



Maximal tori of monodromy groups of F -isocrystals and an application to abelian varieties

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ABSTRACT

Let X_0 be a smooth geometrically connected variety defined over a finite field $\mathbb{F}_q$, and let $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ be an irreducible overconvergent F -isocrystal on X_0 . We show that if a subobject of minimal slope of the associated convergent F -isocrystal $\mathcal{E}_0$ admits a non-zero morphism to $\mathcal{O}_{X_0}$ as a convergent isocrystal, then $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is isomorphic to $\mathcal{O}_{X_0}^\dagger$ as an overconvergent isocrystal. This proves a special case of a conjecture of Kedlaya. The key ingredient in the proof is the study of the monodromy group of $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ and of the subgroup defined by $\mathcal{E}_0$. The new input in this setting is that the subgroup contains a maximal torus of the entire monodromy group. This is a consequence of the existence of a Frobenius torus of maximal dimension. As an application, we prove a finiteness result for the torsion points of abelian varieties, which extends the previous theorem of Lang–Néron and answers positively a question of Esnault.

1. Introduction

1.1 Convergent and overconvergent isocrystals

Let p be a prime number. The first Weil cohomology constructed to study varieties in characteristic p was the ℓ -adic étale cohomology, where ℓ is a prime different from p . Its associated category of coefficients is the category of *lisse sheaves*. While p -adic étale cohomology is not a Weil cohomology, moving from ℓ to p one encounters two main p -adic cohomology theories: *crystalline cohomology* and *rigid cohomology*. These two give rise to different categories of ‘local systems’: *convergent isocrystals* and *overconvergent isocrystals*. Let $\mathbb{F}_q$ be a finite field with q elements, where q is a power of p , and let X_0 be a smooth variety over $\mathbb{F}_q$. We write $\mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}(X_0)$ (resp. $\mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}^\dagger(X_0)$) for the category of $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p$ -linear convergent (resp. overconvergent) F -isocrystals over X_0 . By [Ked04], these two categories are related by a natural fully faithful functor $\epsilon: \mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}^\dagger(X_0) \rightarrow \mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}(X_0)$. When X_0 is proper, the functor ϵ is an equivalence. In general, the two categories have different behaviours. While $\mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}^\dagger(X_0)$ shares many properties with the category of Weil lisse $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$ -sheaves, as explained in [D’Ad20a] and [Ked18], the category $\mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}(X_0)$ has some exceptional p -adic features.

For example, for every $\mathcal{E}_0 \in \mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}(X_0)$, after possibly shrinking X_0 to a dense open, there exists a filtration

$$0 = \mathcal{E}_0^0 \subseteq \mathcal{E}_0^1 \subseteq \cdots \subseteq \mathcal{E}_0^n = \mathcal{E}_0,$$

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where for each i , the quotient $\mathcal{E}_0^{i+1}/\mathcal{E}_0^i$ has uniquely slope s_i at closed points and the sequence $s_1, \dots, s_n$ is increasing (see [Kat79] and [Ked22, Corollary 4.2]). When $\mathcal{E}_0 = \epsilon(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$ for some $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger \in \mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}^\dagger(X_0)$, the subobjects $\mathcal{E}_0^i$ in general are not in the essential image of ϵ as well (see [Ked22, Remark 5.12]). Our main result highlights a new relationship between the subquotients of $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ in $\mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}^\dagger(X_0)$ and those of $\mathcal{E}_0^1$ in $\mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}(X_0)$.

THEOREM 1.1.1 (Theorem 3.1.3). *Let $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ be an irreducible $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p$ -linear overconvergent F -isocrystal. If $\mathcal{E}_0 := \epsilon(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$ admits a subobject of minimal slope $\mathcal{F}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{E}_0$ with a non-zero morphism $\mathcal{F}_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{X_0}$ of convergent isocrystals, then $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ has rank 1.*

Theorem 1.1.1 proves a particular case of the conjecture in [Ked22, Remark 5.14]. Even though the conjecture turned out to be false in general, Theorem 1.1.1 corresponds to the case when $\mathcal{F}_1 \subseteq \mathcal{E}_1$ has minimal slope and $\mathcal{E}_2$ is the convergent isocrystal $\mathcal{O}_{X_0}$ endowed with some Frobenius structure (notation as in ibid.). Recently Tsuzuki in [Tsu19] proved (a modified version of) Kedlaya's conjecture over finite fields. In particular, he gave an alternative proof of Theorem 1.1.1. Our proof is different and independent. See Remark 3.1.4 for some more details on the differences.

1.2 Torsion points of abelian varieties

Before explaining the main ingredients of the proof of Theorem 1.1.1, let us describe an application to torsion points of abelian varieties. This was our main motivation to prove Theorem 1.1.1. Let $\mathbb{F}$ be an algebraic closure of $\mathbb{F}_q$ and $\mathbb{F} \subseteq k$ be a finitely generated field extension. For an abelian variety A over k , we write $\text{Tr}_{k/\mathbb{F}}(A)$ for its $k/\mathbb{F}$ -trace (cf. [Con06, § 6]). Recall the classical Lang–Néron theorem (see [LN59] or [Con06]).

THEOREM 1.2.1 (Lang–Néron). *If A is an abelian variety over k such that $\text{Tr}_{k/\mathbb{F}}(A) = 0$, then the group $A(k)$ is finitely generated.*

By Theorem 1.2.1, if we denote by $A^{(n)}$ the Frobenius twist of A by the p^n -power Frobenius, we have a tower of finite groups $A(k)_{\text{tors}} \subseteq A^{(1)}(k)_{\text{tors}} \subseteq A^{(2)}(k)_{\text{tors}} \subseteq \dots$. In June 2011, in a correspondence with Langer and Rössler, Esnault asked whether this chain is *eventually stationary*. Since

$$\bigcup_{n \geq 0} A^{(n)}(k) = A(k^{\text{perf}}),$$

where k^{perf} is a perfect closure of k , an equivalent way to formulate the question is to ask whether the group of k^{perf} -rational torsion points $A(k^{\text{perf}})_{\text{tors}}$ is a finite group. As an application of Theorem 1.1.1, we give a positive answer to Esnault's question.

THEOREM 1.2.2 (Theorem 4.1.1). *If A is an abelian variety over k such that $\text{Tr}_{k/\mathbb{F}}(A) = 0$, then the group $A(k^{\text{perf}})_{\text{tors}}$ is finite.*

Remark 1.2.3. Theorem 1.2.2 was already known for elliptic curves, by the work of Levin in [Lev68], and for ordinary abelian varieties, by [Rös15, Theorem 1.4]. When ℓ is a prime different from p , the group $A[\ell^\infty]$ is étale, hence $A[\ell^\infty](k^{\text{perf}}) = A[\ell^\infty](k)$. Therefore, in Theorem 1.2.2, the finiteness of torsion points of prime-to- p order is guaranteed by Theorem 1.2.1.

In order to deduce Theorem 1.2.2 from Theorem 1.1.1, we use *crystalline Dieudonné theory*, as developed in [BBM82]. The proof of Theorem 1.2.2 is by contradiction. If $|A[p^\infty](k^{\text{perf}})| = \infty$, then there exists a monomorphism $\mathbb{Q}_p/\mathbb{Z}_p \hookrightarrow A[p^\infty]^{\text{ét}}$ from the trivial p -divisible group $\mathbb{Q}_p/\mathbb{Z}_p$

over k to the étale part of the p -divisible group of A . Spreading out to a ‘nice’ model $\mathfrak{A}/X$ of A/k and applying the contravariant crystalline Dieudonné functor $\mathbb{D}$, one gets an epimorphism of F -isocrystals $\mathbb{D}(\mathfrak{A}[p^\infty]^{\text{ét}}) \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{D}((\mathbb{Q}_p/\mathbb{Z}_p)_X) \simeq \mathcal{O}_X$ over X . By a descent argument and Theorem 1.1.1, the quotient extends to a quotient $\mathbb{D}(\mathfrak{A}[p^\infty]) \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{O}_X$ over X . Going back to p -divisible groups, this gives an injective map $\mathbb{Q}_p/\mathbb{Z}_p \hookrightarrow A[p^\infty]$ over k . Therefore, $A[p^\infty](k)$ would be an infinite group, contradicting Theorem 1.2.1.

