

GEOMETRY OF THE SIEGEL MODULAR THREEFOLD WITH PARAMODULAR LEVEL STRUCTURE

CHIA-FU YU

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ABSTRACT. In this paper we extend some results of Norman and Oort and of de Jong, and give an explicit description of the geometry of the Siegel modular threefold with paramodular level structure. We also discuss advantages and restrictions of three standard methods for studying moduli spaces of abelian varieties.

1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper we study the arithmetic model of the Siegel modular three-fold with paramodular level structure at a prime p . This is a very special case of geometric objects considered in the works of Norman and Oort [10] and of de Jong [2]. We extend their work and determine the singularities in this case. Our result can be used for computing the cohomology groups of the Siegel 3-fold by the Picard-Lefschetz formula (see [4], Expose XV).

Let p be a rational prime number, $N \geq 3$ a prime-to- p positive integer. We choose a primitive N th root of unity ζ_N in $\overline{\mathbb{Q}} \subset \mathbb{C}$ and an embedding $\overline{\mathbb{Q}} \hookrightarrow \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p$. Let $\mathbf{A}_{2,p,N}$ denote the moduli scheme over $\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[\zeta_N]$ of polarized abelian surfaces (A, λ, η) with polarization degree $\deg \lambda = p^2$ and with a symplectic level- N structure with respect to ζ_N . We denote by $\mathcal{A}_{2,p,N} := \mathbf{A}_{2,p,N} \otimes_{\mathbb{F}_p} \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ the reduction modulo p of the moduli scheme $\mathbf{A}_{2,p,N}$.

In [10] Norman and Oort study the p -rank stratification on Siegel moduli spaces (the case for *principally* polarized abelian varieties was studied earlier in Koblitz [7]), which we recall as follows. An abelian variety over a field K of characteristic p is said to have p -rank f if $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} A[p](\overline{K}) = f$, which is an integer between zero and $\dim A$. Conversely, given any integer $0 \leq f \leq g$, there is a g -dimensional abelian variety with p -rank f . The discrete invariant p -rank defines locally closed subsets in the moduli space; it is showed in [10] that these subsets form a stratification. We now focus on the Siegel 3-fold. For each integer $0 \leq f \leq 2$, let $V_f \subset \mathcal{A}_{2,p,N}$ (resp. $V_{\leq f} \subset \mathcal{A}_{2,p,N}$) be the reduced subscheme consisting of points with p -rank equal to f (resp. equal to or less than f). The ordinary locus, which parametrizes the ordinary abelian varieties, is the p -rank 2 stratum; the non-ordinary locus is $V_{\leq 1}$.

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We have the following fundamental results for $\mathbf{A}_{2,p,N}$ (see [11], Theorem 2.3.3; [10], Theorems 3.1 and 4.1; [2], Theorem 1.12 and Proposition 3.3):

Theorem 1.1. (1) *The structure morphism $\mathbf{A}_{2,p,N} \rightarrow \mathrm{Spec}\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[\zeta_N]$ is flat and a complete intersection morphism of relative dimension 3. The fibers are geometrically irreducible.*

(2) *The stratum V_f is dense in $V_{\leq f}$ and $\dim V_f = 1 + f$ for $f = 0, 1, 2$.*

(3) *The non-ordinary locus $V_{\leq 1}$ has two irreducible components.*

Let $\mathcal{S}_{2,p,N} \subset \mathcal{A}_{2,p,N}$ denote the supersingular locus, which is the reduced closed subscheme over $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ consisting of supersingular abelian varieties. Recall that an abelian variety A in characteristic p is called *supersingular* if it is isogenous to a product of supersingular elliptic curves over an algebraically closed field k ; it is called *superspecial* if it is isomorphic to a product of supersingular elliptic curves over k . Since any abelian surface of p -rank zero is supersingular, the supersingular locus $\mathcal{S}_{2,p,N}$ is the same as V_0 . Let $\Lambda_{2,1,N} \subset \mathcal{A}_{2,1,N}(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$ be the set of superspecial points in the moduli space $\mathcal{A}_{2,1,N}$ of principally polarized abelian surfaces with level- N structure. Let $\Lambda \subset \mathcal{S}_{2,p,N}(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$ be the subset consisting of superspecial points (A, λ, η) such that $\ker \lambda \simeq \alpha_p \times \alpha_p$. The following is a description of the supersingular locus (see [15], Theorem 4.7):

