# THE STACK OF GERBES IN A QUOTIENT STACK

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ABSTRACT. For a DM stack  $\mathcal{X}$ , Chen, Marcus and Úlfarsson ([3]) constructed a stack  $\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{X}}$  of gerbes in  $\mathcal{X}$  that plays a key role in their setting up the theory of very twisted stable maps to  $\mathcal{X}$ . This stack is realized as a rigidification of the stack  $S_{\mathcal{X}}$  of subgroups of the inertia stack of  $\mathcal{X}$ . In this article, we show that when  $\mathcal{X}$  is a quotient stack, the stacks  $S_{\mathcal{X}}$  and  $G_{\mathcal{X}}$  are also quotient stacks.

## 1. Backgrounds

Throughout we work over complex numbers, and all schemes are locally of finite presentation unless otherwise stated.

### 1.1. Quotient stacks and gerbes

DEFINITION 1.1. Let X be a scheme over a scheme S and G be a flat group scheme over S acting on X. Let [X/G] be a category fibered in groupoids over S defined as follows:

1. An object of [X/G] over T is a pair (P,F), where  $P \to T$  is a G-principal bundle and  $F: P \to Z$  is a G-equivariant morphism

$$P \xrightarrow{F} X$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$T.$$

2. A morphism between objects (P, F) and (P', F') over T and T', respectively, is a pair  $(\Phi, u)$  such that the square is Cartisian and

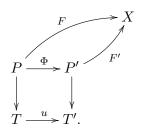
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Then it is routine to check that the fibered category [X/G] is a stack ([5], [6]). The stack [X/G] is called a *quotient stack*. It is well-known that if G is a flat group scheme locally of finite presentation over S, then [X/G] is an Artin stack locally of finite presentation over S([4]). When X = S, and G acts on X trivially, [X/G] is the *classifying stack BG* of G-principal bundles.

REMARK 1.2. Note that for an object  $\xi = (P, F)$  of [X/G] over T, the group  $\mathcal{A}ut_T(\xi)$  of automorphisms of  $\xi$  in the stack [X/G] need not be a subgroup of the group of automorphisms of the G-principal bundle P. For example, let S = X = \* be a point. Then  $\mathcal{A}ut_S(\xi)$  in the stack BG = [\*/G] with  $P = G \times S$  is equal to G, while the group of automorphisms of the principal G-bundle P is the centralizer of G.

DEFINITION 1.3 (Gerbes). An étale gerbe over a scheme S is a DM stack  $\mathcal{A}$  over S such that

- 1. there exists an étale covering  $S_i \to S$  such that  $\mathcal{A}(S_i)$  is nonempty,
- 2. given two objects a, b of  $\mathcal{A}(T)$  for a S-scheme T, there exists an étale covering  $T_i \to T$  such that  $a_{T_i}$  and  $b_{T_i}$  are isomorphic in  $\mathcal{A}(T_i)$ .

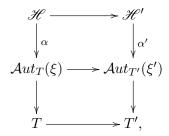
More generally, a DM stack  $\mathcal{F}$  over stack  $\mathcal{Y}$  is an étale gerbe (over  $\mathcal{Y}$ ) if for any morphism  $U \to \mathcal{Y}$  from a scheme U, the pullback  $\mathcal{F}_U$  is an étale gerbe over U.

### 2. Constructing some stacks

Now we give definitions of the stacks  $S_{\mathcal{X}}$  and  $G_{\mathcal{X}}$  and list properties of these stacks given in ([3]).

DEFINITION 2.1. To a DM-stack  $\mathcal{X}$ , we associate a category  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{X}}$  fibered on groupoids over the category  $(Schs/\mathbb{C})$  of schemes over  $\mathbb{C}$  defined as follows.

