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The volumes of Miyauchi subgroups

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Abstract. Miyauchi described the L and ε -factors attached to generic representations of the unramified unitary group of rank three in terms of local newforms defined by a sequence of subgroups. We calculate the volumes of these Miyauchi groups.

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1. Introduction.

1.1. Miyauchi's theory of local newforms. Let E/F be a quadratic unramified extension of non-Archimedean local fields of characteristic zero. We use \overline{x} to denote the non-trivial Galois automorphism applied to $x \in E$. Let \mathfrak{o} , \mathfrak{O} be the rings of integers of the two fields F, E respectively. Let \mathfrak{p} , \mathfrak{P} be their maximal ideals, and q_F , q_E be the cardinalities of their residue fields. Let

$$U = \{ g \in GL_3(E) : {}^t\overline{g}Jg = J \}, \tag{1.1}$$

where

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} & & 1 \\ & 1 & \\ 1 & & \end{pmatrix}. \tag{1.2}$$

The group U is a rank 3 unitary group defined over F. There is a unique isomorphism class of genuine unitary groups over F [20, Section 1.9], so we are content to work with the above explicit model for this single isomorphism class of unitary groups.

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Consider the family of compact open subgroups of U defined for all $n \geqslant 0$ by

$$\Gamma_n = \left\{ g \in \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{O} & \mathfrak{O} & \mathfrak{P}^{-n} \\ \mathfrak{P}^n & 1 + \mathfrak{P}^n & \mathfrak{O} \\ \mathfrak{P}^n & \mathfrak{P}^n & \mathfrak{O} \end{pmatrix} : \det(g) \in \mathfrak{O}^{\times} \right\} \cap U. \tag{1.3}$$

We call these the Miyauchi subgroups, as defined in [17]. These are of particular interest because of the theory of local newforms established by Miyauchi [16], relating the notions of conductors and newforms to L and ε -factors attached to representations of U, as summarized in the theorem below.

Choose a non-trivial unramified additive character ψ_E of E and a non-trivial additive character ψ_F of F. For an irreducible admissible generic representation π of U, let $\mathcal{W}(\pi,\psi_E)$ be its Whittaker model with respect to ψ_E . Gelbart, Piatetski-Shapiro [7] and Baruch [1] defined the L-factor $L(s,\pi)$ associated to an irreducible generic representation π of U as the greatest common divisor of a family of explicit zeta integrals $Z(s,W,\Phi)$ where $W\in\mathcal{W}(\pi,\psi_E)$ and Φ is a function in $\mathcal{C}_c^\infty(F^2)$. The ε -factor $\varepsilon(s,\pi,\psi_E,\psi_F)$ is then defined as the quantity appearing in the functional equation satisfied by $L(s,\pi)$. These fundamental quantities in the theory of automorphic forms on U can be characterized in a more explicit and computational way with the sequence of Miyauchi subgroups.

Theorem 1.1 (Miyauchi). Assume the residue characteristic of F is odd. Let π be an irreducible generic representation of U. For any $n \geq 0$, let V(n) be the subspace of π fixed by Γ_n . Then

- (i) there exists $n \ge 0$ such that V(n) is non-zero;
- (ii) if n_{π} is the least such integer, then $V(n_{\pi})$ is one-dimensional and its non-zero elements are called the newforms for π ;
- (iii) if v is the newform for π such that the corresponding Whittaker function W_v satisfies $W_v(I_3) = 1$, then the corresponding Gelbart-Piatetski-Shapiro zeta integral $Z(s, W_v, \mathbf{1}_{\mathfrak{p}^n\pi\oplus\mathfrak{o}})$ matches the L-factor $L(s, \pi)$;
- (iv) if ψ_F has conductor \mathfrak{o} , then the ε -factor of π satisfies

$$\varepsilon(s, \pi, \psi_E, \psi_F) = q_E^{-n_\pi(s-1/2)}.$$
 (1.4)

Proof. Points (i) and (ii) are [17, Theorem 0.3], and points (iii) and (iv) are [18, Theorem 3.6]. \Box

Consider the Haar measure on U normalized so that the maximal open compact subgroup Γ_0 gets volume one. In this short note, we compute the volumes of the Miyauchi subgroups with respect to this measure.

Theorem 1.2. For every $n \ge 1$, the volumes of the Miyauchi subgroups are given by

$$vol(\Gamma_n) = q_F^{-3n} (1 + q_F^{-3})^{-1}.$$
(1.5)

Since the subgroups Γ_n characterize the conductor by the point (iv) in Miyauchi's theorem, their volumes should appear as invariants in many problems involving automorphic forms on unitary groups of rank 3. Theorem 1.2 is the analogue of e.g. [15, Theorem 4.2.5] in the case of GL_2 , and of [21, Lemma 3.3.3] in the case of GSp_4 .

1.2. Classical theory of local newforms. Let us turn back to a more usual setting, the one of general linear groups over F, where the established importance of local newforms is a suitable motivation to our problem. For instance, the indices of the classical congruence subgroups in $SL_2(\mathbf{Z})$ are known to be equal to

$$[\operatorname{SL}_2(\mathbf{Z}):\Gamma_0(N)] = N \prod_{p|N} \left(1 + \frac{1}{p}\right), \tag{1.6}$$

which is a central fact in the theory of automorphic forms, appealed to for many purposes: establishing the dimension of the space of automorphic cusp forms of given level [15], sieving out the oldforms and the spectral multiplicities in arithmetic statistic questions [9], or motivating normalization in spectral theory and trace formulas [11] for instance.