Theorem 1.2. (1) *The scheme $\mathcal{S}_{2,p,N}$ is equi-dimensional, and each irreducible component is isomorphic to \mathbf{P}^1 over $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$.*

(2) *The scheme $\mathcal{S}_{2,p,N}$ has $|\Lambda_{2,1,N}|$ irreducible components.*

(3) *The singular locus of $\mathcal{S}_{2,p,N}$ is the subset Λ . Moreover, at each singular point there are $p^2 + 1$ irreducible components passing through and any two of them intersect transversely.*

See [15], Corollary 3.3 and Theorem 4.1, for a precise formula for $|\Lambda_{2,1,N}|$ and $|\Lambda|$, respectively.

In this paper we prove the following:

Theorem 1.3. *The moduli scheme $\mathbf{A}_{2,p,N}$ is regular and smooth over $\mathrm{Spec}\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[\zeta_N]$ exactly away from the subset Λ . At each singular point x (in Λ) in the special fiber $\mathcal{A}_{2,1,N}$, the formal completion of the local ring at x is isomorphic to*

$$W(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)[[z_{11}, z_{12}, z_{21}, z_{22}]]/(p + z_{11}z_{22} - z_{12}z_{21}),$$

where $W(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$ is the ring of Witt vectors over $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$. Consequently, the moduli space $\mathcal{A}_{2,p,N}$ is normal.

Theorem 1.3 improves Theorem 1.1 (1). Theorems 1.1–1.3 provide a good understanding of the geometry of the moduli scheme $\mathbf{A}_{2,p,N}$. As the singularities are non-degenerate ordinary double points, one can use the Picard-Lefschetz formula to compute the cohomology groups of the moduli space $\mathbf{A}_{2,p,N}$. We intend to continue the work along this direction.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we study the singularity of the moduli scheme using the crystalline theory when $p > 2$. We also discuss the classification of deformations of non-degenerate double points. In Section 3 we determine the singularity of the moduli scheme using the local model for arbitrary residue characteristic. In Section 4 we explain that some higher terms of the defining equation in Norman's first example in [9] are required in order to describe the non-ordinary locus.

Notation. For any ring R , any R -module M and any subset S of M , we denote by $\langle S \rangle_R$, or simply $\langle S \rangle$ as long as the ground ring R is understood, the R -submodule generated by S .

2. SINGULARITIES USING THE CRYSTALLINE THEORY

In this section we use the crystalline theory to determine the singularities of the moduli scheme $\mathbf{A}_{2,p,N}$ for $p > 2$. Standard references for the Grothendieck-Messing deformation theory are [6] and [8].

2.1. The smooth locus of $\mathbf{A}_{2,p,N}$. Let k be an algebraically closed field of characteristic p . Let $W := W(k)$ be the ring of Witt vectors over k , and let $B(k)$ be the fraction field of $W(k)$. Let σ be the Frobenius map on W and $B(k)$, respectively. In this paper we use the covariant Dieudonné theory. Let A be an abelian variety over k . Denote by $M(A)$ the (covariant) Dieudonné module of A , while the classical Dieudonné functor is denoted by M^* . The Dieudonné module $M(A)$ is canonically isomorphic to the dual $[M^*(A)]^t$ of the classical Dieudonné module $M^*(A)$ of A . We recall that for any Dieudonné module M , the dual Dieudonné module M^t of M is defined as $\text{Hom}_W(M, W(1))$ together with natural operations by F and V . If M is the Dieudonné module of an abelian variety A , then M^t is naturally isomorphic to the Dieudonné module of the dual abelian variety A^t . If M is equipped with a quasi-polarization, then it is convenient to identify M^t with the dual lattice of M in $M_{B(k)} = M \otimes_W B(k)$ with respect to the alternating pairing. The Dieudonné modules considered here are finite and free as W -modules.