- (a) For a scheme T, an object of  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{X}}$  over T is a pair  $(\xi, \alpha : \mathcal{H} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{A}ut_T(\xi))$ , where  $\xi$  is an object of  $\mathcal{X}(T)$ ,  $\alpha$  is an injective morphism of group schemes, and  $\mathcal{H}$  is finite and étale over T.
- (b) An arrow sitting over  $T \to T'$  from  $(\xi, \alpha) \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathscr{X}}(T)$  to  $(\xi', \alpha') \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathscr{X}}(T')$  is a morphism  $\varphi : \xi \to \xi'$  such that there is a morphism of group schemes  $\mathscr{H} \to \mathscr{H}'$  making the following diagram Cartisian



where  $Aut_T(\xi) \longrightarrow Aut_{T'}(\xi')$  is induced by the morphism  $\varphi : \xi \to \xi'$ .

REMARK 2.2. This definition is analogous to Definition 3.1.1 of [1] with the following differences. In our case, the subgroup  $\mathcal{H}$  varies, and for an object  $(\xi, \alpha : \mathcal{H} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{A}ut_T(\xi))$  of  $S_{\mathcal{X}}$ , the automorphism  $\mathcal{A}ut_T(\xi, \alpha)$  is the normalizer of  $\alpha(\mathcal{H})$  in  $\mathcal{A}ut_T(\xi)$ , while, in the latter case,  $\mathcal{H} = T \times \mu_r$  is a fixed (trivial) group scheme, where  $\mu_r$  is a group of r-th roots of unity, and  $\mathcal{A}ut_T(\xi, \alpha)$  is the centralizer of  $\alpha(\mathcal{H})$  in  $\mathcal{A}ut_T(\xi)$ .

For later use, we record the following result, due to Chen, Marcus and Úlfarsson ([3]).

PROPOSITION 2.3 ([3]). The followings hold for the stack  $\mathcal{S}_{\chi}$ .

- 1. The fibered category  $S_{\mathcal{X}}$  is a DM-stack and the natural functor  $S_{\mathcal{X}} \to \mathcal{X}$  is representable and finite.
- 2. if  $\mathcal{X}$  is a smooth DM-stack, then so is  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathscr{X}}$ .
- 3. If  $\mathcal{X}$  is a proper DM-stack, then so is  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathscr{X}}$ .

*Proof.* See Propositions 2.1.3 and 2.1.4 of [3].

#### **2.1.** Alternative definition of $S_{\chi}$

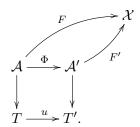
DEFINITION 2.4. For a DM-stack  $\mathcal{X}$ , we define a 2-category  $\mathcal{S}'_{\mathcal{X}}$ , fibered over the category of schemes, as follows.

(a) For a scheme T, an objects of  $\mathcal{S}'_{\mathcal{X}}$  is a triple  $(\mathcal{A}, \tau, F)$ , where  $\mathcal{A}$  is an étale gerbe,  $\tau$  is a section of the étale gerbe  $\mathcal{A}$  over T, and F is

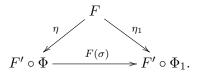
a representable morphisms  $\mathcal{A} \to \mathcal{X}$ 



(b) An 1-arrow from  $(A, \tau, F)$  to  $(\mathcal{A}', \tau', F')$  over an arrow  $u: T \to T'$  is a pair  $(\Phi, \eta)$ , where  $\Phi$  is a morphism  $\Phi: \mathcal{A} \to \mathcal{A}'$  making a cartesian square and  $\Phi \circ \tau = \tau' \circ u$ , and  $\eta$  is a natural transformation  $\eta: F \Rightarrow F' \circ \Phi$ 



(c) A 2-arrow from  $(\Phi, \eta)$  to  $(\Phi_1, \eta_1)$  is a natural transformation  $\sigma$ :  $\Phi \to \Phi_1$  inducing an equivalence, and compatible with  $\eta$  and  $\eta_1$  in the sense that the following diagram is commutative;



Lemma 2.5 (Lemma 2.2.3 of [3]).  $\mathcal{S}'_{\mathcal{X}}$  is equivalent to a category.

DEFINITION 2.6. By abuse of notation, we use the same notation  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{X}}$  for the 1-category associated to the 2-category  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{X}}$ .