In a more representation theoretic framework, the analogous result to Theorem 1.1 was established by Casselman [3] and Deligne [4] in the case of GL₂ and by Jacquet, Piatetski-Shapiro, and Shalika [10] in the case of GL_m . More precisely, let

$$\widetilde{\Gamma}_n = \begin{pmatrix} \operatorname{GL}_{m-1}(\mathfrak{o}) & M_{m-1,1}(\mathfrak{o}) \\ p^n M_{1,m-1}(\mathfrak{o}) & 1 + p^n \mathfrak{o} \end{pmatrix}$$
(1.7)

be the classical congruence subgroups. These are of particular interest because of the following result, relating the theory of classical L-functions to the fixed vectors by these congruence subgroups, analogously to Theorem 1.1. Let ψ be a non-trivial unramified additive character of F viewed as a character of the upper-triangular Borel subgroup of $GL_m(F)$ as in [10, Eq. (2)]. For an irreducible admissible generic representation π of $GL_m(F)$, let $W(\pi, \psi)$ be its Whittaker model with respect to ψ .

Theorem 1.3 (Casselman, Jacquet, Piatetski-Shapiro, Shalika). Let π be an irreducible generic representation of GL_m . For $n \ge 0$, let V(n) be the subspace of π fixed by Γ_n . Then

- (i) there exists $n \ge 0$ such that V(n) is non-zero;
- (ii) if n_{π} is the least such integer, then $V(n_{\pi})$ is one-dimensional and its
- elements are called the newforms for π ; (iii) the ε -factor $\varepsilon(s,\pi,\psi)$ is $q_F^{-n_\pi(s-1/2)}$ times a quantity independent of s.

Since these congruence subgroups characterize the conductor by the point (iii) of the above theorem, their volumes govern the sizes of the families of automorphic forms on GL_m . The indices (1.6) are therefore necessary to compute the main term in the automorphic Weyl law in the analytic conductor aspect for GL_2 and its inner forms [2,13], where the characterization of the conductor in terms of congruence subgroups is used in a critical way. The strong similarity between Theorem 1.1 and Theorem 1.3, as well as the fundamental role played by the volumes of the subgroups Γ_n in the GL_m case, suggest that the volumes of the Miyauchi subgroups Γ_n will play a central role in the analytic theory of U. In particular, we expect that these volumes will appear in the main term of the automorphic Weyl law for rank 3 unitary groups, see [12, Chapter 5].

- 1.3. Outline of the proof. We follow the strategy of Roberts and Schmidt [21, Lemma 3.3.3], but encounter some new difficulties owing to the fact that U is non-split. The proof has several steps.
 - 1. Consider the subgroups of Γ_n given by, for any $n \ge 0$,

$$A_n = \left\{g \in \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{O} & \mathfrak{O} & \mathfrak{O} \\ \mathfrak{P}^n & 1 + \mathfrak{P}^n & \mathfrak{O} \\ \mathfrak{P}^n & \mathfrak{P}^n & \mathfrak{O} \end{pmatrix} : \det(g) \in \mathfrak{O}^\times \right\} \cap U,$$

which are the analogs of the Klingen subgroups introduced by Roberts and Schmidt [21, Equation (2.5)] in the GSp(4) setting. Lemma 3.2 gives the decomposition of Γ_n into A_n -cosets in terms of the group of trace zero elements of $\mathfrak{O}/\mathfrak{P}^n$. The sizes of these groups can then be computed using group cohomology and the integral normal basis theorem for unramified extensions of local fields (see Lemma 2.6). In particular, Lemma 3.2 reduces the computation of the volume of Γ_n to the calculation of the indices $[\Gamma_0:A_n]$.

2. Consider the subgroups B_n of Γ_n given by

$$B_n = \left\{ g \in \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{O} & \mathfrak{O} & \mathfrak{O} \\ \mathfrak{P}^n & \mathfrak{O} & \mathfrak{O} \\ \mathfrak{P}^n & \mathfrak{P}^n & \mathfrak{O} \end{pmatrix} : \det(g) \in \mathfrak{O}^{\times} \right\} \cap U,$$

and note that B_n contains A_n . Lemma 4.1 provides the short exact sequence

$$1 \longrightarrow A_n \longrightarrow B_n \longrightarrow E^1_{\mathfrak{P}^n} \longrightarrow 1 ,$$

where $E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}^1$ is the set of elements in \mathfrak{O} with $x\overline{x} = 1$, reduced mod \mathfrak{P}^n . The cardinality of $E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}^1$ may be calculated using Hilbert's theorem 90 (see Lemma 2.5).

- 3. Calculate the index of B_n in B_1 . This is the content of Lemma 5.1 and uses the Iwahori factorization of reductive groups in order to state a recursive relation between the index of B_n in B_{n-1} .
- 4. Finally, the index of B_1 in Γ_0 is computed in Lemma 6.3 by appealing to the Bruhat decomposition of the reduction modulo \mathfrak{P} of B_1 .

