

Algebraic Geometry

# The $A$ -module structure induced by a Drinfeld $A$ -module of rank 2 over a finite field

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## Abstract

Let  $\mathbf{F}_q$  be a finite field and let  $L/\mathbf{F}_q$  be a finite extension. Let  $\mathbf{F}$  be the Frobenius of  $L$  ( $\mathbf{F}: x \mapsto x^{\#L}$ ) and let  $(P)$  be the  $\mathbf{F}[T]$ -characteristic of  $\mathbf{F}$ . Let  $m$  be the degree of the extension  $L/\mathbf{F}_q[T]/(P)$ . There exists then  $c \in \mathbf{F}_q[T]$  and  $\mu \in \mathbf{F}_q$  such that the characteristic polynomial  $P_{\mathbf{F}}$  of  $\mathbf{F}$  is equal to  $P_{\mathbf{F}}(X) = X^2 - cX + \mu P^m$ . Our main result is an analogue of Deuring's Theorem on elliptic curves: let  $M = \frac{\mathbf{F}_q[T]}{(i_1)} \oplus \frac{\mathbf{F}_q[T]}{(i_2)}$ , where  $i_1$  and  $i_2$  are two polynomials of  $\mathbf{F}_q[T]$  such that  $i_2 \mid i_1$  and  $i_2 \mid (c - 2)$ , there exists an ordinary Drinfeld  $\mathbf{F}_q[T]$ -module  $\Phi$  of rank 2 over  $L$  such that the structure of the finite  $\mathbf{F}_q[T]$ -module  $L^\Phi$  induced by  $\Phi$  over  $L$  is isomorphic to  $M$ . **To cite this article:** *M.-S. Mohamed-Ahmed, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 346 (2008)*.

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## Résumé

**La structure de  $A$ -module induite sur un  $A$ -module de Drinfeld de rang 2 sur un corps fini.** Soit  $\mathbf{F}_q$  un corps fini et  $L/\mathbf{F}_q$  une extension finie. Soit  $\mathbf{F}$  le Frobenius de  $L$  ( $\mathbf{F}: x \mapsto x^{\#L}$ ) et  $(P)$  la  $\mathbf{F}[T]$ -caractéristique de  $\mathbf{F}$ . Soit  $m$  le degré de l'extension  $L/\mathbf{F}_q[T]/(P)$ . Il existe alors  $c \in \mathbf{F}_q[T]$  et  $\mu \in \mathbf{F}_q$  tels que le polynôme caractéristique  $P_{\mathbf{F}}$  de  $\mathbf{F}$  soit égal à  $P_{\mathbf{F}}(X) = X^2 - cX + \mu P^m$ . Notre résultat principal est un parfait analogue du théorème de Deuring pour les courbes elliptiques : soit  $M = \frac{\mathbf{F}_q[T]}{(i_1)} \oplus \frac{\mathbf{F}_q[T]}{(i_2)}$ , où  $i_1$  et  $i_2$  sont deux polynômes de  $\mathbf{F}_q[T]$  tels que  $i_2 \mid i_1$  et  $i_2 \mid (c - 2)$ . Il existe alors un  $\mathbf{F}_q[T]$ -module de Drinfeld  $\Phi$  ordinaire de rang 2 sur  $L$  tel que la structure du  $\mathbf{F}_q[T]$ -module fini  $L^\Phi$  induite par  $\Phi$  sur  $L$  soit isomorphe à  $M$ . **Pour citer cet article :** *M.-S. Mohamed-Ahmed, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 346 (2008)*.

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## 1. Introduction

Let  $K$  be a global field of characteristic  $p$  (namely a rational function field of one indeterminate over a finite field  $\mathbf{F}_q$  with  $p^s$  elements). We fix a place of  $K$ , denoted by  $\infty$ , and we call  $A$  the ring of elements regular away from the place  $\infty$ . Let  $L$  be a commutative field of characteristic  $p$ ,  $\gamma: A \rightarrow L$  be a morphism of rings. The kernel of this

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morphism is denoted by the principal ideal  $(P)$ . We put  $m = [L, A/P]$  (the extension degree of  $L$  over  $A/P$ ) and  $d = \deg P$ .