For convenience of discussion, we introduce the following definition.

Definition 2.1. A point (A, λ, η) in $\mathbf{A}_{2,p,N}(k)$ is called *Lagrangian* if there exists a W -basis X_1, X_2, Y_1, Y_2 for $M = M(A)$ such that $Y_1, Y_2 \in VM$,

$$\langle X_1, Y_1 \rangle = -\langle Y_1, X_1 \rangle = 1, \quad \langle X_2, Y_2 \rangle = -\langle Y_2, X_2 \rangle = p,$$

and the other pairings are zero.

Remark 2.2. An equivalent definition (for general Siegel moduli spaces) is that a quasi-polarized Dieudonné module M is called Lagrangian if there is a maximally isotropic W -sublattice $L \subset M$ such that L is co-torsion free and contained in VM . This is also equivalent to the condition that the corresponding polarized abelian variety can be lifted over W (cf. [14]).

Lemma 2.3. *If $x = (A, \lambda, \eta) \in \mathbf{A}_{2,p,N}(k)$ is a Lagrangian point, then the moduli space $\mathbf{A}_{2,p,N}$ is smooth at x .*

Proof. We choose a W -basis X_1, X_2, Y_1, Y_2 for $M = M(A)$ as in Definition 2.1. We compute the Hodge filtration Fil of $H_1^{\text{DR}}(A) = M/pM$:

$$\text{Fil} = VM/pM = \langle Y_1, Y_2 \rangle_k.$$

Let R be the first order deformation ring of $(M, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$. The first order universal deformation of M over R , by the Grothendieck-Messing deformation theory, is given by $\widetilde{\text{Fil}} = \langle \widetilde{Y}_1, \widetilde{Y}_2 \rangle_R$, where

$$\widetilde{Y}_1 = Y_1 + t_{11}X_1 + t_{12}X_2, \quad \widetilde{Y}_2 = Y_2 + t_{21}X_1 + t_{22}X_2,$$

and R is a quotient of

$$W(k)[[t_{11}, t_{12}, t_{21}, t_{22}]]/\mathfrak{m}^2, \quad \mathfrak{m} := (p, t_{11}, t_{12}, t_{21}, t_{22}),$$

the first order deformation ring of M (without polarization). One computes $\langle \tilde{Y}_1, \tilde{Y}_2 \rangle = -t_{21} + pt_{12}$. This shows that

$$R = W(k)[[t_{11}, t_{12}, t_{21}, t_{22}]]/((-t_{21} + pt_{12}) + \mathfrak{m}^2),$$

and hence the smoothness. □

At least in the equi-characteristic situation, Lemma 2.3 is a special case of [1], Theorem 3.2.2.

Recall that the a -number of a Dieudonné module M over k , which is denoted by $a(M)$, is defined to be $\dim_k M/(F, V)M$. Similarly, define $a(A) := a(M(A))$ to be the a -number of an abelian variety A .

Let $x = (A, \lambda, \eta)$ be a point in $\mathbf{A}_{2,p,N}(k)$ and let M be the associated quasi-polarized Dieudonné module. We have the following cases:

- (i) $\mathbf{a}(\mathbf{A}) \leq 1$. It follows from [10], Theorem 2.3.3 that x is a Lagrangian point.
- (ii) $\mathbf{a}(\mathbf{A}) = 2$. In this case A is superspecial. It is not hard to classify such Dieudonné modules. There are two possibilities (notice that k is algebraically closed):

(iia) There is a W -basis X_1, X_2, Y_1, Y_2 for M with the following properties:

$$\begin{aligned} FX_1 &= Y_1, & FY_1 &= -pX_1, & FX_2 &= Y_2, & FY_2 &= -pX_2, \\ \langle X_1, Y_1 \rangle &= -\langle Y_1, X_1 \rangle = 1, & \langle X_2, Y_2 \rangle &= -\langle Y_2, X_2 \rangle = p, \end{aligned}$$

and the remaining pairings are zero.