Altogether, these results compile into Theorem 1.2. Throughout the proofs, we may assume $n \ge 1$ since we normalize Γ_0 to have measure one.

1.4. Comments on ramification. Even though Miyauchi's theory of newforms has only been established for unitary groups attached to unramified extensions E/F, the subgroups Γ_n can be defined without this assumption and it would be natural to want to extend the results of this paper to allow for ramification. We discuss here some modifications it would induce.

It seems reasonable to expect that the proof of Theorem 1.2 given in this paper could be adapted to allow for tame ramification in E/F. The generalization would force us to adapt most of the group cohomology results in Section 2

and introduce casework according to the parity of the residue characteristic. For example, since G acts trivially on $E_{\mathfrak{P}}$ when E/F is ramified, we would have instead $H^1(G, E_{\mathfrak{P}}^{\times}) \simeq \mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z}$ in Lemma 2.4, except when the residue field has characteristic 2.

On the other hand, allowing E/F to be wildly ramified seems to be more difficult. The hypothesis that E/F is at most tamely ramified is used in Lemma 2.1 and also in the proof of Lemmas 5.1 and 6.3 to compute the cardinalities of certain unipotent subgroups. Underlying these is the existence of a normal \mathfrak{o} -basis of \mathfrak{O} , which according to Noether's integral normal basis theorem happens if and only if E/F is at most tamely ramified.

Since these generalizations would increase the length of the paper and it is not clear that the Miyauchi subgroups take the same shape for unramified extensions, we leave aside the question of ramification for the remainder of this work.

2. Group cohomology lemmas. The following lemmas are standard results in group cohomology that will be used often in what follows. Given a group G and a G-module M, we denote by $H^n(G, M)$ the nth cohomology group of G. See Serre [22, Ch. VII] for more definitions and background.

Lemma 2.1. Let A be a Dedekind domain, K its field of fractions, L an at most tamely ramified finite Galois extension of K, G its Galois group, and B the integral closure of A in L. We have $H^n(G, B) = 0$ for all $n \ge 1$.

Proof. See e.g.
$$[19, (6.1.10) \text{ Theorem}].$$

Corollary 2.2. Let E be an unramified quadratic extension of a non-Archimedean local field F with Galois group G and ring of integers \mathfrak{D} . We have that $H^n(G,\mathfrak{D})=0$ for all $n\geqslant 1$.

Let ϖ be a uniformizer of \mathfrak{p} . Since E/F is unramified, ϖ is also a uniformizer of \mathfrak{P} . Let $E_{\mathfrak{P}^n} = \mathfrak{O}/\mathfrak{P}^n$. Corollary 2.2 also descends to the finite additive rings $E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}$, as the next lemma shows.

Lemma 2.3. We have that $H^m(G, E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}) = 0$ for all $m, n \ge 1$.

Proof. We have the short exact sequence

$$1 \longrightarrow \mathfrak{O} \stackrel{\times_{\overline{\omega}^n}}{\longrightarrow} \mathfrak{O} \longrightarrow E_{\mathfrak{P}^n} \longrightarrow 1,$$

and taking the long exact sequence in cohomology, we have, for all $m, n \geqslant 1$, that

$$\cdots \longrightarrow H^m(G, \mathfrak{O}) \longrightarrow H^m(G, E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}) \longrightarrow H^{m+1}(G, \mathfrak{O}) \longrightarrow \cdots$$

Since the outer two terms vanish by Corollary 2.2, we also have $H^m(G, E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}) = 0$ for all $m, n \ge 1$.

We also consider finite multiplicative groups. Let $E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}^{\times}=(\mathfrak{O}/\mathfrak{P}^n)^{\times}.$

Lemma 2.4. We have $H^1(G, E_{\mathfrak{V}^n}^{\times}) = 0$ for all $n \geqslant 1$.

Proof. The case n=1 is just Hilbert's theorem 90: since E/F is unramified, G acts on the field $E_{\mathfrak{P}}$ by Galois automorphisms, and so $H^1(G, E_{\mathfrak{P}}^{\times}) = 0$.

Assume henceforth that $n \ge 2$. Hilbert's theorem 90 no longer applies since $E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}$ is not a field, but we shall still manage to show that $H^1(G, E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}^{\times}) = 0$ as follows. By considering the sequence

$$1 \longrightarrow 1 + \varpi^n \mathfrak{O} \longrightarrow \mathfrak{O}^{\times} \longrightarrow E_{\mathfrak{V}^n}^{\times} \longrightarrow 1,$$

and taking the long exact sequence in cohomology, we get

$$\cdots \longrightarrow H^1(G, \mathfrak{O}^{\times}) \longrightarrow H^1(G, E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}) \longrightarrow H^2(G, 1 + \varpi^n \mathfrak{O}) \longrightarrow \cdots .$$
(2.1)

We would like to show that $H^2(G, 1 + \varpi^n \mathfrak{O}) = 0$. For any $m \ge 1$, consider the exact sequence

$$1 \longrightarrow 1 + \varpi^{n+m} \mathfrak{O} \longrightarrow 1 + \varpi^n \mathfrak{O} \longrightarrow \mathfrak{P}^n/\mathfrak{P}^{n+m} \longrightarrow 1.$$

By the long exact sequence in cohomology, we see that

$$H^{2}(G, 1 + \varpi^{n+m}\mathfrak{O}) \simeq H^{2}(G, 1 + \varpi^{n}\mathfrak{O})$$
(2.2)

since the outer two cohomology groups in the long exact sequence vanish by Lemma 2.3. For m sufficiently large, we have $1+\varpi^{n+m}\mathfrak{O}\simeq\mathfrak{O}$ as G-modules, so that $H^2(G,1+\varpi^{n+m}\mathfrak{O})$ and thus $H^2(G,1+\varpi^n\mathfrak{O})$ vanishes by Corollary 2.2.