1.3 Monodromy groups

If X_0 is geometrically connected over $\mathbb{F}_q$, the categories $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(X_0)$ and $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}^\dagger(X_0)$ and their versions without Frobenius structures $\mathbf{Isoc}(X_0)$ and $\mathbf{Isoc}^\dagger(X_0)$ are neutral Tannakian categories. The choice of an $\mathbb{F}$ -point x of X_0 induces fibre functors for all these categories. To prove Theorem 1.1.1, we study the *monodromy groups* associated to the objects involved. For every $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger \in \mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}^\dagger(X_0)$, we have already seen that we can associate an object $\mathcal{E}_0 := \epsilon(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger) \in \mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(X_0)$. We denote by $\mathcal{E}^\dagger \in \mathbf{Isoc}^\dagger(X_0)$ (respectively, $\mathcal{E} \in \mathbf{Isoc}(X_0)$ ¹) the isocrystal obtained from $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ (respectively, $\mathcal{E}_0$) by forgetting its Frobenius structure. Using the Tannakian formalism, we associate to each of these objects an algebraic group $G(-)$. They all sit naturally in a commutative diagram of closed immersions

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G(\mathcal{E}) & \hookrightarrow & G(\mathcal{E}_0) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ G(\mathcal{E}^\dagger) & \hookrightarrow & G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger). \end{array}$$

While $G(\mathcal{E}_0)$ and $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$ are the analogues of the arithmetic monodromy group of a lisse sheaf, $G(\mathcal{E})$ and $G(\mathcal{E}^\dagger)$ correspond to the geometric monodromy group. If $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is irreducible and its determinant has finite order, as a consequence of class field theory, the group $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)/G(\mathcal{E}^\dagger)$ is finite [D’Ad20a, Theorem 3.4.7]. We prove that the same is true for $G(\mathcal{E}_0)/G(\mathcal{E})$.

PROPOSITION 1.3.1 (Proposition 3.1.1). *Let $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ be an irreducible overconvergent F -isocrystal with finite-order determinant. The quotient $G(\mathcal{E}_0)/G(\mathcal{E})$ is finite.*

To prove Proposition 1.3.1, we have to show that $G(\mathcal{E})$ is ‘big’. We study $G(\mathcal{E})$ as a subgroup of $G(\mathcal{E}^\dagger)$ and we prove our fundamental result.

THEOREM 1.3.2 (Theorem 2.3.9). *If $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is an overconvergent F -isocrystal, then $G(\mathcal{E})$ contains a maximal torus of $G(\mathcal{E}^\dagger)$.*

To prove Theorem 1.3.2, we use the existence of *Frobenius tori* which are maximal tori of $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$ (Theorem 2.3.3). First we reduce to the case when $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is semi-simple and *algebraic* (cf. Definition 2.3.2). By Theorem 2.3.3, there exists a closed point $i_0: x_0 \hookrightarrow X_0$ such that the subgroup $G(i_0^* \mathcal{E}_0^\dagger) \subseteq G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$ contains a maximal torus of $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$. Since over a closed point, every F -isocrystal admits an overconvergent extension, one has $G(i_0^* \mathcal{E}_0^\dagger) = G(i_0^* \mathcal{E}_0)$. Hence, $G(\mathcal{E}_0)$ contains a maximal torus of $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$. To pass from $G(\mathcal{E}_0) \subseteq G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$ to $G(\mathcal{E}) \subseteq G(\mathcal{E}^\dagger)$, we will apply Theorem 2.3.3 to an auxiliary overconvergent F -isocrystal $\tilde{\mathcal{E}}_0^\dagger$ over X_0 such that $G(\tilde{\mathcal{E}}^\dagger) = G(\mathcal{E}^\dagger)$

¹We point out that the convention on the subscript $_0$ is not consistent between F -isocrystals and varieties, namely $\mathcal{E}$ denotes an isocrystal over X_0 and not over X .

and $G(\tilde{\mathcal{E}}) = G(\mathcal{E})$ and with the additional property that the natural map $G(\tilde{\mathcal{E}}_0)/G(\tilde{\mathcal{E}}) \rightarrow G(\tilde{\mathcal{E}}_0^\dagger)/G(\tilde{\mathcal{E}}^\dagger)$ is an isomorphism.

Remark 1.3.3. In [Cre92a, End of § 4, p. 460], Crew asks whether, under the assumptions of Theorem 1.3.2, the group $G(\mathcal{E})$ is a parabolic subgroup of $G(\mathcal{E}^\dagger)$. In two subsequent articles [Cre92b] and [Cre94], he gives a positive answer to his question in some particular cases. Since parabolic subgroups of reductive groups always contain a maximal torus, Theorem 1.3.2 is evidence for Crew's expectation.

To deduce Theorem 1.1.1 from Proposition 1.3.1, we first reduce to the situation where the determinant of $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ has finite order. To simplify, let us assume that $\mathcal{E}_0$ has constant Newton polygon, that $\mathcal{F}_0$ is equal to $\mathcal{E}_0^1$, the subobject of minimal slope, and that $G(\mathcal{E}_0)$ is connected. Proposition 1.3.1 implies that $G(\mathcal{E}) = G(\mathcal{E}_0)$, hence that the morphism $\mathcal{E}_0^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{X_0}$ commutes with the trivial Frobenius structure on $\mathcal{O}_{X_0}$. In particular, $\mathcal{E}_0^1$ has slope 0, so that the minimal slope of $\mathcal{E}_0$ is 0. Since the determinant of $\mathcal{E}_0$ has finite order, this implies that $\mathcal{E}_0^1 = \mathcal{E}_0$, hence that $\mathcal{E}_0$ admits a quotient $\mathcal{E}_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{X_0}$ in $\mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}(X_0)$. As $\epsilon: \mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}^\dagger(X_0) \rightarrow \mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}(X_0)$ is fully faithful, $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ admits a quotient $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{X_0}^\dagger$ in $\mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}^\dagger(X_0)$. On the other hand, $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is irreducible, so that the quotient actually gives an isomorphism $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger \simeq \mathcal{O}_{X_0}^\dagger$.

1.4 Weak (weak) semi-simplicity

As an additional outcome of Theorem 1.3.2, we get a semi-simplicity result for extensions of *constant* convergent F -isocrystals (cf. Definition 2.2.2). Recall that an overconvergent F -isocrystal $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is called *pure of weight n* , where n is an integer, if for every closed point of X_0 of degree d over $\mathbb{F}_q$, the eigenvalues of the Frobenii at closed points (cf. [Ked22, Definition 9.5]) have complex absolute value $q^{dn/2}$ for every isomorphism $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p \simeq \mathbb{C}$. Let $\mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}_{\text{pure}^\dagger}(X_0)$ denote the Tannakian subcategory of $\mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}(X_0)$ generated by the essential image via $\epsilon: \mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}^\dagger(X_0) \rightarrow \mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}(X_0)$ of pure objects in $\mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}^\dagger(X_0)$. Thanks to a group-theoretic argument (Lemma 2.3.8), Theorem 1.3.2 implies the following.

COROLLARY 1.4.1 (Corollary 2.3.12). *A convergent F -isocrystal in $\mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}_{\text{pure}^\dagger}(X_0)$ which is an extension of constant F -isocrystals is constant.*

For every smooth and proper morphism $f_0: Y_0 \rightarrow X_0$ and every $i \in \mathbb{N}$, the subquotients of the higher direct image $R^i f_{0,\text{crys}*} \mathcal{O}_{Y_0}$ are in $\mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}_{\text{pure}^\dagger}(X_0)$ by [KM74] and [Shi08] (see [Amb18, Facts 3.1.1.2 and 3.2.1.1]). Therefore, Corollary 1.4.1 applies to these convergent F -isocrystals. In this text, we will say that these convergent F -isocrystals *come from geometry*.

Using Artin–Schreier–Witt theory, one can construct on $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{F}_q}^1$ non-constant extensions of constant unit-root convergent F -isocrystals. One can further construct these extensions in such a way that the resulting convergent F -isocrystal has *log-decay*, in the sense of [Kra16]. Corollary 1.4.1 shows, for example, that these F -isocrystals are outside $\mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}_{\text{pure}^\dagger}(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{F}_q}^1)$.

Remark 1.4.2. Let $\mathcal{E}_0$ be a convergent F -isocrystal with constant Newton polygons. Corollary 1.4.1 implies that $G(\mathcal{E})$ has no unipotent quotients. Let $\mathcal{E}^1$ be the convergent isocrystal which underlies the subobject of $\mathcal{E}_0$ of minimal slope. Since $G(\mathcal{E}^1)$ is a quotient of $G(\mathcal{E})$, it does not have unipotent quotients as well. In [Cha13, Conjecture 7.4 and Remark 7.4.1], Chai conjectured that if $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is the higher direct image of a family of ordinary abelian varieties, then $G(\mathcal{E}^1)$ is reductive. Corollary 1.4.1 may be thought of as a first step towards his conjecture.

1.5 Organization of the paper

In § 2 we recall the definition of the monodromy groups of the various categories of isocrystals and we prove Theorem 1.3.2. In § 3 we prove Theorem 1.1.1 and some of its consequences. Finally, in § 4 we prove Theorem 1.2.2.

1.6 Notation

1.6.1 Let $\mathbb{K}$ be a characteristic 0 field and $\mathbf{C}$ a $\mathbb{K}$ -linear Tannakian category. A *Tannakian subcategory* of $\mathbf{C}$ is a strictly full subcategory of $\mathbf{C}$ closed under direct sums, tensor products, duals, and subobjects. For $\mathcal{E} \in \mathbf{C}$, we denote by $\langle \mathcal{E} \rangle$ the smallest Tannakian subcategory of $\mathbf{C}$ containing $\mathcal{E}$. Let $\omega: \mathbf{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{K}$ be a fibre functor. For every $\mathcal{E} \in \mathbf{C}$, the restriction of ω to $\langle \mathcal{E} \rangle$ defines a fibre functor of $\langle \mathcal{E} \rangle$. We denote by $G(\mathcal{E})$ the Tannakian group of $\langle \mathcal{E} \rangle$ with respect to this fibre functor. In general, the fibre functor will be clear from the context, so that we do not keep ω in the notation. The group $G(\mathcal{E})$ is called the *monodromy group* of $\mathcal{E}$. If $G(\mathcal{E})$ is finite, we say that $\mathcal{E}$ is *finite*.