Let  $\tau$  be the Frobenius of  $\mathbf{F}_q$  ( $\tau : x \mapsto x^q$ ). We denote by  $L\{\tau\}$  the ring of polynomials in  $\tau$  (namely the ring of Ore's polynomials) with the usual addition and the product given by the commutation rule  $\tau\lambda = \lambda^q\tau$  for all  $\lambda \in L$ . A Drinfeld  $A$ -module  $\Phi : A \rightarrow L\{\tau\}$  is a morphism of rings of  $A$  into  $L\{\tau\}$  such that for all  $a \in A$  non-invertible (i.e.  $a \notin \mathbf{F}_q^*$ ) we have  $\deg_\tau \Phi_a > 0$  and for all  $a \in A$ , there exists a rational number  $r$  such that  $\deg_\tau \Phi_a = r \deg a$  ( $\deg a = \dim_{\mathbf{F}_q} \frac{A}{aA}$ ). This number  $r$  is called the rank of  $\Phi$ . The morphism  $\Phi$  defines an  $A$ -module structure over the field  $L$ , noted  $L^\Phi$ , where the name of a Drinfeld  $A$ -module for a morphism  $\Phi$ . This structure of  $A$ -module depends on  $\Phi$  and, especially, on its rank (see [1,4,2]).

Let  $\Phi$  be a Drinfeld  $A$ -module of rank 2 over a finite field  $L$  and let  $P_\Phi(X)$  be its characteristic polynomial. J.-K. Yu [8] proved that, for an ordinary Drinfeld modules of rank 2,  $P_F(X) = X^2 - cX + \mu P^m$  where  $\mu \in \mathbf{F}_q^*$ ,  $c \in A$  and  $\deg c \leq \frac{m \cdot d}{2}$ , which is the Hasse–Weil analogy, in this case. Let  $\chi$  be the Euler–Poincaré characteristic of  $A$  (i.e. an ideal of  $A$ ). We can consider the ideal  $\chi(L^\Phi) = (P_F(1))$ , denoted henceforth by  $\chi_\Phi$ , which is by definition a divisor of  $A$  corresponding for the elliptic curves to the number of points of the variety over their base field.

We will be interested in Drinfeld  $A$ -module structures  $L^\Phi$  of rank 2 and we will prove that for an ordinary Drinfeld  $\mathbf{F}_q[T]$ -module, this structure is always the sum of two cyclic and finite  $\mathbf{F}_q[T]$ -modules:  $\frac{A}{(i_1)} \oplus \frac{A}{(i_2)}$  where  $(i_1)$  and  $(i_2)$  are two ideals of  $A$  such that  $i_2 \mid i_1$ . Let  $P_F(X)$  the characteristic polynomial of  $\Phi$ . We will show that  $\chi_\Phi = (P_F(1)) = (i_1)(i_2)$ , so if we put  $i = \gcd(i_1, i_2)$ , then  $i^2 \mid P_F(1)$ . We give a following analogy of Deuring's theorem for elliptic curves:

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $c \in A$ , and  $M = \frac{A}{(i_1)} \oplus \frac{A}{(i_2)}$  where  $i_1, i_2$  are two polynomials of  $A$  such that  $i_2 \mid i_1$  and  $i_2 \mid (c - 2)$ . Then there exists an ordinary Drinfeld  $A$ -module  $\Phi$  over  $L$ , of rank 2, such that the coefficient of  $X$  in  $P_\Phi(X)$  is  $-c$  and  $L^\Phi \simeq M$ .*

We first recall Deuring's theorem for elliptic curves (see [3]):