(iib) There is a W -basis X_1, X_2, Y_1, Y_2 for M with the following properties:

$$\begin{aligned} FX_1 &= Y_1, & FY_1 &= pX_1, & FX_2 &= Y_2, & FY_2 &= pX_2, \\ \langle X_1, X_2 \rangle &= -\langle X_2, X_1 \rangle = 1, & \langle Y_1, Y_2 \rangle &= -\langle Y_2, Y_1 \rangle = p, \end{aligned}$$

and the remaining pairings are zero.

Lemma 2.4. *A point $x = (A, \lambda, \eta)$ of $\mathbf{A}_{2,p,N}(k)$ lies in the case (iib) above if and only if it lies in the finite set Λ .*

Proof. Recall that if H is the kernel of an isogeny $\varphi : A \rightarrow B$, then the Dieudonné module $M(B)/M(A)$ is isomorphic to $M^*(H^D)$, where H^D is the Cartier dual of H . One only needs to consider the case (ii) as the a -number is equal to 2 for any member in Λ . In the case (iia), one has

$$M^t = \langle X_1, Y_1, \frac{1}{p}X_2, \frac{1}{p}Y_2 \rangle.$$

We have $FM^t \not\subset M$ and $VM^t \not\subset M$. Therefore, $\ker \lambda \not\subseteq \alpha_p \times \alpha_p$.

In the case (iib), one has

$$M^t = \langle X_1, X_2, \frac{1}{p}Y_1, \frac{1}{p}Y_2 \rangle.$$

We have $FM^t \subset M$ and $VM^t \subset M$. Therefore, $\ker \lambda \simeq \alpha_p \times \alpha_p$. This proves the lemma. □

Note that the point x in the case (iia) is Lagrangian. We will show (Lemma 2.10) that the moduli space has singularities at points in the case (iib). It follows from Lemma 2.2 that the point x in the case (iib) is not Lagrangian.

From the discussions above, we have proven

Proposition 2.5. *The smooth locus of the structure morphism $\mathbf{A}_{2,p,N} \rightarrow \text{Spec}\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}[\zeta_N]$ is the complement of the finite subset Λ .*

2.2. Classification of non-degenerate double points. Recall that a quadratic form $Q(x)$ over a local ring A is called *non-degenerate* if the associated bilinear form

$$B(x, y) := Q(x + y) - Q(x) - Q(y)$$

is a perfect pairing. We show the following:

Proposition 2.6. *Let A be a complete Noetherian local ring with separably closed residue field k , and let \mathfrak{m}_A be its maximal ideal. Let $R := A[[x_1, \dots, x_n]]$ be the ring of formal power series over A , \mathfrak{m}_R its maximal ideal, and let $f(x) \in R$. Suppose*

$$(2.1) \quad f(x) \equiv a + Q(x) \pmod{\mathfrak{m}_R^3},$$

where a is an element in \mathfrak{m}_A and $Q(x)$ is a non-degenerate quadratic form. Then there is an isomorphism

$$R/(f(x)) \simeq R/(a'u + Q'(x)),$$

where $Q'(x)$ is any non-degenerate quadratic form over A , a' is an element in \mathfrak{m}_A such that $a' \equiv a \pmod{\mathfrak{m}_A^3}$, and u is any unit in A .