1.6.2 Let G be an algebraic group over $\mathbb{K}$. We denote by G° the connected component of the identity of G and by $\mathrm{rk}(G)$ the *reductive rank* of G , namely the dimension of the maximal tori of G . We say that a subgroup H of G is of *maximal rank* if $\mathrm{rk}(H) = \mathrm{rk}(G)$. In addition, we write $X^*(G)$ for the group of characters of G . When $\mathbb{K}$ is a characteristic 0 field and $f: G \rightarrow H$ is a morphism of affine group schemes over $\mathbb{K}$, we say that f is *injective* if it is a closed immersion, and we say that f is *surjective* if it is faithfully flat. Since over a characteristic 0 field, every affine group scheme is reduced, this should not generate any confusion.

2. Monodromy of convergent isocrystals

2.1 Review of isocrystals

In this section, we recall some basic facts about isocrystals. See [Ked22, § 2] for more details. Throughout § 2.1, let κ be a subfield of $\mathbb{F}$. We denote by $W(\kappa)$ the ring of Witt vectors of κ and by $K(\kappa)$ its field of fractions. We write $\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}$ for a fixed algebraic closure of $\mathbb{Q}_p$, and we suppose chosen an embedding of $W(\mathbb{F})$ in $\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}$. Let Y be a smooth variety over κ .

DEFINITION 2.1.1. We write $\mathbf{Isoc}(Y/K(\kappa))$ for the category of *convergent isocrystals* over Y with respect to $K(\kappa)$. For every finite field extension $K(\kappa) \subseteq L$, we have a category of convergent isocrystals over Y endowed with an L -structure [Abe18a, § 1.4.1], denoted by $\mathbf{Isoc}(Y/K(\kappa))_L$. The category $\mathbf{Isoc}(Y)$ of $\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}$ -linear convergent isocrystals is defined to be the 2-inductive limit of the categories $\mathbf{Isoc}(Y/K(\kappa))_L$, where L varies among the finite extensions of $K(\kappa)$ in $\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}$. We write $\mathcal{O}_Y$ for the convergent isocrystal associated to the crystalline structure sheaf. We will also consider the category of $\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}$ -linear convergent F -isocrystals, denoted by $\mathbf{F-Isoc}(Y)$. This category consists of pairs $(\mathcal{E}, \Phi)$, where $\mathcal{E}$ is a $\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}$ -linear convergent isocrystal and Φ is a *Frobenius structure* on $\mathcal{E}$, namely a $\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}$ -linear isomorphism $F^*\mathcal{E} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{E}$, where F is the absolute Frobenius.

The category of $\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}$ -linear convergent F -isocrystals also has a different incarnation.

DEFINITION 2.1.2. Let $\mathbf{Crys}(Y/W(\kappa))$ be the category of crystals of finite $\mathcal{O}_{Y, \mathrm{crys}}$ -modules and $\mathbf{Crys}(Y/K(\kappa))$ its isogeny category. As above, one can extend the field of scalars of $\mathbf{Crys}(Y/K(\kappa))$ to $\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}$, obtaining the category $\mathbf{Crys}(Y/K(\kappa))_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}}$. We write $\mathbf{F-Crys}(Y/K(\kappa))_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}}$ for the category of objects in $\mathbf{Crys}(Y/K(\kappa))_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}}$ endowed with a Frobenius structure.

THEOREM 2.1.3 (Ogus, Berthelot). *There exists a canonical equivalence of categories*

$$\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Crys}(Y/K(\kappa))_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(Y).$$

Proof. By [Ber96, Théorème 2.4.2], there exists an equivalence of categories

$$\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Crys}(Y/K(\kappa)) \simeq \mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(Y/K(\kappa)).$$

This implies that for every finite field extension $K(\kappa) \subseteq L$, there also exists an equivalence

$$\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Crys}(Y/K(\kappa))_L \simeq \mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(Y/K(\kappa))_L.$$

Taking the 2-inductive limit over all the finite field extensions $K(\kappa) \subseteq L$, we conclude the proof. $\square$

Remark 2.1.4. In light of Theorem 2.1.3, we will feel free to refer to convergent F -isocrystals simply as F -isocrystals. In addition, in what follows we will mostly work with $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p$ coefficients. Therefore, when we will talk about (F) -isocrystals we will actually mean $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p$ -linear convergent (F) -isocrystals except when it is explicitly said differently.

DEFINITION 2.1.5. Let $\mathbf{Isoc}^\dagger(Y)$ be the category of $(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p\text{-linear})$ overconvergent isocrystals and $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}^\dagger(Y)$ the category of $(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p\text{-linear})$ overconvergent F -isocrystals. The overconvergent isocrystal associated to the structural sheaf will be denoted by $\mathcal{O}_Y^\dagger$.

The categories of convergent and overconvergent F -isocrystals are related by a natural functor $\epsilon: \mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}^\dagger(Y) \rightarrow \mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(Y)$.

THEOREM 2.1.6 ([Ked04]). *The functor $\epsilon: \mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}^\dagger(Y) \rightarrow \mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(Y)$ is fully faithful.*

Remark 2.1.7. Even though ϵ is fully faithful, the essential image is not closed under subquotients. Therefore, the essential image is not a Tannakian subcategory in the sense of § 1.6.1, so that the induced morphism on Tannakian groups is not surjective. Nevertheless, the morphism is an *epimorphism* in the category of affine group schemes (cf. [BB92]). See also Remark 2.3.11 for further comments.

DEFINITION 2.1.8. Suppose that Y is connected, and let $\mathcal{E}$ be an F -isocrystal of rank r . We denote by $\{a_i^\eta(\mathcal{E})\}_{1 \leq i \leq r}$ the set of generic slopes of $\mathcal{E}$. We use the convention that $a_1^\eta(\mathcal{E}) \leq \dots \leq a_r^\eta(\mathcal{E})$; thus the choice of the ordering does not agree with [DK17]. We say that $\mathcal{E}$ is *isoclinic* if $a_1^\eta(\mathcal{E}) = a_r^\eta(\mathcal{E})$. A subobject $\mathcal{F}$ of $\mathcal{E}$ is *of minimal slope* if it is isoclinic of slope $a_1^\eta(\mathcal{E})$. See [Ked22, §§ 3 and 4] for more details about slopes.

2.2 The fundamental exact sequence

We shall briefly review the theory of *monodromy groups* of F -isocrystals. These monodromy groups have been studied at the beginning by Crew in [Cre92a]. More recent work can be found in [D'Ad20a]. In Proposition 2.2.4, we recall a fundamental diagram of monodromy groups that we will extensively use in the next sections.

Notation 2.2.1. Let X_0 be a smooth geometrically connected variety over $\mathbb{F}_q$. We choose once and for all an $\mathbb{F}$ -point $\tilde{x}$ of X_0 . This defines fibre functors for all the Tannakian categories of isocrystals previously defined. We write $\mathbb{1}_0^\dagger$ for the overconvergent F -isocrystal $\mathcal{O}_{X_0}^\dagger$ endowed with its canonical Frobenius structure. For every $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger \in \mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}^\dagger(X_0)$, we consider three associated objects. We denote by $\mathcal{E}^\dagger \in \mathbf{Isoc}^\dagger(X_0)$ the overconvergent isocrystal obtained from $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ by forgetting the Frobenius structure. The image of $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ in $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(X_0)$ will be denoted by removing the

superscript $\dagger$. At the same time, $\mathcal{E}$ will be the convergent isocrystal in $\mathbf{Isoc}(X_0)$ obtained from $\mathcal{E}_0 \in \mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(X_0)$ by forgetting its Frobenius structure. Here we give a summary table.

	Isocrystal	F -isocrystal
Convergent	$\mathcal{E}$	$\mathcal{E}_0$
Overconvergent	$\mathcal{E}^\dagger$	$\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$

For each of these objects, we have a monodromy group $G(-)$ (see § 1.6.1) with respect to the fibre functor associated to our $\mathbb{F}$ point $\tilde{x}$.

DEFINITION 2.2.2. We say that a convergent isocrystal is *trivial* if it is isomorphic to $\mathbb{1}^{\oplus r}$ for some $r \in \mathbb{N}$. An F -isocrystal $\mathcal{E}_0$ is called *constant* if the convergent isocrystal $\mathcal{E}$ is trivial. We denote by $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}_{\text{cst}}(X_0)$ the strictly full subcategory of $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(X_0)$ of constant objects. For $\mathcal{E}_0 \in \mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(X_0)$, we denote by $\langle \mathcal{E}_0 \rangle_{\text{cst}} \subseteq \langle \mathcal{E}_0 \rangle$ the Tannakian subcategory of constant objects and by $G(\mathcal{E}_0)^{\text{cst}}$ the Tannakian group of $\langle \mathcal{E}_0 \rangle_{\text{cst}}$. Finally, for $\alpha \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}$ and $\mathcal{E}_0 \in \mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(X_0)$, we denote by $\mathcal{E}_0^{(\alpha)}$ the F -isocrystal obtained from $\mathcal{E}_0$ by multiplying its Frobenius structure by α . We will call $\mathcal{E}_0^{(\alpha)}$ the *twist* of $\mathcal{E}_0$ by α . We give analogous definitions for overconvergent isocrystals.

