic and they are two dimensional. Our eigenvalue system  $\Phi$  does not occur in these spaces. Next, we examine  $H^1(\Gamma_0(11), \mathbb{F}_{11})$ . We find an eigenvalue system that is the reduction of a characteristic 0 system. Indeed, we find an eigenvector in  $H^1(\Gamma_0(11), \mathcal{O})$  with the following eigenvalues  $\Psi_\alpha$ .

$\alpha$	$\omega$	$1 + \omega$	$1 - \omega$	$3 + 2\omega$	$3 - 2\omega$	$1 + 3\omega$	$1 - 3\omega$	$3 - 4\omega$	$3 - 4\omega$
$\Psi_\alpha$	-2	-1	-1	-2	-2	0	0	-6	-6

Reducing these eigenvalues mod 11, we get an eigenvalue system in  $H^1(\Gamma_0(11), \mathbb{F}_{11})$  that matches (we computed only the first 20 split primes) our level 1 weight  $(10, 10)$  eigenvalue system  $\Phi$ .

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