Returning to (2.1), to prove the lemma, it now suffices to show that $H^1(G, \mathfrak{O}^{\times})$ vanishes. Consider the sequence

$$1 \longrightarrow \mathfrak{O}^{\times} \longrightarrow E^{\times} \xrightarrow{\operatorname{val}} \mathbf{Z} \longrightarrow 1$$
.

Taking the long exact sequence in cohomology and by Hilbert's theorem 90, we have

$$1 \longrightarrow \mathfrak{o}^{\times} \longrightarrow F^{\times} \xrightarrow{\text{val}} \mathbf{Z} \longrightarrow H^{1}(G, \mathfrak{O}^{\times}) \longrightarrow 1.$$

The valuation map here is surjective since E/F is unramified. Therefore we have $H^1(G, \mathfrak{O}^{\times}) = 0$, and thus $H^1(G, E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}) = 0$ from (2.1).

Let $E^0_{\mathfrak{P}^n}$ be the subgroup of $E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}$ of trace-zero elements, that is $E^0_{\mathfrak{P}^n} = \{x \in E_{\mathfrak{P}^n} : x + \overline{x} = 0\}$. Likewise, write $E^1_{\mathfrak{P}^n}$ for the subgroup of $E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}$ consisting of norm-one elements, i.e. $E^1_{\mathfrak{P}^n} = \{x \in E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}^\times : x\overline{x} = 1\}$. Our intended application of the above group cohomology lemmas is to calculate the cardinalities of the finite groups $E^0_{\mathfrak{P}^n}$ and $E^1_{\mathfrak{P}^n}$. For any G-module M, we write $Z^1(G,M)$ for the group of 1-cocycles and $B^1(G,M)$ for the set of 1-coboundaries.

Lemma 2.5. For every $n \ge 1$,

$$|E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}^1| = q_F^{n-1}(q_F + 1). (2.3)$$

Proof. Let σ denote the non-identity element of G. We have

$$Z^1(G, E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}^{\times}) \simeq E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}^1, \tag{2.4}$$

where the map is given by $\xi \mapsto \xi(\sigma)$. We have an exact sequence

$$1 \longrightarrow \left(\frac{\mathfrak{o}}{\mathfrak{P}^n \cap \mathfrak{o}} \right)^{\times} \longrightarrow E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}^{\times} \stackrel{f}{\longrightarrow} Z^1(G, E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}^{\times}) \,,$$

where f is given by the composition of $x \mapsto x/\overline{x}$ and (2.4). The image of f is by definition $B^1(G, E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}^{\times})$. But, by Lemma 2.4, we have $B^1(G, E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}^{\times}) = Z^1(G, E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}^{\times})$. Thus

$$|E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}^1| = \frac{|E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}^{\times}|}{|(\mathfrak{o}/\mathfrak{P}^n \cap \mathfrak{o})^{\times}|} = \frac{q_E^{n-1}(q_E - 1)}{q_F^{n-1}(q_F - 1)},\tag{2.5}$$

which equals $q_F^{n-1}(q_F+1)$ since $q_E=q_F^2$ because E/F is unramified.

Lemma 2.6. For every $n \geqslant 1$,

$$|E^0_{\mathfrak{M}^n}| = q_F^n. (2.6)$$

Proof. We have

$$Z^1(G, E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}) \simeq E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}^0, \tag{2.7}$$

where the map is given by $\xi \mapsto \xi(\sigma)$. Now consider the exact sequence

$$1 \longrightarrow \frac{\mathfrak{o}}{\mathfrak{P}^n \cap \mathfrak{o}} \longrightarrow E_{\mathfrak{P}^n} \stackrel{f}{\longrightarrow} Z^1(G, E_{\mathfrak{p}^n}),$$

where the map f is given by the composition of $u \mapsto u - \overline{u}$ and (2.7). The image of f is $f(E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}) = B^1(G, E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}) = Z^1(G, E_{\mathfrak{P}^n})$ by Lemma 2.3. Therefore

$$|E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}^0| = \frac{|E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}|}{\left|\frac{\mathfrak{o}}{\mathfrak{D}^n \cap \mathfrak{o}}\right|} \cdot |H^1(G, E_{\mathfrak{P}^n})|. \tag{2.8}$$

Since E/F is unramified, we have $q_E = q_F^2$. We have $|E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}| = q_E^n$ and $|\frac{\mathfrak{o}}{\mathfrak{P}^n \cap \mathfrak{o}}| = q_F^n$ (again by the unramified hypothesis). Therefore, we have shown that

$$|E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}^0| = q_E^{n/2} = q_F^n.$$