**Theorem 1.2 (Deuring's Theorem).** *Let  $M = \begin{pmatrix} c-1 & -A \\ B & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{M}_{2 \times 2}(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})$  and  $q$  be a power of a prime number. If we suppose that  $|c| \leq 2\sqrt{q}$ ,  $B \mid A$ ,  $B \mid c - 2$ ,  $A \cdot B = N := q + 1 - c$  and  $(c, q) = 1$ , then there exists an ordinary elliptic curve  $E$  over  $\mathbf{F}_q$  such that  $E(\mathbf{F}_q) \simeq \mathbb{Z}/A \oplus \mathbb{Z}/B$ .*

## 2. Structure of the $A$ -module $L^\Phi$

A Drinfeld  $A$ -module of rank 2 has the form (if an isomorphism  $A \simeq \mathbf{F}_q[T]$  and  $K \simeq \mathbf{F}_q(T)$  is chosen)  $\Phi(T) = a_1 + a_2\tau + a_3\tau^2$ , where  $a_i \in L$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq 2$  and  $a_3 \in L^*$ . Let  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi$  be two Drinfeld modules over an  $A$ -field  $L$ . A morphism from  $\Phi$  to  $\Psi$  over  $L$  is an element  $p(\tau) \in L\{\tau\}$  such that  $p\Phi_a = \Psi_a p$ , for all  $a \in A$ . A non-zero morphism is called an isogeny. We note that this is possible only between two Drinfeld modules of the same rank. The set of all morphisms forms an  $A$ -module denoted by  $\text{Hom}_L(\Phi, \Psi)$ .

In particular, if  $\Phi = \Psi$  the  $L$ -endomorphism ring  $\text{End}_L \Phi = \text{Hom}_L(\Phi, \Phi)$  is a subring of  $L\{\tau\}$  and an  $A$ -module which contains  $\Phi(A)$ . Let  $\bar{L}$  be a fix algebraic closure of  $L$  and  $(P)$  the  $A$ -characteristic of  $L$ .  $\Phi_a(\bar{L}) := \Phi[a](\bar{L}) = \{x \in \bar{L}, \Phi_a(x) = 0\}$  and  $\Phi_{(P)}(\bar{L}) = \bigcap_{a \in (P)} \Phi_a(\bar{L})$ . We say that  $\Phi$  is supersingular if the  $A$ -module constituted by a  $(P)$ -division points  $\Phi_{(P)}(\bar{L})$  is trivial, otherwise  $\Phi$  is said to be an ordinary module (see [4]). We have the following result about the  $A$ -module structure of  $L^\Phi$ :

**Proposition 2.1.** *The Drinfeld  $A$ -module  $\Phi$  gives a finite  $A$ -module  $L^\Phi$  which is isomorphic to  $\frac{A}{(i_1)} \oplus \frac{A}{(i_2)}$  where  $(i_1)$  and  $(i_2)$  are two ideals of  $A$  such that  $\chi_\Phi = (i_1)(i_2)$ .*

**Proof.** The  $A$ -module  $\Phi$  induces a finite  $A$ -module structure  $L^\Phi$  of the same rank than  $\Phi$  over the finite field  $L$ . Since  $\Phi$  is of rank 2,  $L^\Phi$  is also of rank 2. Let  $i_1, i_2$  be two unitary polynomials in  $A$  such that  $L^\Phi = \frac{A}{(i_1)} \oplus \frac{A}{(i_2)}$ . We know that  $L^\Phi$  is included in or equal to  $\Phi(\chi_\Phi) \simeq \frac{A}{\chi_\Phi} \oplus \frac{A}{\chi_\Phi}$ . Since the Euler–Poincaré characteristic  $\chi$  is multiplicative on exact sequences, we have  $\chi_\Phi = (i_1)(i_2)$ .

Let  $i = \gcd(i_1, i_2)$ . It is clear, by the Chinese lemma, that the non-cyclicity of the  $A$ -module  $L^\Phi$  impose  $(i_1)$  and  $(i_2)$  to be not coprime, which means that  $i \neq 1$  and implies that  $i^2 \mid P_\Phi(1)$  (because  $\chi_\Phi = (P_F(1)) = (i_1)(i_2)$ ).  $\square$

In the rest of this Note, we suppose that  $i_2 \mid i_1$  ( $i_2 \notin \mathbf{F}_q^*$ ), otherwise  $L^\Phi$  is a cyclic  $A$ -module and it can be written on the form  $A/\chi_\Phi$ . Let be  $c \in \mathbf{F}_q[T]$  and  $\mu \in \mathbf{F}_q$  such that  $P_F(X) = X^2 - cX + \mu P^m$ .