Remark 2.2.3. The category $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}_{\text{cst}}(X_0)$ is a Tannakian subcategory of $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(X_0)$ in the sense of § 1.6.1. Let $p_{X_0}: X_0 \rightarrow \text{Spec}(\mathbb{F}_q)$ be the structural morphism of X_0 . Every constant F -isocrystal is the inverse image via p_{X_0} of an F -isocrystal defined over $\text{Spec}(\mathbb{F}_q)$. Since X_0 is geometrically connected over $\mathbb{F}_q$, the functor $p_{X_0}^*$ is fully faithful; thus the same is true for $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}_{\text{cst}}(X_0)$. The category $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(\text{Spec}(\mathbb{F}_q))$ is equivalent to the category of $\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}$ -vector spaces endowed with a linear automorphism (induced by the Frobenius structure). Hence $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(\text{Spec}(\mathbb{F}_q))$ is equivalent to the category of $\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}$ -linear representation of $\mathbb{Z}$. Finally, we recall that since $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}^\dagger(\mathbb{F}_q) = \mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(\mathbb{F}_q)$, the natural functor $\epsilon: \mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}^\dagger(X_0) \rightarrow \mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(X_0)$ induces an equivalence of categories between $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}_{\text{cst}}^\dagger(X_0)$ and $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}_{\text{cst}}(X_0)$.

The following proposition shows that these monodromy groups fit into exact sequences, analogous to the fundamental exact sequence relating the arithmetic and the geometric monodromy groups of a lisse sheaf. This holds in general for *neutral Tannakian categories with Frobenius*, [D'Ad20a, Appendix A]. See also [DE20, Corollary 1.6].

PROPOSITION 2.2.4. *Let X_0 be a smooth geometrically connected variety over $\mathbb{F}_q$, and let $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ be an overconvergent F -isocrystal over X_0 . There exists a functorial commutative diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 1 & \longrightarrow & G(\mathcal{E}) & \longrightarrow & G(\mathcal{E}_0) & \longrightarrow & G(\mathcal{E}_0)^{\text{cst}} \longrightarrow 1 \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 1 & \longrightarrow & G(\mathcal{E}^\dagger) & \longrightarrow & G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger) & \longrightarrow & G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)^{\text{cst}} \longrightarrow 1
 \end{array} \tag{2.2.4.1}$$

with exact rows. The left and central vertical arrows are injective, and the right one is surjective. Moreover, $G(\mathcal{E}_0)^{\text{cst}}$ and $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)^{\text{cst}}$ are commutative algebraic groups.

Proof. The inverse image functor with respect to the q -power Frobenius of X_0 is an equivalence of categories for both the convergent and the overconvergent isocrystals over X_0 (see [Ogu84, Corollary 4.10] and [Laz22]). The exactness of the rows then follows from [D'Ad20a, Theorem A.2.2(iii)]. In addition, the right vertical arrow is surjective because, by the discussion in

Remark 2.2.3, the functor $\langle \mathcal{E}_0^\dagger \rangle_{\text{cst}} \rightarrow \langle \mathcal{E}_0 \rangle_{\text{cst}}$ is fully faithful and the essential image is closed under subquotients. Finally, by [D'Ad20a, Theorem A.2.2(iv)], the algebraic groups $G(\mathcal{E}_0)^{\text{cst}}$ and $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)^{\text{cst}}$ are commutative. $\square$

Remark 2.2.5. We do not know whether the natural quotient $\varphi: G(\mathcal{E}_0)^{\text{cst}} \rightarrow G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)^{\text{cst}}$ is an isomorphism in general. Via the Tannakian formalism, to prove the injectivity of φ , one has to show that the embedding $\langle \mathcal{E}_0^\dagger \rangle_{\text{cst}} \hookrightarrow \langle \mathcal{E}_0 \rangle_{\text{cst}}$ is essentially surjective. While every $\mathcal{F}_0 \in \langle \mathcal{E}_0 \rangle_{\text{cst}}$ comes from an object $\mathcal{F}_0^\dagger$ in $\mathbf{F}\text{-Isoc}^\dagger(X_0)$, we do not know whether such an $\mathcal{F}_0^\dagger$ lies in $\langle \mathcal{E}_0^\dagger \rangle_{\text{cst}}$. A priori, it might happen that a non-constant subobject $\mathcal{F}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{E}_0$ admits a constant quotient $\mathcal{F}_0 \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{T}_0$. In this case it is unclear whether $\mathcal{T}_0$ is in the essential image of $\langle \mathcal{E}_0^\dagger \rangle_{\text{cst}} \hookrightarrow \langle \mathcal{E}_0 \rangle_{\text{cst}}$. This will be the main issue in the proof of Theorem 2.3.9. We bypass the problem by embedding $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ in an auxiliary overconvergent F -isocrystal $\tilde{\mathcal{E}}_0^\dagger$ with $G(\tilde{\mathcal{E}}_0)^{\text{cst}} \simeq G(\tilde{\mathcal{E}}_0^\dagger)^{\text{cst}}$. As an application of Theorem 2.3.9, we will also prove in Corollary 2.3.10 that if $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is algebraic (cf. § 2.3.2) and semi-simple, then $\varphi: G(\mathcal{E}_0)^{\text{cst}} \rightarrow G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)^{\text{cst}}$ is an isogeny of linear algebraic groups.

2.3 Maximal tori

In this section, we briefly recall the main theorem on *Frobenius tori* of overconvergent F -isocrystals in [D'Ad20a, § 4.2], and we use it to prove Theorem 2.3.9. For this task, the main issue is to pass from the arithmetic situation (Corollary 2.3.5) to the geometric one (Theorem 2.3.9). We keep the notation of § 2.2.1

DEFINITION 2.3.1. Let $i_0: x_0 \hookrightarrow X_0$ be the closed immersion of a closed point of X_0 . For every overconvergent F -isocrystal $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$, we have an inclusion $G(i_0^* \mathcal{E}_0^\dagger) \hookrightarrow G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$, with $G(i_0^* \mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$ commutative. The image of the maximal torus of $G(i_0^* \mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$ in $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$ is the *Frobenius torus* of $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ at x_0 , denoted by $T_{x_0}(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$.

Thanks to known cases of Deligne's conjecture for lisse sheaves and overconvergent F -isocrystals, for a certain class of overconvergent F -isocrystals, it is possible to construct ℓ -adic companions, where ℓ is a prime different from p ; see [AE19]. From this construction, one can translate results known for lisse sheaves to overconvergent F -isocrystals. Theorem 2.3.3 is an example of such a technique (see also § 4.3.2). For the existence of companions, one needs some mild assumptions on the eigenvalues of the Frobenii at closed points.

DEFINITION 2.3.2. An overconvergent F -isocrystal $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is *algebraic* if the eigenvalues of the Frobenii at closed points (cf. [Ked22, Definition 9.5]) are algebraic numbers.

THEOREM 2.3.3 ([D'Ad20a, Theorem 4.2.11]). *Let $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ be an algebraic overconvergent F -isocrystal over X_0 . There exists a Zariski-dense set of closed points x_0 of X_0 such that the torus $T_{x_0}(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$ is a maximal torus of $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$.*

Remark 2.3.4. It is worth mentioning that when $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is pure, Theorem 2.3.3 is also a consequence of the new crystalline Čebotarev density theorem proven by Hartl and Pál in [HP18, Theorem 12.2]. Note that $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is pure if it comes from geometry (cf. § 1.4) or, by [AE19, Theorem 2.7], if it is irreducible with finite-order determinant.