Since A is strictly Henselian, any two non-degenerate quadratic forms are equivalent. We may take $Q'(x)$ to be the standard split form. By rescaling half of the variables by suitable units in A , one shows that

$$R/(a'u + Q'(x)) \simeq R/(a' + Q'(x)).$$

Lemma 2.7. *Let $R := A[[x_1, \dots, x_n]]$ be the ring of formal power series over a local ring A . Let I be the ideal of R generated by x_1, \dots, x_n and $f(x)$ be an element of R . Suppose that*

$$(2.2) \quad f(x) \equiv a + Q(x) \pmod{I^3},$$

where $Q(x)$ is a non-degenerate quadratic form and $a \in \mathfrak{m}_A$. Then there is an isomorphism

$$R/(f(x)) \simeq R/(a + Q(x)).$$

Proof. This is [5], Chapter III, Proposition 2.3. □

Lemma 2.8. *Let A be a complete Noetherian local ring and \mathfrak{m}_A be its maximal ideal. Let R , \mathfrak{m}_R , I , and $f(x)$ be as before. Suppose that*

$$(2.3) \quad f(x) \equiv a + \sum_{i=1}^n a_i x_i + Q(x) \pmod{I^3},$$

where a, a_i are elements in \mathfrak{m}_A , and $Q(x)$ is a non-degenerate quadratic form over A . Then there is an isomorphism

$$(2.4) \quad R/(f(x)) \simeq R/(a' + Q'(x))$$

for some element $a' \in \mathfrak{m}_A$ and some non-degenerate quadratic form $Q'(x)$.

Proof. This is [5], Chapter III, Proposition 2.4. We sketch the proof since it will be used to prove Proposition 2.6. We will find an element $b = (b_1, \dots, b_n)$ with $b_i \in \mathfrak{m}_A$ such that the linear term of $f(x + b)$ vanishes and apply Lemma 2.7. We have

$$(2.5) \quad f(x + b) \equiv f(b) + \sum_{i=1}^n a_i x_i + B(x, b) + L_b(x) + Q'(x) \pmod{I^3},$$

where $L_b(x)$ is a linear form with coefficients in the ideal $(b_1, \dots, b_n)^2$ and $Q'(x)$ is a quadratic form with $Q'(x) \equiv Q(x) \pmod{\mathfrak{m}_A}$. Since B is non-degenerate, there exists an element b such that the linear term vanishes. This proves the lemma. \square

Remark 2.9. (1) If $a_i \in \mathfrak{m}_A^r$ for all i , where r is a positive integer, then each component $b_i \in \mathfrak{m}_A^r$ and hence $a' = f(b) \equiv a \pmod{\mathfrak{m}_A^{2r}}$.

(2) The information $a' \equiv a \pmod{\mathfrak{m}_A^3}$ in Proposition 2.6, which is not provided in [5], Chapter III, Proposition 2.4 (Lemma 2.8), is required in the proof of the main theorem.

Proof of Proposition 2.6. Condition (2.1) implies that

$$(2.6) \quad f(x) \equiv a' + \sum_{i=1}^n a_i x_i + Q'(x) \pmod{I^3},$$

such that $a' \equiv a \pmod{\mathfrak{m}_A^3}$, each $a_i \in \mathfrak{m}_A^2$ and $Q'(x) \equiv Q(x) \pmod{\mathfrak{m}_A}$. By Lemma 2.8, we have, for an appropriate element b ,

$$f(x + b) \equiv a'' + Q''(x) \pmod{I^3},$$

where a'' is an element in \mathfrak{m}_A such that $a'' \equiv a' \pmod{\mathfrak{m}_A^4}$ (since $a_i \in \mathfrak{m}_A^2$, see Remark 2.9) and $Q''(x) \equiv Q'(x) \pmod{\mathfrak{m}_A}$. Therefore, by Lemma 2.7,

$$R/(f(x)) \simeq R/(a'' + Q''(x)),$$

where $Q''(x)$ is a non-degenerate quadratic form and a'' is an element in \mathfrak{m}_A such that $a'' \equiv a \pmod{\mathfrak{m}_A^3}$. \square

