

Algebraic stacks & Examples

lecture #3

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We have outlined the topological properties that we would like a moduli problem $F: \underline{Sch}_{\text{fine}}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Grp}$ to have (objects & morphisms glue), but we want to do geometry, so they must locally have an algebraic form.

Fix a base scheme $S = \text{Spec } \mathbb{Z}$.

Def: A stack $F: \underline{Sch}_{\text{fine}} \rightarrow \text{Grp}$ is algebraic if

(i) $F \xrightarrow{\Delta} F \times_S F$ is representable by schemes.
 $a \mapsto (a, a, \text{id})$

[$\Leftrightarrow \forall T \in \underline{Sch}_S \ \& \ \forall a, b \in F(T)$ the functor of isomorphism $\underline{Isom}(a, b): \underline{Sch}_{T, \text{fine}} \rightarrow \underline{Set} [T' \rightarrow T] \rightarrow \underline{Isom}(a|_{T'}, b|_{T'})$ is representable]
 "The distance between F & a scheme" is algebraic

(ii) \exists a smooth surjective $U \rightarrow F$ where U is a scheme.

[a map $U \rightarrow F$ can be checked to be sm./surj using (i)! i.e. it is sm./surj.]
 iff $\forall F \rightarrow F$
 $\downarrow \text{sch}$
 $\begin{matrix} U_T & \rightarrow & U \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ T & \rightarrow & F \end{matrix}$
 sm./surj.

F is **Deligne-Mumford** if $\exists U \rightarrow F$ etale + surj. **Seg'd** if Δ is proper

Ex #1 $\mathcal{B}GL_{n,S} = \text{Vect}_{n,S} : \underline{Sch}_S \rightarrow \text{Grp} \quad T \mapsto \text{grp. of } n \text{ v.b.'s on } T$

is algebraic: (i) Given $V, W \in \text{Vect}(T)$, $\underline{Isom}_T(V, W) \rightarrow T$ is

Zar. locally on $T \cong \underline{Isom}_T(\mathcal{O}_T^{\oplus n}, \mathcal{O}_T^{\oplus n}) = GL_{n,T} \rightarrow T \Rightarrow \Delta$ open rep'd.
 affine scheme.

(ii) $S \rightarrow \mathcal{B}GL_{n,S}$ is smooth & surjective

Pr: Indeed, if $\begin{matrix} \underline{Isom}(\mathcal{O}_T^{\oplus n} \rightarrow S \\ \downarrow \square \downarrow \text{tr.} \\ T \rightarrow \mathcal{B}GL_{n,S} \end{matrix}$ & $\underline{Isom}_T(\mathcal{O}_T^{\oplus n}, T) \rightarrow T$ is Zar. locally $\cong GL_{n,T}$.
 $\Rightarrow S \rightarrow \mathcal{B}GL_{n,S}$ is smooth + surj.

② M_g is an algebraic stack for $g \geq 2$, in fact Deligne-Mumford sepd +

(GIT-esque)
Idea:

There is locally closed locus $H_g \subseteq \text{Hilb}_{\mathbb{P}^{5g-6}}$ where pts. are exactly
 these closed subschemes $Y \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^{5g-6}$ s.t.
 i) Y is a curve of genus g smooth, geometrically connected
 ii) $Y \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^{5g-6}$ is tri-regularly embedded.

Then 3 map $H_g \xrightarrow{\pi} M_g$ sending $Y \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^{5g-6} \mapsto Y$, also

- 1) π is surjective on \bar{k} -pts. 2) If $\begin{matrix} H_g \times R & \rightarrow & H_g \\ \downarrow \text{Sm} & & \downarrow \text{Sm} \\ \text{Sm} \times R & \rightarrow & M_g \end{matrix}$ then $\cong \text{PGL}_{5g-6} \times R$
complete local ring $\Rightarrow \pi$ is smooth.

Another more intrinsic "local" proof exists.

Proof of this will be outlined in the exercises (Maybe) □

Next: the ^{originally} most important class of algebraic stacks.

Quotient stacks Note that $H_g \rightarrow M_g$ is PGL_{5g-6} -invariant & has PGL_{5g-6} as fibers. So this suggests M_g is the quotient of H_g by PGL_{5g-6} .

We need:

Def: Let G be a sheaf of groups, T a sheaf, it is a G -torsor if

- (i) 3 action $G \times T \rightarrow T$. (ii) Forver $S' \rightarrow S$ s.t. $T|_{S'} \xrightarrow{\sim} G|_{S'}$
 - $G \times S \rightarrow S$ (trivial G -torsor) - $C \rightarrow S$ gives 1 and torsor with Jacobian. then

EX: - $\text{Spec } L \rightarrow \text{Spec } k$ where $[L:k]$ is Galois - If $V \rightarrow S$ is a vect. bundle then $\text{Isom}(\mathcal{O}_S^{\oplus n}, V) \rightarrow S$ is a GL_n -torsor.