PROPOSITION 2.7. There is an equivalence  $\mathcal{S}'_{\mathcal{X}} \to \mathcal{S}_x$  of fibered categories.

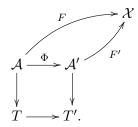
*Proof.* See the Definition 2.2.5 and Proposition 2.2.6. of [3].  $\Box$ 

REMARK 2.8. Notice that  $S_X$  parametrizes (x, [H]) for  $x \in \mathcal{X}$  and equivalence classes [H] with  $H \subset \operatorname{Aut}(x)$ , where  $H \sim H'$  for  $H, H' \in \mathcal{A}ut(x)$  if and only if  $H = gHg^{-1}$  for some  $g \in \mathcal{A}ut(x)$ .

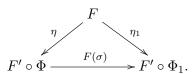
## 2.2. The stack of gerbes in $\mathcal{X}$

DEFINITION 2.9. For a DM-stack  $\mathcal{X}$ , we define a 2-category  $\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{X}}$ , fibered over the category  $(Schs/\mathbb{C})$ , as follows.

- (a) For a scheme T, an object of  $\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{X}}$  over T is a pair  $(\mathcal{A}, F)$ , where  $\mathcal{A}$  is an étale gerbe over T and  $F: \mathcal{A} \to \mathcal{X}$  is a representable morphism.
- (b) An 1-arrow from  $(A, \phi)$  to  $(\mathcal{A}', \phi')$  over an arrow  $u : T \to T'$  is a pair  $(\Phi, \eta)$ , where  $\Phi$  is a morphism  $\Phi : \mathcal{A} \to \mathcal{A}'$  making a cartesian square, and  $\eta$  is a natural transformation  $\eta : F \Rightarrow F' \circ \Phi$ .



(c) A 2-arrow from  $(\Phi, \eta)$  to  $(\Phi_1, \eta_1)$  is a natural transformation  $\sigma$ :  $\Phi \to \Phi_1$  inducing an equivalence, and compatible with  $\eta$  and  $\eta_1$  in the sense that the following diagram is commutative;



DEFINITION 2.10. As in the case of  $\mathcal{S}'_{\mathcal{X}}$ , the 2-category  $\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{X}}$  is equivalent to a category, which we denote by  $\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{X}}$  by abuse of notation.

# 2.3. Rigidification

For a DM-stack  $\mathcal{Y}$  over S,  $\mathcal{I}(\mathcal{Y})$  denotes the inertia stack of  $\mathcal{Y}$ . Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a subgroup stack of  $\mathcal{I}(\mathcal{Y})$  (of finite type and étale over  $\mathcal{Y}$ ). The rigidification of  $\mathcal{Y}$  by  $\mathcal{H}$  is a DM-stack over S, denoted  $\mathcal{Y}$  // $\mathcal{H}$ , with a morphism  $\rho: \mathcal{Y} \to \mathcal{Y}$  // $\mathcal{H}$  satisfying the followings:

- 1.  $\mathcal{Y}$  is an étale gerbe over  $\mathcal{Y} /\!\!/ \mathcal{H}$ .
- 2. For an object  $\zeta$  of  $\mathcal{Y}$  over T, the morphism of group schemes

$$\rho: \mathcal{A}ut_T(\zeta) \to \mathcal{A}ut_T(\rho(\zeta))$$

is surjective with kernel  $\mathcal{H}_{\zeta}$ .

3. If  $\mathcal{H}$  is finite over  $\mathcal{Y}$ , then  $\rho$  is proper; while since  $\mathcal{H}$  is étale, so is the morphism  $\rho$ .

See [2] for details on the notion of rigidification.

Now we take a rigidification of  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{X}}$ . By Remark 2.2, for each object of  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{X}}(T)$ 

$$\xi_{\alpha} := (\xi, \alpha : \mathcal{H} \to \mathcal{A}ut_T(\xi)),$$

we have a normal embedding  $\mathscr{H} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{A}ut_T(\xi_\alpha)$  of group schemes satisfying the compatibility condition for the arrow  $T \to T'$ . Let  $\mathcal{H} \subseteq \mathcal{I}(\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{X}})$  be the subgroup stack of  $\mathcal{I}\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{X}}$  defined by  $\mathcal{H}_{\xi_\alpha} = \mathscr{H}$ . Then  $\mathcal{H}$  is finite and étale over  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{X}}$ , and hence  $\rho : \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{X}} \to \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{X}}$  [] $\mathcal{H}$  is proper and étale. By the following proposition, due to [3],  $\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{X}}$  can be viewed as a rigidification of  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{X}}$ .