2.3. Singularities of $\mathbf{A}_{2,p,N}$. Let $x = (A, \lambda, \eta)$ be a point in $\Lambda \subset \mathcal{A}_{2,p,N}(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$. Let M be the associated quasi-polarized Dieudonné module. By Lemma 2.4, we choose a W -basis X_1, X_2, Y_1, Y_2 for M as in the case (iib). It is easy to compute that the Hodge filtration $\text{Fil} \subset H_1^{DR}(A)$ is equal to $\langle Y_1, Y_2 \rangle_k$, where $k = \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$. Let R^u be the universal deformation ring of the quasi-polarized Dieudonné module M . It follows from Theorem 1.1 (1) that

$$R^u = R/(f), \quad R := W[[t_{11}, t_{12}, t_{21}, t_{22}]]$$

for some power series f . By the Grothendieck-Messing deformation theory, the universal deformation of M over $R^u/\mathfrak{m}_{R^u}^p$ is given by

$$\widetilde{\text{Fil}} = \langle \widetilde{Y}_1, \widetilde{Y}_2 \rangle_{R^u/\mathfrak{m}_{R^u}^p} \subset H_1^{crys}(A/(R^u/\mathfrak{m}_{R^u}^p)),$$

which is isotropic with respect to \langle, \rangle , where

$$\widetilde{Y}_1 = Y_1 + t_{11}X_1 + t_{12}X_2, \quad \widetilde{Y}_2 = Y_2 + t_{21}X_1 + t_{22}X_2.$$

One computes the relation $\langle \widetilde{Y}_1, \widetilde{Y}_2 \rangle = t_{11}t_{22} - t_{12}t_{21} + p = 0$ in R^u . This implies that

$$(2.7) \quad f \equiv p + (t_{11}t_{22} - t_{12}t_{21}) \pmod{\mathfrak{m}_{R^u}^p}.$$

This shows the following:

Lemma 2.10. *If $x \in \Lambda$, then the moduli space $\mathcal{A}_{2,p,N}$ is not smooth at x .*

Theorem 2.11. *Assume $p > 2$. Let $x = (A, \lambda, \eta)$ be a point in Λ . The formal completion of the local ring of $\mathbf{A}_{2,p,N}$ at x is isomorphic to*

$$W(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)[[z_{11}, z_{12}, z_{21}, z_{22}]]/(p + z_{11}z_{22} - z_{12}z_{21}).$$

Proof. This follows immediately from Proposition 2.6 and (2.7). □

3. SINGULARITIES USING THE LOCAL MODEL METHOD

In this section we use the method of local models to determine the singularities of the moduli scheme $\mathbf{A}_{2,p,N}$, including the case where $p = 2$. Our references are de Jong [3] and Rapoport-Zink [12].

3.1. Local model diagrams. Let $\Lambda_1 := \mathbb{Z}_p^4$ and e_1, \dots, e_4 be the standard basis. Let ψ be the alternating pairing on Λ_1 so that its representing matrix with respect to the standard basis is

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & I' \\ -I' & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad I' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & p \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

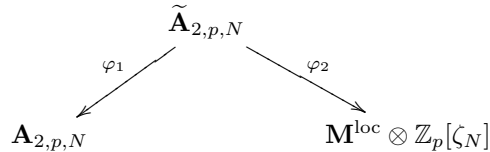
Let \mathbf{M}^{loc} be the local model associated to the lattice Λ_1 . This is the projective scheme over \mathbb{Z}_p representing the following functor. For any \mathbb{Z}_p -scheme S , the set $\mathbf{M}^{\text{loc}}(S)$ of its S -valued points is the set of locally free \mathcal{O}_S -submodules $\mathcal{F} \subset \Lambda_1 \otimes \mathcal{O}_S$, locally on S direct summands of $\Lambda_1 \otimes \mathcal{O}_S$, which are isotropic with respect to the pairing ψ .

