

On the automorphy of l -adic Galois representations with small residual image

Jack Thorne

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We prove new automorphy lifting theorems for essentially conjugate self-dual Galois representations into GL_n . Existing theorems require that the residual representation have 'big' image, in a certain technical sense. Our theorems are based on a strengthening of the Taylor-Wiles method which allows one to weaken this hypothesis.

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