3. From A_n **to** Γ_n **.** Recall that we have chosen a common uniformizer ϖ of \mathfrak{p} and \mathfrak{P} . Introduce, for $n \ge 0$ and $u \in \mathfrak{O}$,

$$t_n(u) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & u\varpi^{-n} \\ 1 & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
 (3.1)

which is in Γ_n if and only if $u + \overline{u} = 0$, and

$$\sigma_n = \begin{pmatrix} & & \varpi^{-n} \\ & 1 & \\ \varpi^n & \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma_n. \tag{3.2}$$

For every $n \ge 0$ and $k \ge 0$, let

$$C_n^{(k)} = \left\{ g \in \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{O} & \mathfrak{O} & \mathfrak{P}^{k-n} \\ \mathfrak{P}^n & 1 + \mathfrak{P}^n & \mathfrak{O} \\ \mathfrak{P}^n & \mathfrak{P}^n & \mathfrak{O} \end{pmatrix} : \det(g) \in \mathfrak{O}^{\times} \right\} \cap U.$$
 (3.3)

Lemma 3.1. For E/F unramified, we have

$$\left[C_n^{(k)}: C_n^{(k+1)}\right] = \begin{cases} q_F + 1 & \text{if } k = 0, \\ q_F & \text{if } 1 \leqslant k < n. \end{cases}$$
(3.4)

Proof. Introduce

$$g = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta & \gamma \varpi^{k-n} \\ \delta \varpi^n & 1 + \epsilon \varpi^n & \zeta \\ \eta \varpi^n & \theta \varpi^n & \iota \end{pmatrix}, \tag{3.5}$$

a typical element in $C_n^{(k)}$, where every Greek letter is a generic element in \mathfrak{O} except the uniformizer ϖ . By calculating the determinant of the matrix (3.5), we find that $\det(g) \equiv \alpha \iota \mod \mathfrak{P}^k$. Since $\det(g) \in \mathfrak{O}^{\times}$, if $k \geqslant 1$, then we have

$$\alpha, \iota \in \mathfrak{O}^{\times}. \tag{3.6}$$

If $u \in \mathfrak{O}$ satisfies $u + \overline{u} = 0$, then $t_{n-k}(u) \in C_n^{(k)}$. For such u and any $0 \le k < n$, we claim that

$$t_{n-k}(u)C_n^{(k+1)} = \left\{ g \in C_n^{(k)} : \iota \in \mathfrak{D}^{\times}, u - \iota^{-1}\gamma \in \mathfrak{P} \right\}, \tag{3.7}$$

where ι and γ on the right side of (3.7) refer to entries of $g \in C_n^{(k)}$ as in (3.5).

We first show \subseteq . Suppose $g \in C_n^{(k+1)}$ is written as in (3.5), but with k+1 in the upper right entry in place of k. Then $\iota \in \mathfrak{O}^{\times}$ by (3.6) for any $k \geqslant 0$ since $k+1 \geqslant 1$. Calculating, we have

$$t_{n-k}(u)g = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha + u\eta \varpi^k \ \beta + u\theta \varpi^k \ \gamma \varpi^{k+1-n} + u\iota \varpi^{k-n} \\ * & * & * \\ * & \iota \end{pmatrix}.$$

To show that $t_{n-k}(u)g$ is in the right hand side of (3.7), it then suffices to show that $\iota \in \mathfrak{D}^{\times}$ and $u - \iota^{-1}(\gamma \varpi + u\iota) \in \mathfrak{P}$. The first of these is (3.6), and the second is clear after expanding out.

Now we show \supseteq . Suppose $g \in C_n^{(k)}$ is written as (3.5), $\iota \in \mathfrak{D}^{\times}$, and $u \in \mathfrak{D}$ is such that $u + \overline{u} = 0$ and $u - \iota^{-1} \gamma \in \mathfrak{P}$. Then

$$t_{n-k}(-u)g = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \beta (\gamma - \iota u) \varpi^{k-n} \\ * * & * \\ * & * \end{pmatrix},$$

but $\gamma - \iota u \in \mathfrak{P}$ by hypothesis, so that $t_{n-k}(-u)g \in C_n^{(k+1)}$. The claim (3.7) follows.

Note that if $k \ge 1$, then the hypothesis $\iota \in \mathfrak{O}^{\times}$ can be omitted from the right hand side of (3.7) because it follows automatically from (3.6). Therefore under the hypothesis that $k \ge 1$, we see that

$$C_n^{(k)} = \bigsqcup_{u \in E_{\mathfrak{P}}^0} t_{n-k}(u) C_n^{(k+1)}.$$
 (3.8)

The result now follows from Lemma 2.6.

It remains to treat the case k=0. Under this hypothesis, we claim that

$$\sigma_n C_n^{(1)} = \left\{ g \in C_n^{(0)} : \iota \in \mathfrak{P} \right\}. \tag{3.9}$$

To see \subseteq , write $g \in C_n^{(1)}$ in the form (3.5), and calculate

$$\sigma_n g = \begin{pmatrix} \eta & \theta & \iota \varpi^{-n} \\ \delta \varpi^n & 1 + \epsilon \varpi^n & \zeta \\ \alpha \varpi^n & \beta \varpi^n & \gamma \varpi \end{pmatrix}.$$

To see \supseteq , write $g \in C_n^{(0)}$ in the form (3.5), and recall the hypothesis $\iota \in \mathfrak{P}$. Note that $\sigma_n^2 = 1$, and calculate

$$\sigma_n g = \begin{pmatrix} \eta & \theta & \iota \varpi^{-n} \\ \delta \varpi^n & 1 + \epsilon \varpi^n & \zeta \\ \alpha \varpi^n & \beta \varpi^n & \gamma \end{pmatrix},$$

from which we see that $\iota \varpi^{-n} \in \mathfrak{P}^{1-n}$, as desired.