COROLLARY 2.3.5. *Let $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ be an algebraic overconvergent F -isocrystal. The closed subgroup $G(\mathcal{E}_0) \subseteq G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$ is a subgroup of maximal rank.*

Proof. Thanks to Theorem 2.3.3, we can find a closed embedding of a closed point $i_0: x_0 \hookrightarrow X_0$ such that $T_{x_0}(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$ is a maximal torus of $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$. We have a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G(i_0^* \mathcal{E}_0) & \hookrightarrow & G(\mathcal{E}_0) \\ \wr \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ G(i_0^* \mathcal{E}_0^\dagger) & \hookrightarrow & G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger), \end{array}$$

where the morphism $G(i_0^* \mathcal{E}_0) \rightarrow G(i_0^* \mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$ is an isomorphism by Remark 2.2.3. Since $G(i_0^* \mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$ is a subgroup of $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$ of maximal rank, the same is true for the subgroup $G(\mathcal{E}_0) \subseteq G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$. $\square$

COROLLARY 2.3.6. *If $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is an algebraic semi-simple overconvergent F -isocrystal, then $G(\mathcal{E}_0)^{\text{cst}}$ and $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)^{\text{cst}}$ are groups of multiplicative type.*

Proof. By Proposition 2.2.4, the algebraic groups $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)^{\text{cst}}$ and $G(\mathcal{E}_0)^{\text{cst}}$ are commutative. It suffices to verify that they are also reductive. The former is a quotient of $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$, which is reductive because $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is semi-simple. The latter is a quotient of $G(\mathcal{E}_0)$, which by Corollary 2.3.5 is a subgroup of $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$ of maximal rank. Let $R_u(G(\mathcal{E}_0)^{\text{cst}})$ be the unipotent radical of $G(\mathcal{E}_0)^{\text{cst}}$. Since $G(\mathcal{E}_0)^{\text{cst}}$ is commutative, $R_u(G(\mathcal{E}_0)^{\text{cst}})$ is a quotient of $G(\mathcal{E}_0)$. Thus $R_u(G(\mathcal{E}_0)^{\text{cst}})$ is trivial by the group-theoretic Lemma 2.3.8 below. This concludes the proof. $\square$

Remark 2.3.7. Note that even the ℓ -adic analogue of Corollary 2.3.6 is true; it follows easily from the homotopy exact sequence of the étale fundamental group.

LEMMA 2.3.8. *Let $\mathbb{K}$ be an algebraically closed field of characteristic 0, let G be a reductive group over $\mathbb{K}$, and let H be a subgroup of G of maximal rank. Every morphism from H to a unipotent group is trivial. Equivalently, the group $\text{Ext}_H^1(\mathbb{K}, \mathbb{K})$ vanishes.*

Proof. Every unipotent group is an iterated extension of copies of $\mathbb{G}_a$. Therefore, it is enough to show that every morphism from H to $\mathbb{G}_a$ is trivial. Suppose that there exists a non-trivial morphism $\varphi: H \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_a$. As $\text{char}(\mathbb{K}) = 0$, the image of φ is $\mathbb{G}_a$ itself. We write K for the kernel of φ and $N_G(K^\circ)$ (respectively, $N_G(K)$) for the normaliser of K° (respectively, K) in G . Every map from a torus to $\mathbb{G}_a$ is trivial; thus the subgroup $K \subseteq G$ has maximal rank as well. This implies by [Mil15, Lemma 18.52] that $N_G(K^\circ)^\circ = K^\circ$. By construction, K is normal in H ; thus H is contained in $N_G(K)$, which in turn is contained in $N_G(K^\circ)$. This implies that $K^\circ = H^\circ$, thus that H/K is a finite group scheme, contradicting the fact that $H/K \simeq \mathbb{G}_a$. $\square$

THEOREM 2.3.9. *Let $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ be an overconvergent F -isocrystal over X_0 . The subgroup $G(\mathcal{E}) \subseteq G(\mathcal{E}^\dagger)$ has maximal rank.*

Proof. If we replace $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ with its semi-simplification with respect to a Jordan–Hölder filtration, we do not change the reductive rank of $G(\mathcal{E}^\dagger)$ and $G(\mathcal{E})$. Thus we may and do assume that $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is semi-simple. This implies that $\mathcal{E}^\dagger$ is semi-simple as well. By [D’Ad20a, Corollary 3.4.2], we can find an overconvergent F -isocrystal $\mathcal{F}_0^\dagger$ over X_0 which is a direct sum of irreducible overconvergent F -isocrystals with finite-order determinant and such that $\mathcal{E}^\dagger \simeq \mathcal{F}^\dagger$. Thanks to [D’Ad20a, Theorem 3.6.6], we know that $\mathcal{F}_0^\dagger$ is algebraic. Therefore, up to replacing $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ with $\mathcal{F}_0^\dagger$, we may assume that $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is algebraic.

Let $V_0^\dagger$ (respectively, V_0) be the representation of $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$ (respectively, $G(\mathcal{E}_0)$) associated to $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ (respectively, $\mathcal{E}_0$). Choose a set of generators $\chi_{1,0}, \dots, \chi_{n,0}$ of $X^*(G(\mathcal{E}_0)^{\text{cst}})$. These correspond

to constant F -isocrystals over X_0 of rank 1. Since every constant F -isocrystal comes from an overconvergent F -isocrystal, every $\chi_{i,0}$ extends to a character $\chi_{i,0}^\dagger$ of $\pi_1^{\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}^\dagger}(X_0)$, the Tannakian group of $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}^\dagger(X_0)$. Note that, a priori, these characters do not factor through $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)^{\text{cst}}$ (see Remark 2.2.5). Take

$$\tilde{V}_0^\dagger := V_0^\dagger \oplus \bigoplus_{i=1}^n \chi_{i,0}^\dagger,$$

and write $\tilde{V}_0$ for the induced representation of $\pi_1^{\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}}(X_0)$, the Tannakian group of $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(X_0)$. By construction, the groups of constant characters $X^*(G(\tilde{V}_0)^{\text{cst}})$ and $X^*(G(V_0)^{\text{cst}})$ are canonically isomorphic and generated by the $\chi_{i,0}$. Moreover, since $\tilde{V}^\dagger \simeq V^\dagger \oplus \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p^{\oplus n}$ and $\tilde{V} \simeq V \oplus \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p^{\oplus n}$, we get isomorphisms $G(\tilde{V}^\dagger) \simeq G(\mathcal{E}^\dagger)$ and $G(\tilde{V}) \simeq G(\mathcal{E})$. Therefore, it is enough to show that $\text{rk}(G(\tilde{V}^\dagger)) = \text{rk}(G(\tilde{V}))$.

By Proposition 2.2.4, there exists a commutative diagram with exact rows

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & G(\tilde{V}) & \longrightarrow & G(\tilde{V}_0) & \longrightarrow & G(\tilde{V}_0)^{\text{cst}} \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & G(\tilde{V}^\dagger) & \longrightarrow & G(\tilde{V}_0^\dagger) & \longrightarrow & G(\tilde{V}_0^\dagger)^{\text{cst}} \longrightarrow 0, \end{array}$$

where the first two vertical arrows are injective and the last one is surjective. As $\tilde{V}_0^\dagger$ is still algebraic, by Corollary 2.3.5, we have $\text{rk}(G(\tilde{V}_0)) = \text{rk}(G(\tilde{V}_0^\dagger))$. Since the reductive rank is additive in exact sequences, it is enough to show that $G(\tilde{V}_0)^{\text{cst}}$ and $G(\tilde{V}_0^\dagger)^{\text{cst}}$ have the same reductive rank. We will show that the morphism $\varphi: G(\tilde{V}_0)^{\text{cst}} \rightarrow G(\tilde{V}_0^\dagger)^{\text{cst}}$ of the previous diagram is actually an isomorphism. We already know that φ is surjective. As $G(\tilde{V}_0)^{\text{cst}}$ and $G(\tilde{V}_0^\dagger)^{\text{cst}}$ are groups of multiplicative type by Corollary 2.3.6, it remains to show that the map $\varphi^*: X^*(G(\tilde{V}_0^\dagger)^{\text{cst}}) \rightarrow X^*(G(\tilde{V}_0)^{\text{cst}})$ is surjective. This is a consequence of the construction of $\tilde{V}_0^\dagger$. Indeed, $X^*(G(\tilde{V}_0)^{\text{cst}}) = X^*(G(V_0)^{\text{cst}})$ is generated by $\chi_{1,0}, \dots, \chi_{n,0}$, and for every i , the character $\chi_{i,0}^\dagger \in X^*(G(\tilde{V}_0^\dagger)^{\text{cst}})$ is sent by φ^* to $\chi_{i,0}$. $\square$

COROLLARY 2.3.10. *Let $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ be an algebraic overconvergent F -isocrystal. The reductive rank of $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)^{\text{cst}}$ is the same as the one of $G(\mathcal{E}_0)^{\text{cst}}$.*

Proof. The result follows from Corollary 2.3.5 and Theorem 2.3.9, thanks to Proposition 2.2.4 and the additivity of the reductive ranks with respect to exact sequences. $\square$

Remark 2.3.11. Using Theorem 2.1.6, one can show that when $\mathcal{E}^\dagger$ is semi-simple, the functor $\langle \mathcal{E}^\dagger \rangle \rightarrow \langle \mathcal{E} \rangle$ is fully faithful. Therefore, in this case, $G(\mathcal{E}) \subseteq G(\mathcal{E}^\dagger)$ is an epimorphic subgroup (cf. Remark 2.1.7). Nevertheless, Theorem 2.3.9 does not follow directly from this because epimorphic subgroups can have, in general, lower reductive rank. For example, let $\mathbb{K}$ be any field, and let G be the algebraic group $\text{SL}_{3,\mathbb{K}}$. The subgroup H of G defined by the matrices of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & 0 & * \\ 0 & a & * \\ 0 & 0 & a^{-2} \end{pmatrix},$$

with $a \in \mathbb{K}^\times$, is the radical of a maximal parabolic subgroup of G . Therefore, by [BB92, §§ 2(a) and 2(d)], the subgroup H of G is epimorphic. On the other hand, the reductive rank of H is 1.