**Proposition 2.2.** *If  $L^\Phi \simeq \frac{A}{(i_1)} \oplus \frac{A}{(i_2)}$ , then  $i_2 \mid c - 2$ .*

**Proof.** We know that the  $A$ -module structure  $L^\Phi$  is stable by the endomorphism Frobenius  $F$  of  $L$ . We choose a basis for  $A/\chi_\Phi$  for which the  $A$ -module  $L^\Phi$  is generated by  $(i_1, 0)$  and  $(0, i_2)$  and we consider  $M_F = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ a_1 & b_1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{M}_{2 \times 2}(A/\chi_\Phi)$  the matrix of  $F$  according to this basis.

Now, since  $\text{Tr} M_F = a + b_1 = c$ ,  $M_F((i_1, 0)) = (i_1, 0)$  and  $M_F((0, i_2)) = (0, i_2)$ , we have  $a \cdot i_1 \equiv i_1 \pmod{\chi_\Phi}$  implying that  $a - 1$  is divisible by  $i_1$ . Similarly, since  $b_1 \cdot i_2 \equiv i_2 \pmod{\chi_\Phi}$  implying that  $b_1 - 1$  is divisible by  $i_2$ . It follows that  $c - 2 = a - 1 + b_1 - 1$  is divisible by  $i_2$  (since we always have  $i_2 \mid i_1$ ).  $\square$

Let  $(\rho)$  be a prime ideal of  $A$ , different from the  $A$ -characteristic  $(P)$ . We define the finite  $A$ -module  $\Phi((\rho))$  as being the  $A$ -module  $(A/(\rho))^2$ .

Let  $g$  be an ideal of  $A$ ,  $F$  be the Frobenius of  $L$  and  $O_{K(F)}$  the maximal  $A$ -order in  $K(F)$ . The discriminant of the  $A$ -order  $A + g \cdot O_{K(F)}$  is  $\Delta \cdot g^2$ , where  $\Delta$  is the discriminant of the characteristic polynomial  $P_F(X) = X^2 - cX + \mu P^m$ . So each order is defined by its discriminant and will be noted by  $O(\text{disc})$  (see [6,7,5]). According to Proposition 2.2, the inclusion  $\Phi((\rho)) \subset L^\Phi$  implies clearly that  $\rho^2 \mid P_F(1)$  and  $(\rho) \mid c - 2$ . We have the following:

**Proposition 2.3.** *Let  $\Phi$  be an ordinary Drinfeld  $A$ -module of rank 2 and let  $(\rho)$  be an ideal of  $A$ , different from the  $A$ -characteristic  $(P)$  of  $L$ , such that  $\rho^2 \mid P_F(1)$  and  $\rho \mid c - 2$ . Then the inclusion  $\Phi((\rho)) \subset L^\Phi$  holds if and only if we have  $O(\Delta/\rho^2) \subset \text{End}_L \Phi$ .*

To prove this proposition we need the following lemma:

**Lemma 2.4.** *The assertion  $\Phi((\rho)) \subset L^\Phi$  is equivalent to the assertion  $\frac{F-1}{\rho} \in \text{End}_L \Phi$ .*

**Proof.** Since  $L^\Phi$  is stable by the isogeny  $F$ ,  $L^\Phi = \text{Ker}(F - 1)$ . Next, by definition we have  $\Phi((\rho)) = \text{Ker}((\rho))$ . It follows, according to Theorem 4.7.8 of [4], that the inclusion  $\Phi((\rho)) \subset L^\Phi$  holds if and only if there exists  $g \in \text{End}_L \Phi$  such that  $F - 1 = g \cdot \rho$ , that is  $\frac{F-1}{\rho} \in \text{End}_L \Phi$ , confirming the lemma.  $\square$