Combining (3.7) and (3.9), we see that

$$C_n^{(0)} = \sigma_n C_n^{(1)} \sqcup \bigsqcup_{u \in E_n^0} t_n(u) C_n^{(1)}, \tag{3.10}$$

from which the result again follows by Lemma 2.6.

Since $\Gamma_n = C_n^{(0)}$ and $A_n = C_n^{(n)}$, the index of A_n in Γ_n follows by induction.

Lemma 3.2. For every $n \ge 1$,

$$[\Gamma_n : A_n] = q_F^{n-1}(q_F + 1). \tag{3.11}$$

П

4. From A_n **to** B_n **.** This section aims at reducing the study of the indices of A_n in Γ_n to those of the more paramodularly-shaped B_n . Consider the homomorphism

$$f: B_n \to E_{\mathfrak{N}^n}^{\times}$$

given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta & \gamma \\ \delta \varpi^n & \epsilon & \zeta \\ \eta \varpi^n & \theta \varpi^n & \iota \end{pmatrix} \longmapsto \epsilon \mod \mathfrak{P}^n.$$

Lemma 4.1. If $n \ge 1$, the sequence

$$1 \longrightarrow A_n \longrightarrow B_n \stackrel{f}{\longrightarrow} E^1_{\mathfrak{P}^n} \longrightarrow 1 \tag{4.1}$$

is short exact. In particular,

$$[\Gamma_0: A_n] = [\Gamma_0: B_n] \cdot |E_{\mathfrak{V}^n}^1|. \tag{4.2}$$

Proof. Clearly, the kernel of f is exactly A_n . It suffices to show that f has image $E^1_{\mathfrak{A}^n}$. Let

$$b = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \beta & \gamma \\ \delta \varpi^n & \epsilon & \zeta \\ \eta \varpi^n & \theta \varpi^n & \iota \end{pmatrix}$$

be an arbitrary element of B_n , where Greek letters are elements of \mathfrak{O} . Then since

$${}^{t}\overline{b}Jb = J.$$

we have

$$(\beta \overline{\theta} + \overline{\beta} \theta) \varpi^n + \epsilon \overline{\epsilon} = 1, \tag{4.3}$$

by expanding the center entry of ${}^t\bar{b}Jb=J$, and since ϖ was chosen so that $\varpi \in \mathfrak{p} \subset F$. Therefore we have $\epsilon\bar{\epsilon} \equiv 1 \mod \mathfrak{P}^n$, so that $f(B_n) \subseteq E^1_{\mathfrak{P}^n}$. On the other hand, we have

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ \epsilon & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in B_n$$

for any $\epsilon \in \mathfrak{D}$ such that $\epsilon \overline{\epsilon} = 1$ by a direct calculation. Therefore $f(B_n) \supseteq E_{\mathfrak{P}^n}^1$, and the lemma is proved.

5. Index of B_n **.** To compute the index of B_n in Γ_0 , we will need the Iwahori decomposition, our reference for which is [14]. The index of B_n in Γ_0 is given in the following lemma.

Lemma 5.1. For every $n \ge 1$, we have

$$[\Gamma_0: B_n] = q_F^{3(n-1)}[\Gamma_0: B_1]. \tag{5.1}$$

Proof. We use the Iwahori decomposition for the group U, which may be quickly derived from that of $GL_3(E)$. In [14, Proposition 2.6.4], taking $G = GL_3(E)$ and S to be the convex hull of the following 4 points

$$\{(0,0,0),(n,0,0),(0,0,-n),(n,n,0)\},\$$

we obtain the factorization

$$\begin{pmatrix}
\mathfrak{O} & \mathfrak{O} & \mathfrak{O} \\
\mathfrak{P}^n & \mathfrak{O} & \mathfrak{O} \\
\mathfrak{P}^n & \mathfrak{P}^n & \mathfrak{O}
\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}
1 \\
\mathfrak{P}^n & 1 \\
\mathfrak{P}^n & \mathfrak{P}^n & 1
\end{pmatrix}
\begin{pmatrix}
\mathfrak{O}^{\times} \\
\mathfrak{O}^{\times} \\
\mathfrak{O}^{\times}
\end{pmatrix}
\begin{pmatrix}
1 & \mathfrak{O} & \mathfrak{O} \\
1 & \mathfrak{O} \\
1
\end{pmatrix},$$
(5.2)

where each matrix represents the indicated subgroup of $GL_3(E)$. We may now realize the group B_n as the fixed points of the left hand side of (5.2) by the involution $g \mapsto J^t \overline{g}^{-1} J$. Let $g = n_- t n_+$ be the factorization of a typical element g as in (5.2). Since $J^t \overline{g}^{-1} J = J^t \overline{n}_-^{-1} J J^t \overline{t}^{-1} J J^t \overline{n}_+^{-1} J$, we derive for any $n \ge 1$ that