Even more surprisingly, in characteristic 0 *every* almost simple group contains an epimorphic subgroup of dimension 3; see [BB92, § 5(b)].

Another consequence of Theorem 2.3.9 is the following result that we will not use, but which is interesting on its own. We have already discussed it in § 1.4.

COROLLARY 2.3.12. *Let $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ be an overconvergent F -isocrystal, and assume that $\mathcal{E}^\dagger$ is semi-simple. Every $\mathcal{F}_0 \in \langle \mathcal{E}_0 \rangle$ which is an extension of constant F -isocrystals is constant.*

Proof. The statement is equivalent to the fact that the group $\mathrm{Ext}_{G(\mathcal{E})}^1(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p, \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p)$ vanishes. The result then follows from Theorem 2.3.9 thanks to Lemma 2.3.8. $\square$

3. A special case of a conjecture of Kedlaya

3.1 Proof of the main theorem

As a consequence of the results of § 2.3, we obtain a special case of the conjecture in [Ked22, Remark 5.14]. We shall start with a finiteness result. We retain the notation of § 2.2.1.

PROPOSITION 3.1.1. *If $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is an irreducible overconvergent F -isocrystal over X_0 with finite-order determinant, then $G(\mathcal{E}_0)^{\mathrm{cst}}$ is finite. In particular, every constant subquotient of the F -isocrystal $\mathcal{E}_0$ is finite (cf. § 1.6.1).*

Proof. We first notice that $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is algebraic thanks to Deligne's conjecture, [AE19, Lemma 4.1]. By Corollary 2.3.6, we deduce that the algebraic groups $G(\mathcal{E}_0)^{\mathrm{cst}}$ and $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)^{\mathrm{cst}}$ are of multiplicative type and by Corollary 2.3.10 that they have the same dimension. Hence it is enough to show that $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)^{\mathrm{cst}}$ is finite. Thanks to Proposition 2.2.4, this is the same as showing that $G(\mathcal{E}^\dagger)$ is a finite-index subgroup of $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)^\circ$ or, equivalently, that $G(\mathcal{E}^\dagger)^\circ = G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)^\circ$. By [D'Ad20a, Corollary 3.4.5], the group $G(\mathcal{E}^\dagger)^\circ$ is the derived subgroup of the reductive group $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)^\circ$, so that it is enough to show that $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)^\circ$ has finite centre. This follows from the fact that the natural faithful representation of $G(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)$ is irreducible with finite-order determinant. $\square$

Remark 3.1.2. Apart from the known cases of Deligne's conjecture, Proposition 3.1.1 ultimately relies on class field theory. Indeed, the key input for [D'Ad20a, Corollary 3.4.5] is the *global monodromy theorem* for overconvergent F -isocrystals, proven by Crew (over curves) in [Cre92a]. This theorem, as in the ℓ -adic case, essentially follows from class field theory.

THEOREM 3.1.3. *Let $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ be an irreducible overconvergent F -isocrystal over X_0 . If $\mathcal{E}_0$ admits a subobject of minimal slope $\mathcal{F}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{E}_0$ with a non-zero morphism $\mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{1}$, then $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{E}$ and $\mathcal{E} \simeq \mathbb{1}$.*

Proof. Observe that both the hypothesis and the conclusion are invariant under twist. Thus, by [Abe18b, Lemma 6.1], we may assume that the determinant of $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is of finite order, hence unit-root. We first prove that $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is unit-root as well. If r is the rank of $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$, since

$$\sum_{i=1}^r a_i^\eta(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger) = a_1^\eta(\det(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad a_1^\eta(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger) \leq \dots \leq a_r^\eta(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger),$$

it suffices to show that $a_1^\eta(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger) = 0$. Let $\mathcal{F} \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{T}$ be the maximal trivial quotient of $\mathcal{F}$. Since $\mathcal{F} \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{T}$ is maximal, it is preserved by the action of F ; hence it descends to a quotient $\mathcal{F}_0 \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{T}_0$, where $\mathcal{T}_0$ is a constant F -isocrystal. The overconvergent F -isocrystal $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ satisfies the assumptions

of Proposition 3.1.1; hence $G(\mathcal{T}_0)$ is finite. As the F -isocrystal $\mathcal{F}_0$ is isoclinic and it admits a non-zero quotient which is finite, it is unit-root. This implies that $a_1^\eta(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger) = 0$, as we wanted.

We now prove that $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ has rank 1. Since $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is unit-root, as a consequence of a theorem of Tsuzuki [Ked22, Theorem 3.9], the functor $\langle \mathcal{E}_0^\dagger \rangle \rightarrow \langle \mathcal{E}_0 \rangle$ is an equivalence of categories. Therefore, if $\mathcal{E}_0$ has a constant subquotient, the same is true for $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$. But $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is irreducible by assumption, thus it has to be itself a constant F -isocrystal. By Remark 2.2.3, the isocrystal $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ corresponds to an irreducible $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p$ -linear representation of $\mathbb{Z}$. Therefore, since $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p$ is algebraically closed, $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ has rank 1, as we wanted. $\square$

Remark 3.1.4. The statement of Theorem 3.1.3 is false in general if we do not assume that $\mathcal{F}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{E}_0$ is of minimal slope. A counterexample was provided by the second-named author [Ked22, Example 5.15]. A modified version of this conjecture has been proven by Tsuzuki in [Tsu19] (over finite fields and for curves over perfect fields). In his proof, he performs a geometric (p -adic) analysis on the behaviour of the F -isocrystals both at the level of the completion along closed points, for example [Tsu19, Theorem 2.14], and at a global level, [Tsu19, Theorem 3.27]. In our proof, instead, we exploit an ‘arithmetic rigidity’ specific to the situation over finite fields. This rigidity is expressed thanks to [Abe18b, Lemma 6.1], which mainly uses class field theory, and the existence of Frobenius tori of maximal dimension, which cannot happen over more general perfect fields.

3.2 Some consequences

COROLLARY 3.2.1. *Let $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ be an overconvergent F -isocrystal over X_0 , and let $\mathcal{F}_0$ be a subobject of $\mathcal{E}_0$ of minimal generic slope. If $\mathcal{E}^\dagger$ is semi-simple, then the restriction morphism $\mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{E}, \mathbb{1}) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \mathbb{1})$ is surjective.*

Proof. As $\mathcal{E}^\dagger$ is semi-simple if we replace $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ with its semi-simplification with respect to a Jordan–Hölder filtration, we do not change the isomorphism class of $\mathcal{E}^\dagger$. Thus we may and do assume that $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is semi-simple. The proof is then an induction on the number n of summands of any decomposition of $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ in irreducible overconvergent F -isocrystals. If $n = 1$, this is an immediate consequence of Theorem 3.1.3. Now suppose that the result is known for every positive integer $m < n$. Take an irreducible subobject $\mathcal{G}_0^\dagger$ of $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$, write $\mathcal{H}_0 := \mathcal{G}_0 \times_{\mathcal{E}_0} \mathcal{F}_0$, and consider the following commutative diagram with exact rows and injective vertical arrows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{H} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{F} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{F}/\mathcal{H} \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{G} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{E} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{E}/\mathcal{G} \longrightarrow 0. \end{array}$$

As $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is semi-simple, the quotient $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{E}_0^\dagger/\mathcal{G}_0^\dagger$ admits a splitting. This implies that the lower exact sequence splits. We apply the functor $\mathrm{Hom}(-, \mathbb{1})$, and we get the following commutative diagram with exact rows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{E}/\mathcal{G}, \mathbb{1}) & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{E}, \mathbb{1}) & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{G}, \mathbb{1}) \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{H}, \mathbb{1}) & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \mathbb{1}) & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{H}, \mathbb{1}). \end{array}$$

Since $\mathcal{H}_0$ and $\mathcal{F}_0/\mathcal{H}_0$ are subobjects of minimal slope of $\mathcal{G}_0$ and $\mathcal{E}_0/\mathcal{G}_0$, respectively, by the inductive hypothesis, the left and the right vertical arrows are surjective. By diagram chasing, this implies that the central vertical arrow is also surjective, as we wanted. $\square$

Remark 3.2.2. By the theory of weights, if $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is pure, then $\mathcal{E}^\dagger$ is semi-simple. Hence one can apply Corollary 3.2.1 in this situation. The theorem is false without the assumption that $\mathcal{E}^\dagger$ is semi-simple. For example, when $X_0 = \mathbb{G}_{m, \mathbb{F}_q}$, there exists a non-trivial extension

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{1}_0^\dagger \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_0^\dagger \rightarrow (\mathbb{1}_0^\dagger)^{(q)} \rightarrow 0$$

which does not split in $\mathbf{Isoc}^\dagger(X_0)$. If $\mathcal{F}_0 \subseteq \mathcal{E}_0$ is the rank 1 trivial subobject of $\mathcal{E}_0$, then the map $\mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{E}, \mathbb{1}) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \mathbb{1})$ is the zero map, even though $\mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{F}, \mathbb{1}) = \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p$.

We end the section presenting a variant of Corollary 3.2.1, where we rather consider morphisms in $\mathbf{F-Isoc}(X_0)$.

