

ALGEBRA  
SEMINAR

*Arithmetic Restrictions on Geometric Monodromy*

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**Abstract:** Let  $X$  be an algebraic variety over a field  $k$ . Which representations of  $\pi_1(X)$  arise from geometry, e.g. as monodromy representations on the cohomology of a family of varieties over  $X$ ? We study this question by analyzing the action of  $Gal(\bar{k}/k)$  on  $\pi_1(X)$ , where  $k$  is a finite or  $p$ -adic field. As a sample application of our techniques, we show that if  $A$  is a non-constant Abelian variety over  $\mathbb{C}(t)$ , such that  $A[\ell]$  is split for some odd prime  $\ell$ , then  $A$  has at least four points of bad reduction.

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