$$B_n = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ \mathfrak{P}^n & 1 & \\ \mathfrak{P}^n & \mathfrak{P}^n & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{O}^{\times} & & \\ & \mathfrak{O}^{\times} & \\ & & \mathfrak{O}^{\times} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \mathfrak{O} & \mathfrak{O} \\ & 1 & \mathfrak{O} \\ & & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \tag{5.3}$$

where each matrix appearing in (5.3) represents the intersection of the indicated subgroup with U. Moreover, the matrices of the first subgroup appearing in (5.3) are exactly those of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \alpha \overline{\omega}^n & 1 \\ \beta \overline{\omega}^n & -\bar{\alpha} \overline{\omega}^n & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{where} \quad \beta + \bar{\beta} + \alpha \bar{\alpha} \overline{\omega}^n = 0. \tag{5.4}$$

For $n \ge 1$, this leads to the decomposition

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \mathfrak{P}^{n-1} & 1 \\ \mathfrak{P}^{n-1} & \mathfrak{P}^{n-1} & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \bigsqcup_{\substack{\alpha, \beta \in E_{\mathfrak{P}} \\ \beta + \bar{\beta} + \alpha \bar{\alpha} \pi^n = 0}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \alpha \varpi^{n-1} & 1 \\ \beta \varpi^{n-1} & -\bar{\alpha} \varpi^{n-1} & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \mathfrak{P}^n & 1 \\ \mathfrak{P}^n & \mathfrak{P}^n & 1 \end{pmatrix}, (5.5)$$

where the condition $\beta + \bar{\beta} + \alpha \bar{\alpha} \varpi^n = 0$ on $\alpha, \beta \in E_{\mathfrak{P}}$ is understood to mean that we sum over those cosets for which there exists a representative in \mathfrak{O} satisfying the indicated equation.

Given α, β as above, it is clear by reducing the condition modulo $\mathfrak P$ that $\beta \in E^0_{\mathfrak P}$. Conversely, given $\alpha^* \in E_{\mathfrak P}$ and $\beta^* \in E^0_{\mathfrak P}$, there exists a representative $\beta \in \mathfrak D$ for β^* such that $\beta + \bar{\beta} = 0$. Let α be any choice of representative for α^* . Then $\alpha \bar{\alpha} \varpi^n \in \mathfrak p$. Since E/F is at most tamely ramified, we have as a consequence of the integral normal basis theorem (see e.g. [6, §5 Theorem 2]) that $\operatorname{Tr} \mathfrak P = \mathfrak p$, and so there exists $z \in \mathfrak P$ such that $\alpha \bar{\alpha} \varpi^n = z + \bar{z}$. Then $\beta - z$ is another representative for $\beta^* \in E^0_{\mathfrak P}$, and $(\beta - z) + (\bar{\beta} - z) + \alpha \bar{\alpha} \varpi^n = 0$. Thus, the decomposition (5.3) may be re-written as

$$B_{n} = \bigsqcup_{\substack{\alpha \in E_{\mathfrak{P}} \\ \beta \in E_{\mathfrak{D}}^{0}}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \alpha \varpi^{n} & 1 \\ \beta \varpi^{n} & -\bar{\alpha} \varpi^{n} & 1 \end{pmatrix} B_{n+1}. \tag{5.6}$$

We have $|E_{\mathfrak{P}}| = q_E = q_F^2$ and $|E_{\mathfrak{P}}^0| = q_F$ by Lemma 2.6, so this finishes the proof by induction.

6. Index of B_1. We use reduction modulo \mathfrak{P} and the Bruhat decomposition, and recall now some useful lemmas to do so.

Lemma 6.1. Let X,G be two groups, H a subgroup of G and $\phi:X\to G$ a surjective morphism. Then

$$[G:H] = [\phi^{-1}(G):\phi^{-1}(H)]. \tag{6.1}$$

Proof. We write G/H for the set of left cosets of H in G, that is we have

$$G = \bigsqcup_{g \in G/H} gH$$
 and so $\phi^{-1}(G) = \bigsqcup_{g \in G/H} \phi^{-1}(gH)$.

Since ϕ is surjective, for any representative of $g \in G/H$, we may choose a preimage $g' \in \phi^{-1}(g)$. Then $\phi^{-1}(gH) = g'\phi^{-1}(H)$ and the lemma follows.

Lemma 6.2 (Hensel's Lemma). Let G be a smooth scheme over the ring of integers $\mathfrak o$ of a non-Archimedean local field. Let $\mathfrak p$ the corresponding maximal ideal. Then the reduction modulo $\mathfrak p$

$$\mathbf{G}(\mathfrak{o}) \longrightarrow \mathbf{G}(F_{\mathfrak{p}})$$
 (6.2)

is surjective.

Proof. This is a standard version of Hensel's lemma in algebraic geometry. For precise details, see $[8, \text{ Th\'eor\`eme } 18.5.17]$.