COROLLARY 3.2.3. *Let $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ be an algebraic semi-simple overconvergent F -isocrystal with constant Newton polygons and with minimal slope equal to 0. Let $\mathcal{E}_0^1 \subseteq \mathcal{E}_0$ be the maximal unit-root subobject of $\mathcal{E}_0$. The restriction morphism $\mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{E}_0, \mathbb{1}_0) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{E}_0^1, \mathbb{1}_0)$ is an isomorphism.*

Proof. Since $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is semi-simple, the overconvergent isocrystal $\mathcal{E}^\dagger$ is semi-simple as well. By Corollary 3.2.1, the restriction morphism $\mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{E}, \mathbb{1}) \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{E}^1, \mathbb{1})$ is then surjective. The vector space $\mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{E}, \mathbb{1})$ endowed with its Frobenius action corresponds, via the equivalence in Remark 2.2.3, to the maximal constant subobject of $\mathcal{E}_0^\vee$. Since constant F -isocrystals are overconvergent, the latter is the same as the maximal constant subobject of $(\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger)^\vee$. Combining this with the semi-simplicity assumption on $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$, we deduce that the action of F on $\mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{E}, \mathbb{1})$ is diagonalizable. Therefore, the restriction morphism

$$\mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{E}_0, \mathbb{1}_0) = \mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{E}, \mathbb{1})^F \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{E}^1, \mathbb{1})^F = \mathrm{Hom}(\mathcal{E}_0^1, \mathbb{1}_0)$$

is surjective as well. To prove that it is injective, we note that a morphism from $\mathcal{E}_0$ to $\mathbb{1}_0$ which factors through $\mathcal{E}_0/\mathcal{E}_0^1$ is the zero morphism because $\mathcal{E}_0/\mathcal{E}_0^1$ has positive slopes while $\mathbb{1}_0$ has slope 0. This concludes the proof. $\square$

4. An extension of the theorem of Lang–Néron

4.1 p -torsion and p -divisible groups

Here we exploit Corollary 3.2.1 to prove the following result on the torsion points of abelian varieties. Let $\mathbb{F} \subseteq k$ be a finitely generated field extension, and let k^{perf} be a perfect closure of k . Recall that for an abelian variety A over k , we write $\mathrm{Tr}_{k/\mathbb{F}}(A)$ for its $k/\mathbb{F}$ -trace (cf. [Con06, § 6]).

THEOREM 4.1.1. *If A is an abelian variety over k such that $\mathrm{Tr}_{k/\mathbb{F}}(A) = 0$, then the group $A(k^{\mathrm{perf}})_{\mathrm{tors}}$ is finite.*

As we have already discussed in Remark 1.2.3, thanks to Theorem 1.2.1, it is enough to show that $A[p^\infty](k^{\mathrm{perf}})$ is finite.

Notation 4.1.2. We fix some notation for § 4. Let A be an abelian variety over k (we do not ask that $\mathrm{Tr}_{k/\mathbb{F}}(A) = 0$). Since A/k is of finite type over k , we can choose a subfield $k_0 \subseteq k$ which is finitely generated over $\mathbb{F}_p$ such that $k = \mathbb{F}k_0$ and such that there exists an abelian variety A_0/k_0 endowed with an isomorphism $A \simeq A_0 \otimes_{k_0} k$. Let $\mathbb{F}_q$ be the algebraic closure

of $\mathbb{F}_p$ in k_0 . By spreading out, we can choose a smooth geometrically connected variety X_0 over $\mathbb{F}_q$ with $\mathbb{F}_q(X_0) \simeq k_0$ and an abelian scheme $f_0: \mathfrak{A}_0 \rightarrow X_0$ endowed with an isomorphism $\mathcal{A} \times_X \mathbb{F}_q(X_0) \simeq A_0$. Since the Newton polygons of $f_0: \mathfrak{A}_0 \rightarrow X_0$ are constant on a dense open subset of X_0 , after shrinking X_0 we may assume that Newton polygons $f_0: \mathfrak{A}_0 \rightarrow X_0$ are constant. We denote by X and $\mathfrak{A}$ the extension of scalars of X_0 and $\mathfrak{A}_0$ from $\mathbb{F}_q$ to $\mathbb{F}$.

LEMMA 4.1.3. *Let A be an abelian variety over k , and let $\mathfrak{A}_0/X_0$ be a model of A as in § 4.1.2. If $|A[p^\infty](k^{\text{perf}})| = \infty$, then there exists an injective morphism $(\mathbb{Q}_p/\mathbb{Z}_p)_X \hookrightarrow \mathfrak{A}[p^\infty]^{\text{ét}}$.*

Proof. We first prove that the group $A[p^\infty](k^{\text{perf}})$ is isomorphic to $\mathfrak{A}[p^\infty]^{\text{ét}}(X)$, showing thereby that $\mathfrak{A}[p^\infty]^{\text{ét}}(X)$ is infinite as well. As k^{perf} is a perfect field, the map

$$A[p^\infty](k^{\text{perf}}) \rightarrow A[p^\infty]^{\text{ét}}(k^{\text{perf}}) = A[p^\infty]^{\text{ét}}(k)$$

induced by the quotient $A[p^\infty] \twoheadrightarrow A[p^\infty]^{\text{ét}}$ is an isomorphism. In addition, since the Newton polygons of $f: \mathfrak{A} \rightarrow X$ are constant, the p -ranks of the fibres of f are all equal. Therefore, for every i , the constructible étale sheaf $\mathfrak{A}[p^i]^{\text{ét}}$ over X is locally constant. Since X is normal, the restriction morphism $\mathfrak{A}[p^\infty]^{\text{ét}}(X) \rightarrow A[p^\infty]^{\text{ét}}(k)$ induced by the inclusion of the generic point $\text{Spec}(k) \hookrightarrow X$ is then an isomorphism. These two observations show that $A[p^\infty](k^{\text{perf}}) \simeq \mathfrak{A}[p^\infty]^{\text{ét}}(X)$, as we wanted.

Since $|\mathfrak{A}[p^\infty]^{\text{ét}}(X)| = |A[p^\infty](k^{\text{perf}})| = \infty$, a standard compactness argument shows that there exists a morphism $(\mathbb{Q}_p/\mathbb{Z}_p)_X \hookrightarrow \mathfrak{A}[p^\infty]^{\text{ét}}$. For the reader's convenience, we quickly recall it. We define a partition of $\mathfrak{A}[p^\infty]^{\text{ét}}(X)$ in subsets $\{\Delta_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ in the following way. Let $\Delta_0 := \{0\}$, and for $i > 0$, let $\Delta_i := \mathfrak{A}[p^i]^{\text{ét}}(X) \setminus \mathfrak{A}[p^{i-1}]^{\text{ét}}(X)$. When $j \geq i$, the multiplication by p^{j-i} induces a map $\Delta_j \rightarrow \Delta_i$. These maps make $\{\Delta_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ into an inverse system. We claim that every Δ_i is non-empty. Suppose to the contrary that for some $N \in \mathbb{N}$, the set Δ_N is empty. By construction, for every $i \geq N$, the sets Δ_i are empty as well. Since every Δ_i is finite, this would imply that $\mathfrak{A}[p^\infty]^{\text{ét}}(X)$ is also finite, which gives a contradiction. As every Δ_i is non-empty, by Tychonoff's theorem, the projective limit $\varprojlim \Delta_i$ is non-empty. The choice of an element $(P_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \in \varprojlim \Delta_i$ induces an injective map $(\mathbb{Q}_p/\mathbb{Z}_p)_X \hookrightarrow \mathfrak{A}[p^\infty]^{\text{ét}}$, given by the assignment $[1/p^i] \mapsto P_i$. This yields the desired result. $\square$

4.2 Reformulation with the crystalline Dieudonné theory

We restate the classical crystalline Dieudonné theory in our set-up.

4.2.1 Let

$$\mathbb{D}: \{p\text{-divisible groups } /X\} \rightarrow \mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Crys}(X/W(\mathbb{F}))$$

be the *crystalline Dieudonné module (contravariant) functor*, where $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Crys}(X/W(\mathbb{F}))$ is the category of coherent $\mathbb{Z}_p$ -linear F -crystals (cf. [BBM82, définition 3.3.6]). By [dJo95, Main Theorem 1], the functor is fully faithful and, by [BBM82, théorème 2.5.6(ii)], there is a canonical isomorphism $\mathbb{D}(\mathfrak{A}[p^\infty]) \simeq R^1 f_{\text{crys}*} \mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{A}}$. Extending the scalars to $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p$ and post-composing with the functor of Theorem 2.1.3, we define a $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p$ -linear fully faithful contravariant functor

$$\mathbb{D}_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p}: \{p\text{-divisible groups } /X\}_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p} \rightarrow \mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(X).$$

The functor sends the trivial p -divisible group $(\mathbb{Q}_p/\mathbb{Z}_p)_{X, \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p}$ to the $(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p\text{-linear})$ F -isocrystal $(\mathcal{O}_X, \text{id})$ over X . By the classification of p -divisible groups in terms of Dieudonné modules over

perfect fields, if $X = \operatorname{Spec}(\mathbb{F})$, the functor induces an equivalence

$$\mathbb{D}_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p} : \{p\text{-divisible groups} / \operatorname{Spec}(\mathbb{F})\}_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}_{[0,1]}(\operatorname{Spec}(\mathbb{F})),$$

where $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}_{[0,1]}(\operatorname{Spec}(\mathbb{F}))$ is the category of F -isocrystals with slopes between 0 and 1. Since $\mathbb{D}_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p}$ is compatible with base change, this implies that for every X , the functor $\mathbb{D}_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p}$ is exact, it preserves the heights/ranks, and it sends étale p -divisible groups to unit-root F -isocrystals.