PROPOSITION 2.11. There is an equivalence  $S_{\mathcal{X}}$  [ $\mathcal{H} \to \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{X}}$  of fibered categories.

#### 3. Main Theorem

For a reductive group G, let FS(G) be the set of finite subgroups of G. Define an equivalence  $\sim$  on FS(G) as follows.  $H \sim H'$  if  $H' = gHg^{-1}$  for some  $g \in G$ . Let  $\mathcal{I}(G)$  be the set of representatives from equivalence classes in  $FS(G)/\sim$ .

PROPOSITION 3.1. Let G be a reductive group acting on a scheme X, and assume that the quotient stack  $\mathcal{X} := [X/G]$  is a DM-stack. Then there is an equivalence as fibered categories

$$\mathscr{F}: \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{X}} \to \coprod_{H \in \mathcal{I}(G)} [X^H/N_G(H)].$$

Proof. Define a functor  $\mathscr{F}: S_{\mathcal{X}} \to \coprod_{H \in \mathcal{I}(G)} [X^H/N_G(H)]$  as follows. For a scheme T, let  $(\xi = (P, F), \alpha : \mathcal{H} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{A}ut_T(\xi))$  be an object in  $S_{\mathcal{X}}$  over T, where  $P \to T$  is a G-principal bundle and  $F: P \to X$  is a G-equivariant. By taking an étale cover of T, we may assume P is a trivial G-principal bundle over T, and so  $\mathcal{A}ut_T(\xi)$  is a subgroup scheme of the trivial group scheme  $G \times T$  and also  $\mathcal{H} = T \times H$  for some  $H \subset G$ . Suppose WLOG that  $H \in \mathcal{I}(G)$ . Note that for objects in a connected component of  $S_{\mathcal{X}}$ , the chosen H does not change. The embedding  $\mathcal{H} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{A}ut_T(\xi)$  implies that whenever  $\rho$  is a section of  $\mathcal{H} = T \times H$  over T, we have  $F \circ \rho = F$ . That is, writing  $\rho = h(t) \in H$   $(t \in T)$ , we have

$$F(h(t)p) = F(p)$$

for each  $t \in T$  and  $p \in P$ . In particular, each constant section  $h \in H$  preserves the fiber  $f^{-1}(y)$  for each  $y \in X^H$ . Let  $N = N_G(H)$  be the normalizer of H in G, and

$$P_H := \{ p \in P \, | \, f(p) \in Y^H \}.$$

Then  $P_H$  is a principal N-bundle over T. To see this, note that  $x \in X^H$  iff  $gx \in X^{gHg^{-1}}$  for  $g \in G$ , and so  $g \in N$  if and only if  $V^H = V^{gHg^{-1}}$ . From this it is immediate that  $P_H$  is a principal N-bundle and the G-equivariant morphism  $F: P \to X$  restricts to  $P_H$  to give a N-equivariant morphism  $F_H: P_H \to X^H$ . Therefore we obtain an object of the quotient stack  $[X^H/N]$  over T. Then we define  $\mathscr{F}((\xi,\alpha)) := (P_H, F_H)$ .