**Proof of Proposition 2.3.** Let  $N(\frac{F-1}{\rho})$  denote the norm of the isogeny  $\frac{F-1}{\rho}$  which is a principal ideal generated by  $\frac{P_\Phi(1)}{(\rho)^2}$  and let  $\text{Tr}$  be the trace of the same isogeny which is equal to  $\frac{c-2}{\rho}$ . Then the discriminant of the  $A$ -module  $A[\frac{F-1}{\rho}]$  is given by  $\text{disc} A([\frac{F-1}{\rho}]) = \text{Tr}(\frac{F-1}{\rho})^2 - 4N(\frac{F-1}{\rho}) = \frac{c^2 - 4\mu P^m}{\rho^2} = \Delta/\rho^2$ , implying the required inclusion.

Now assume that  $O(\Delta/\rho^2) \subset \text{End}_L \Phi$  and prove that  $\Phi(\rho) \subset L^\Phi$ . The order corresponding of the discriminant  $\Delta/\rho^2$  is  $A[\frac{F-1}{\rho}]$ , which means that  $\frac{F-1}{\rho} \in \text{End}_L \Phi$  and we conclude (by using Lemma 2.4) that  $\Phi((\rho)) \subset L^\Phi$ . The proof is complete.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.5.** *If  $O(\Delta/\rho^2) \subset \text{End}_L \Phi$ , then  $L^\Phi$  is not cyclic.*

**Proof.** Since  $\Phi((\rho))$  is not cyclic (by construction) and since the non-cyclicity of the  $A$ -module  $L^\Phi$  is equivalent to have  $\Phi((\rho)) \subset L^\Phi$ , the corollary follows from Proposition 2.3.  $\square$

Now, we are able to prove the following theorem:

**Theorem 2.6.** *Let  $M = \frac{A}{(i_1)} \oplus \frac{A}{(i_2)}$  be a  $A$ -module such that  $i_2 \mid i_1$ ,  $i_2 \mid (c - 2)$ . Then there exists an ordinary Drinfeld  $A$ -module  $\Phi$  over  $L$  of rank 2 such that  $L^\Phi \simeq M$ .*

**Proof.** Let us denote by  $\Phi$  the Drinfeld  $A$ -module for which the characteristic of Euler–Poincaré is given by  $\chi_\Phi = (i_1).(i_2)$  and having as endomorphisme ring  $O(\Delta/i_2^2)$  (where  $\Delta$  always denotes the discriminant of the characteristic polynomial of the Frobenius  $F$ ). Since (by construction)  $O(\Delta/(i_2^2)) \subset \text{End}_L \Phi$ , then Proposition 2.3 (applied with  $\rho = i_2$ ) implies  $\Phi(i_2) \simeq (A/i_2)^2 \subset L^\Phi$ . However, since on other hand  $L^\Phi \subseteq \Phi(\chi_\Phi) \simeq \frac{A}{\chi_\Phi} \oplus \frac{A}{\chi_\Phi}$ , it finally follows that  $L^\Phi = \frac{A}{(i_1)} \oplus \frac{A}{(i_2)}$ . The theorem is proved.  $\square$

We end this Note by conjecturing the following:

**Conjecture 2.7.** *Let  $L$  be a finite field, and  $M \in \mathcal{M}_{2 \times 2}(A/\chi_\Phi)$  and  $\bar{P} = P \pmod{\chi_\Phi}$ . Suppose that  $(\det M = \bar{P}^m, \text{Tr}(M) = c$  and  $c \nmid P$ . Then there exists an ordinary Drinfeld  $A$ -module over  $L$ , of rank 2, for which the associated Frobenius matrix  $M_F$  is equal to  $M$ .*

Note that the Theorem 2.6 is an immediate consequence of Conjecture 2.7. Indeed, it suffices to apply the conjecture to the matrix  $M = \begin{pmatrix} c^{-1} & i_1 \\ i_2 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{M}_{2 \times 2}(A/\chi_\Phi)$ .

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