Let $\widetilde{\mathbf{A}}_{2,p,N}$ be the moduli space over $\mathbb{Z}_p[\zeta_N]$ parameterizing equivalence classes of objects (\underline{A}, ξ) , where \underline{A} is an object in $\mathbf{A}_{2,p,N}$ and

$$\xi : H_1^{\text{DR}}(A/S) \simeq \Lambda_1 \otimes \mathcal{O}_S$$

is an isomorphism which preserves the polarizations. Write $\widetilde{\mathbf{A}}_{2,p,N}$ for the reduction $\widetilde{\mathbf{A}}_{2,p,N} \otimes \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ modulo p .

Let \mathcal{G} be the group scheme over \mathbb{Z}_p representing the functor $S \mapsto \text{Aut}(\Lambda_1 \otimes \mathcal{O}_S, \psi)$. This group acts on the schemes $\mathbf{A}_{2,p,N}$ and \mathbf{M}^{loc} from the left. We have the following (local model) diagram:



where

- φ_2 is the morphism that sends each object (\underline{A}, ξ) to the image $\xi(\omega)$ of the Hodge submodule $\omega \subset H_1^{\text{DR}}(A/S)$, and
- φ_1 is the morphism that forgets the trivialization ξ .

We know that

- (i) the morphism φ_2 is \mathcal{G} -equivalent, surjective and smooth, and has the same relative dimension as φ_1 does, and
- (ii) the morphism $\varphi_1 : \widetilde{\mathbf{A}}_{2,p,N} \rightarrow \mathbf{A}_{2,p,N}$ is a \mathcal{G} -torsor.

3.2. Singularities of $\mathbf{A}_{2,p,N}$. Let $x = (A, \lambda, \eta)$ be a point in $\Lambda \subset \mathcal{A}_{2,p,N}(k)$, where $k = \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$. Let M be the associated quasi-polarized Dieudonné module. By Lemma 2.4, we choose a W -basis X_1, X_2, Y_1, Y_2 for M as in the case (iib). We choose a trivialization ξ which sends Y_1, X_1, X_2, Y_2 to e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4 , respectively. This defines a point $y \in \widetilde{\mathcal{A}}_{2,p,N}$ mapping to x . We put $z = \varphi_2(y) \in \mathbf{M}^{\text{loc}}(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$, which is given by

$$\langle e_1, e_4 \rangle_k \subset \Lambda_1 \otimes k.$$

Around the point z we choose the same coordinates as in Subsection 2.3 so that an affine open chart \mathcal{U} is

$$\text{Spec}W[t'_{11}, t'_{12}, t'_{21}, t'_{22}]/(p + t'_{11}t'_{22} - t'_{12}t'_{21}).$$

Let R_x (resp. R_y and R_z) be the completion of the local ring of $\mathcal{A}_{2,p,N}$ at x (resp. of $\widetilde{\mathcal{A}}_{2,p,N}$ at y and of \mathbf{M}^{loc} at z). We have

$$(3.1) \quad R_x[[t_1, t_2, t_3]] \simeq R_y \simeq R_z[[s_1, s_2, s_3]]$$

and

$$R_z = W[[t'_{11}, t'_{12}, t'_{21}, t'_{22}]]/(p + t'_{11}t'_{22} - t'_{12}t'_{21}).$$

By [3], Lemma 4.7, there is an isomorphism

$$(3.2) \quad R_x \simeq R_z = W[[t'_{11}, t'_{12}, t'_{21}, t'_{22}]]/(p + t'_{11}t'_{22} - t'_{12}t'_{21}).$$

This shows Theorem 1.3.

Remark 3.1.

(1) Using local models is a very effective method for computing local moduli spaces. However, one can apply it only in the special cases when the kernels of polarizations are annihilated by $[p]$.

(2) The isomorphism (3.2) is obtained by a successive approximation. Therefore, we were not able to tell whether the coordinates t'_{ij} are global ones near the point x . Lemma 4.1 shows some evidence that they might not be the global coordinates near the singularities.

