Let $\Gamma$ be a finite group and let $V$ be an absolutely irreducible $\mathbb{F}_p\Gamma$-module. By Mazur, $V$ has a universal deformation ring $R(\Gamma, V)$. This ring is characterized by the property that the isomorphism class of every lift of $V$ over a complete local commutative Noetherian ring $R$ with residue field $\mathbb{F}_p$ arises from a unique local ring homomorphism $\alpha : R(\Gamma, V) \to R$.

Let $G$ be a finite subgroup of $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{C})$. We associate to $G$ a collection of finite groups $\{\Gamma\}$, where each $\Gamma$ is an extension of $G$ by an elementary abelian $p$-group $N$ of rank 2, for certain choices of odd primes $p$. For such a group $\Gamma$, a typical absolutely irreducible $\mathbb{F}_p\Gamma$-module $V$ will have universal deformation ring $R(\Gamma, V)$ isomorphic to the $p$-adic integers $\mathbb{Z}_p$.

We discuss those “exceptional” $V$ for which $R(\Gamma, V)$ is not isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}_p$. (Received September 15, 2014)