Lemma 6.3. We have

$$[\Gamma_0: B_1] = q_F^3 + 1. \tag{6.3}$$

Proof. Consider the unitary group \mathbf{U} defined over \mathfrak{o} and its standard Borel subgroup \mathbf{B} . We have $\mathbf{U}(\mathfrak{o}) = \Gamma_0$ and $\mathbf{B}(\mathfrak{o}) = B_1$. Within this proof, we write $U = \mathbf{U}(F_{\mathfrak{p}})$ and $B = \mathbf{B}(F_{\mathfrak{p}})$. By Hensel's lemma (Lemma 6.2), we have surjective morphisms

$$\Gamma_0 \twoheadrightarrow U$$
 and $B_1 \twoheadrightarrow B$.

By Lemma 6.1, we then have that $[\Gamma_0 : B_1] = [U : B]$, so that the problem reduces to finite fields.

We apply the Bruhat decomposition for U, following [5, Chapter 4]. Consider the group GL_3 over $\overline{F}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ and the involution τ defined by $g\mapsto J^t\overline{g}^{-1}J$, where \overline{g} denotes the Frobenius automorphism applied to g, i.e. the entries of g raised to the pth power. The fixed points of GL_3 by this involution are exactly the group U (cf. [5, Example 4.3.3]). Let T be the standard maximal torus of GL_3 , N=N(T) its normalizer, and W=W(T) the associated Weyl group. Then we have a Bruhat decomposition of U of the form

$$U = \bigsqcup_{w \in W^{\tau}} Bw U_w^{\tau}, \tag{6.4}$$

with BwU_w^{τ} being a direct product [5, Lemma 3.2.7], where

$$U_w = \prod_{\{\alpha \in \Phi^+ : w(\alpha) < 0\}} U_\alpha$$

and U_{α} is the root space associated to the positive root $\alpha \in \Phi^+$ (see [5, Proposition 4.4.1(ii)]). Warning: U_w and U_{α} , which are subgroups of GL_3 , should not be confused with the unitary group U.

We proceed to calculate W^{τ} and U_w^{τ} . By [5, Proposition 4.4.1(i)], we have that $W^{\tau} = N(T)^{\tau}/T^{\tau}$. We can calculate explicitly that

$$T^{\tau} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix} : a\overline{c} = 1, b\overline{b} = 1 \right\}$$

and

$$N(T)^{\tau} = T^{\tau} \sqcup \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} c \\ b \\ a \end{pmatrix}: \ a\overline{c} = 1, b\overline{b} = 1 \right\}.$$

Thus W^{τ} consists of two elements, which may be represented by I and J (see (1.2)).

Now we calculate U_w^{τ} for w=I and w=J. We first determine the sets $\{\alpha \in \Phi^+ : w(\alpha) < 0\}$. Let U_{ij} , $1 \leq i \neq j \leq 3$, denote the root space of GL_3 that is non-zero in the ijth entry. Let α_{ij} denote the corresponding root (see [5, Theorem 2.3.1(i)]). The set Φ^+ of positive roots corresponding to our choice of the standard upper triangular Borel is $\Phi^+ = \{\alpha_{12}, \alpha_{13}, \alpha_{23}\}$. The Weyl group W acts on T by conjugation, and thus on Φ . Clearly, I fixes Φ , and one may compute that $J(\alpha_{12}) = \alpha_{32}$, $J(\alpha_{13}) = \alpha_{31}$, and $J(\alpha_{23}) = \alpha_{21}$. Thus, $\{\alpha \in \Phi^+ : I(\alpha) < 0\} = \emptyset$ and $\{\alpha \in \Phi^+ : J(\alpha) < 0\} = \Phi^+$. Therefore we have

$$U = B \sqcup BJ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \star & \star \\ & 1 & \star \\ & & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{\tau}. \tag{6.5}$$

This last group of unipotent matrices is in bijection with the set $\bigcup_{\alpha \in \mathcal{D}/\mathfrak{P}} N_{\alpha}$, where $N_{\alpha} = \{\beta \in \mathcal{D}/\mathfrak{P} : \beta + \bar{\beta} + \alpha \bar{\alpha} = 0\}$ (cf. (5.4)). Recall (e.g. [6, §5 Theorem 2]) that $\operatorname{Tr} \mathfrak{D} = \mathfrak{o}$ since E/F is at most tamely ramified. Thus, there exists $\theta \in \mathcal{D}/\mathfrak{P}$ such that $\theta + \bar{\theta} = -\alpha \bar{\alpha}$. We then find that $N_{\alpha} = \theta + E_{\mathfrak{P}}^{0}$, which is of cardinality q_{F} by Lemma 2.6. Thus, the cardinality of the group of unipotent matrices in question is then $q_{E}q_{F} = q_{F}^{3}$. We conclude that $[U:B] = q_{F}^{3} + 1$, hence the lemma follows.

We now collect the previous results. By Lemmas 3.2 and 4.1, we have

$$vol(\Gamma_n) = \frac{[\Gamma_n : A_n]}{[\Gamma_0 : A_n]} vol(\Gamma_0) = \frac{q_F^{n-1}(q_F + 1)}{[\Gamma_0 : B_n] | E_{\mathfrak{N}^n}^1|},$$
(6.6)

which by Lemmas 2.5 and 5.1 is $= q_F^{3-3n}[\Gamma_0: B_1]^{-1}$. Finally, by Lemma 6.3, we conclude Theorem 1.2.

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