4. SOME FINE INFORMATION FROM THE CARTIER THEORY

As experts all know that there is another important tool for computing local moduli spaces – using the Cartier theory, we discuss our situation with this method. First of all, the method works exclusively only in characteristic p ; namely, the best information we can get is the local moduli spaces modulo p . In [9] Norman established the theoretic background for an algorithm for computing local moduli spaces. In principle the algorithm can only compute the coordinate ring of the universal deformation space modulo a specific power of the maximal ideal. However, since the singularity is determined by its sufficiently well approximation, one would be able to determine the singularity eventually. Norman gave two examples in [9], and the first example is exactly the case of $\mathcal{A}_{2,p,N}$ at points in Λ .

Let M be the Dieudonné module associated to a point x in Λ . We can choose a basis $\{e_i\}$ for M so that (cf. (iib))¹

$$(4.1) \quad \begin{aligned} Fe_1 &= e_3, & Fe_2 &= e_4, \\ e_3 &= Ve_1, & e_4 &= Ve_2, \end{aligned}$$

¹We use the same notation as in [9] except that t_{ij} and T_{ij} are switched. This choice may make it easier for the reader who is interested in reading the calculation in [9]. The correspondence with the basis in (iib) is e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4 corresponding to X_1, X_2, Y_1, Y_2 , respectively.

and that the quasi-polarization P from M to its dual M^t is given by

$$P(e_1) = -f_2, \quad P(e_2) = f_1,$$

where $\{f_i\}$ is the dual basis for M^t . It is easy to see that

$$\begin{aligned} f_1 &= Vf_3, & f_2 &= Vf_4, \\ Ff_3 &= f_1, & Ff_4 &= f_2, \end{aligned}$$

and that

$$P(e_3) = -pf_4, \quad P(e_4) = pf_3.$$

Using the theory of displays, one constructs the equi-characteristic universal deformation \widetilde{M} over the universal deformation ring $R_0 = k[[t_{11}, t_{12}, t_{21}, t_{22}]]$, which is generated by $\{e_i\}$ over the Cartier ring $\text{Cart}_p(R_0)$ (the ring A_{R_0} in [9]) with the following relations:

$$(4.2) \quad \begin{aligned} Fe_1 &= e_3 + T_{11}e_1 + T_{12}e_2, \\ Fe_2 &= e_4 + T_{21}e_1 + T_{22}e_2, \\ e_3 &= Ve_1, \\ e_4 &= Ve_2, \end{aligned}$$

where $T_{ij} = [t_{ij}]$ is the Teichmüller lifting of t_{ij} . Let $f \in R_0$ be the defining equation (up to a unit) of the maximal closed formal subscheme over which the quasi-polarization P extends. Norman showed that (when $p > 2$):

$$(4.3) \quad f = t_{11}t_{22} - t_{12}t_{21} + r(t), \quad \text{for some } r(t) \in (t_{ij})^p.$$

Since the singularity of $R_0/(f)$ is determined by its leading term, one computes the local moduli space in characteristic p . However, if one would like to know the non-ordinary locus of the local moduli space, then the calculation of the remaining term $r(t)$ is required; see the following lemma.

Lemma 4.1. *The non-ordinary locus of the local moduli space $\text{Spec}R_0/(f)$ is $\text{Spec}R_0/(t_{11}t_{22} - t_{12}t_{21}, f) = \text{Spec}R_0/(t_{11}t_{22} - t_{12}t_{21}, r(t))$.*

Proof. The Frobenius map on the tangent space $\widetilde{M}/V\widetilde{M}$ of the universal deformation \widetilde{M} is given by

$$Fe_1 = t_{11}e_1 + t_{12}e_2, \quad Fe_2 = t_{21}e_1 + t_{22}e_2.$$

Therefore, the defining equation of the non-ordinary locus is $t_{11}t_{22} - t_{12}t_{21}$. \square

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INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICS, ACADEMIA SINICA, ASTRONOMY-MATHEMATICS BUILDING, 6TH FLOOR, NO. 1, ROOSEVELT ROAD, SEC. 4, TAIPEI, TAIWAN – AND – NCTS (TAIPEI OFFICE)
E-mail address: chiafu@math.sinica.edu.tw