Now we construct a functor  $\mathscr{F}':\coprod_{H\in\mathcal{I}(G)}[X^H/N_G(H)]\to\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{X}}.$  Let  $\varrho:=(Q,f)$  be an object of  $[X^H/N]$ , i.e., Q is a principal N-bundle over T and f is a N-equivariant morphism to  $X^H$ . Let  $P:=G\times_NQ$ , and define  $\tilde{f}:P=G\times_NQ\to G\times_NX^H$  by  $\tilde{f}(g,q):=(g,f(q))$  for  $(g,q)\in G\times_NQ$ . By abuse of notation, denote by  $\tilde{f}:P\to X$  the composite of  $\tilde{f}$  and the embedding  $G\times_NX^H\hookrightarrow X,\ (g,x)\mapsto gx.$  Then  $\tilde{f}:P\to X$  is a G-equivariant morphism. Let  $\xi$  be an object in  $\mathcal{X}=[X/G]$  corresponding to  $\tilde{f}:P\to X$ , i.e.,  $\xi:=(P,\tilde{f})$ . Then since the equivariant morphism  $\tilde{f}:P\to X$  is a lift of  $f:Q\to X^H$ , étale locally on T the group scheme  $\mathcal{A}ut_T(\xi)$  contains  $\mathscr{H}:=T\times H.$  Namely we have the injective morphism  $\mathscr{H} \overset{\alpha}\hookrightarrow \mathcal{A}ut_T(\xi).$  Put  $\mathscr{F}'(\varrho):=(\xi,\alpha).$  On the other hand, as above, since  $G\times_NP_H=P$ , and  $F:P\to X$  is completely determined by the restriction  $F_H:P_H\to X^H$ , we obtain the relations

$$\widetilde{(F_H)} = F, \ (\widetilde{f})_H = f.$$

Therefore it is immediate that for  $(\xi, \alpha) \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{X}}$ 

$$\mathscr{F}' \circ \mathscr{F}((\xi, \alpha)) = (\xi, \alpha),$$

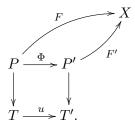
and for  $\varrho \in \coprod_{H \in \mathcal{I}(G)} [X^H/N_G(H)]$ 

$$\mathscr{F} \circ \mathscr{F}'(\rho) = \rho.$$

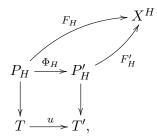
Now we prove the fully faithfulness. For objects  $(\xi, \alpha)$  and  $(\xi', \alpha')$  over T and T', respectively, let us show that there is one to one correspondence

$$Mor((\xi, \alpha), (\xi', \alpha')) \stackrel{\sim}{=} Mor(\mathscr{F}(\xi, \alpha), \mathscr{F}(\xi', \alpha')).$$

Assume that  $\mathscr{F}((\xi,\alpha))$  and  $\mathscr{F}((\xi',\alpha'))$  are objects in  $[X^H/N]$  for  $H \in$  $\mathcal{I}(G)$ . Let  $\vartheta$  be an element of  $Mor((\xi,\alpha),(\xi',\alpha'))$ . Then there are morphisms  $\Phi$  and u, with  $\vartheta = (\Phi, u)$ , making the diagram below Cartisan



Then image  $\mathscr{F}(\vartheta)$  is simply a pair  $(\Phi_H, u)$  in the diagram



where  $\Phi_H: P_H \to P_H'$  is the restriction of  $\Phi: P \to P'$ . Let  $\eta = (\phi, u)$  be an element of  $Mor(\mathscr{F}(\xi, \alpha), \mathscr{F}(\xi', \alpha'))$ . Let P = $G \times_N Q$  and  $P' = G \times_N Q'$ . Then  $\phi : Q \to Q'$  naturally extend to a morphism  $\tilde{\phi}: P \to P'$ . Furthermore, as above, we have the relations  $(\widetilde{\Phi_H}) = \Phi$  and  $(\widetilde{\phi})_H = \phi$ . This proves the fully faithfulness of  $\mathscr{F}$ . Therefore,  $\mathcal{F}$  is an equivalence.

Let us identify two stacks  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{X}} = \coprod_{H \in \mathcal{I}(G)} [X^H/N_G(H)]$ . Then by Proposition 2.11, we have

COROLLARY 3.2. The DM-stack  $\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{X}}$  is a quotient stack

$$\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{X}} = \coprod_{H \in \mathcal{I}(G)} [X^H / \widetilde{N}],$$

where  $\widetilde{N} = N_G(H)/H$ .

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