4.2.2 By [Éte02, Théorème 7], the F -isocrystal $R^1 f_{0,\text{crys}*} \mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{A}_0}$ over X_0 comes from an overconvergent F -isocrystal, which we denote by $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$. This overconvergent F -isocrystal is semi-simple, as proven over curves in [Pál15, Theorem 1.2] and explained in general in the proof of [D'Ad20b, Theorem 5.1.6]. Let $\mathcal{F}_0$ be the maximal unit-root subobject of $\mathcal{E}_0$, and let $(\mathcal{F}_0)_X$ be the inverse image of $\mathcal{F}_0$ to X , as an F -isocrystal. As usual, we also denote by $\mathcal{E}$ and $\mathcal{F}$ the isocrystals over X_0 obtained from $\mathcal{E}_0$ and $\mathcal{F}_0$ by forgetting the Frobenius structure.

By the discussion in § 4.2.1, we have the following result.

LEMMA 4.2.3. *Let A be an abelian variety over k , and let $\mathfrak{A}_0/X_0$ be a model of A as in § 4.1.2. The quotient $\mathfrak{A}[p^\infty] \rightarrow \mathfrak{A}[p^\infty]^{\text{ét}}$ is sent by $\mathbb{D}_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p}$ to the natural inclusion $(\mathcal{F}_0)_X \hookrightarrow (\mathcal{E}_0)_X$.*

By using Lemma 4.2.3, we can reformulate Lemma 4.1.3 in the language of F -isocrystals.

COROLLARY 4.2.4. *If $|A[p^\infty](k^{\text{perf}})| = \infty$, then there exists a quotient $(\mathcal{F}_0)_X \twoheadrightarrow (\mathcal{O}_X, \text{id})$.*

Proof. Thanks to Lemma 4.1.3, if $|A[p^\infty](k^{\text{perf}})| = \infty$, then there exists an injective morphism $(\mathbb{Q}_p/\mathbb{Z}_p)_X \hookrightarrow \mathfrak{A}[p^\infty]^{\text{ét}}$. By Lemma 4.2.3, after we extend the scalars to $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p$, this morphism is sent by $\mathbb{D}_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p}$ to a quotient $(\mathcal{F}_0)_X \twoheadrightarrow (\mathcal{O}_X, \text{id})$. $\square$

4.3 End of the proof

We need to rephrase the finiteness of torsion points given by the theorem of Lang–Néron in terms of morphisms of isocrystals on X_0 . This will finally lead to the proof of Theorem 4.1.1.

PROPOSITION 4.3.1. *Let A be an abelian variety over k , let $\mathfrak{A}_0/X_0$ be a model of A as in § 4.1.2, and let $\mathcal{E}_0$ and $\mathcal{F}_0$ be the F -isocrystals defined in § 4.2.2. If for some $n > 0$, there exists a morphism $\mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{X_0}^{\oplus n}$ such that the image of $\mathcal{F}$ is non-zero, then $\operatorname{Tr}_{k/\mathbb{F}}(A) \neq 0$.*

Proof. Write $\mathcal{E} \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{T}$ for the maximal trivial quotient of $\mathcal{E}$. Since $\mathcal{E} \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{T}$ is maximal, it is preserved by the action of F on $\mathcal{E}$; hence it defines a quotient $\mathcal{E}_0 \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{T}_0$, where $\mathcal{T}_0$ is the maximal constant quotient of $\mathcal{E}_0$. We base change this quotient from X_0 to X , as a morphism of F -isocrystals, obtaining a quotient $(\mathcal{E}_0)_X \twoheadrightarrow (\mathcal{T}_0)_X$ in $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(X)$. Since $\mathcal{T}_0$ is an F -isocrystal coming from $\operatorname{Spec}(\mathbb{F}_q)$, the F -isocrystal $(\mathcal{T}_0)_X$ comes from $\operatorname{Spec}(\mathbb{F})$. Thanks to the Dieudonné–Manin decomposition, $(\mathcal{T}_0)_X$ decomposes in $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(X)$ as

$$(\mathcal{T}_0)_X = (\mathcal{T}'_0)_X \oplus (\mathcal{O}_X^{\oplus m}, \text{id}),$$

where $(\mathcal{O}_X^{\oplus m}, \text{id})$ is the maximal unit-root subobject of $(\mathcal{T}_0)_X$ and $m \geq 0$. As $\mathcal{F}_0$ is unit-root, it is sent via the quotient $(\mathcal{E}_0)_X \twoheadrightarrow (\mathcal{T}_0)_X$ to a unit-root F -subisocrystal of $(\mathcal{T}_0)_X$. By the assumption, the image of $(\mathcal{F}_0)_X$ is non-zero, so that m has to be greater than 0. Thus $(\mathcal{E}_0)_X$ admits a surjective morphism to $(\mathcal{O}_X, \text{id})$ in $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(X)$. Since $\mathbb{D}_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p}$ is fully faithful, such a quotient comes from a monomorphism $(\mathbb{Q}_p/\mathbb{Z}_p)_{X, \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p} \hookrightarrow \mathfrak{A}[p^\infty]_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p}$ in the category of p -divisible groups with coefficients in $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p$. After we multiply it by some element in $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_p^\times$, the map defines an injection $(\mathbb{Q}_p/\mathbb{Z}_p)_X \hookrightarrow \mathfrak{A}[p^\infty]$ of p -divisible groups over X . By Theorem 1.2.1, this implies that $\operatorname{Tr}_{k/\mathbb{F}}(A) \neq 0$. $\square$

Proof of Theorem 4.1.1. Assume to the contrary that $|A[p^\infty](k^{\text{perf}})| = \infty$. By Corollary 4.2.4, we have a quotient $(\mathcal{F}_0)_X \twoheadrightarrow (\mathcal{O}_X, \text{id})$ in $\mathbf{F}\text{-}\mathbf{Isoc}(X)$. Forgetting the Frobenius structure, we get a quotient $\mathcal{F}_X \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{O}_X$ in $\mathbf{Isoc}(X)$. Let $\mathcal{F}_X \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{O}_X^{\oplus n}$ be the maximal trivial quotient of $\mathcal{F}_X$, where $n > 0$. By maximality, the action of the absolute Galois group of $\mathbb{F}_q$ on $\mathcal{F}_X$ preserves this quotient. Therefore, the morphism $\mathcal{F}_X \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{O}_X^{\oplus n}$ descends to a quotient $\mathcal{F} \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{T}$ in $\mathbf{Isoc}(X_0)$. Since the descent datum defining $\mathcal{T}$ is the pullback of a descent datum over $\text{Spec}(\mathbb{F})$, the convergent isocrystal $\mathcal{T}$ is isomorphic to the pullback of a convergent isocrystal over $\mathbb{F}_q$. Notice that every convergent isocrystal over $\text{Spec}(\mathbb{F}_q)$ is trivial, so that $\mathcal{T} \simeq \mathcal{O}_{X_0}^{\oplus n}$. Now, thanks to the fact that $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is semi-simple, as explained in § 4.2.2, we can use Corollary 3.2.1 and extend the quotient $\mathcal{F} \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{O}_{X_0}^{\oplus n}$ to a quotient $\mathcal{E} \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{O}_{X_0}^{\oplus n}$ in $\mathbf{Isoc}(X_0)$. By Proposition 4.3.1, this would imply that $\text{Tr}_{k/\mathbb{F}}(A) \neq 0$, which leads to a contradiction. $\square$

Remark 4.3.2. The proofs of Theorem 2.3.3 and Proposition 3.1.1 rely on the known cases of Deligne's conjecture. In particular, they rely on the Langlands correspondence for lisse sheaves proven in [Laf02] and the Langlands correspondence for overconvergent F -isocrystals proven in [Abe18a]. We want to point out that to prove Theorem 4.1.1, we do not need this theory. More precisely, when $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ is an overconvergent F -isocrystal which comes from geometry (cf. § 1.4), Theorem 2.3.3 can be proven more directly, as explained in [D'Ad20a, Remark 4.2.13]. Even in the proof of Proposition 3.1.1, if $\mathcal{E}_0^\dagger$ comes from geometry, we do not need [D'Ad20a, Theorem 3.6.6]. This applies, for example, to the overconvergent F -isocrystals appearing in § 4. To summarize, in the proof of Theorem 4.1.1, the main ingredients are: class field theory (see Remark 3.1.2), the theory of weights for overconvergent F -isocrystals, and Kedlaya's full faithfulness theorem.

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