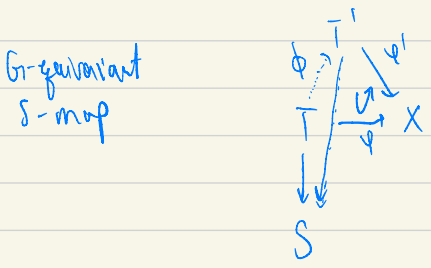
Claim: $T \rightarrow S$ trivial \Leftrightarrow 3 section \Leftrightarrow 1 section defines a G -equivariant map $G \rightarrow T$, iso. b/c it's locally.

Quotient stacks are useful b/c they remember automorphisms ^{of their algebraicity} \Rightarrow

Def: Let G/k be a smooth + affine group scheme acting on X scheme 3

then the associated quotient stack $[X/G]$ is defined

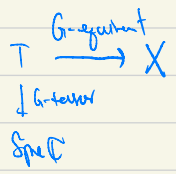
and its S pts are diagrams $T \xrightarrow[G\text{-equivariant}]{\phi} X$ is a G -torsor $\downarrow G\text{-torsor}$ S



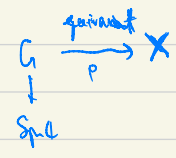
making the diagram commute.

lets unravel this if $S = \text{Spec } \mathbb{C}$ (or any alg. field) what is the category $[X/G](\mathbb{C})$

objects ?

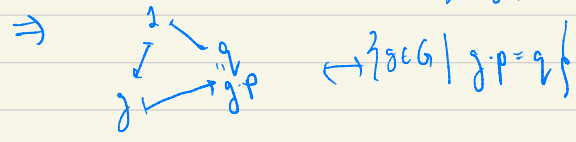
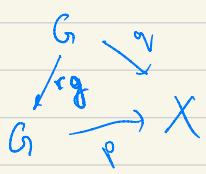


All G -torsors trivial / alg. closed field
 so $T \cong G$. (choice equiv to choosing a section)



(a G -equiv map $G \rightarrow X$ is the same as a map $\text{Spec } \mathbb{C} \rightarrow X$) given $p: G \rightarrow X$

Morphisms :



in particular

$$\text{Aut} \left(\begin{array}{ccc} G & \xrightarrow{p} & X \\ \downarrow & & \\ S & & \end{array} \right) = \text{Stab}(p) \cap [X/G](\mathbb{C}) = \text{orbits of } X(\mathbb{C}) \text{ under } G(\mathbb{C}).$$

Thm: If $G \rightarrow \text{Spk}$ is a smooth grp. scheme $G \curvearrowright X$

$\Rightarrow [X/G]$ is an algebraic stack.

Pf: (i) $\text{Isom} \left(\begin{array}{c} T \rightarrow X \\ \downarrow \downarrow \\ \mathbb{A}^1 \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} T' \rightarrow X \\ \downarrow \downarrow \\ \mathbb{A}^1 \end{array} \right)$ is locally $\mathbb{A}^1 = \text{Isom} \left(\begin{array}{c} G \rightarrow X \\ \downarrow \downarrow \\ \mathbb{A}^1 \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} G \rightarrow X \\ \downarrow \downarrow \\ \mathbb{A}^1 \end{array} \right)$ where \square is $\text{pr. q. X}(\mathbb{A}^1)$.

↳ this is the set $\{g \in G \mid g \cdot p = q\} \subseteq G$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{A}^1 & \rightarrow & X \\ \downarrow & \square & \downarrow \text{loc. closed} \\ G & \xrightarrow{(p, q)} & X \times X \quad g \mapsto (p, g \cdot q) \end{array}$$

so reple of \mathbb{A}^1 is locally closed. [Very useful for quotienting the moduli]

(ii) $X \xrightarrow{\pi} [X/G]$ defined by $G \times X \xrightarrow{m} X$ is a G -torsor!

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G \times X & \xrightarrow{m} & X \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X & & X \end{array}$$

Indeed $\begin{array}{ccc} P & \xrightarrow{\quad} & X \\ \downarrow & \square & \downarrow \\ T & \xrightarrow{\quad} & [X/G] \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ P & \xrightarrow{\quad} & X \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ T & & X \end{array}$ (check this!)
Exercise.
 $\Rightarrow \pi$ is smooth.

So there are stack quotients, how do they relate to scheme-quotient when they exist?

Big problem in AG is to show moduli spaces are constructed.

In many situations \exists map $[X/G] \rightarrow X/G$ of nice properties.

This can be formalised beyond quotient stacks:

Def: let \mathcal{X} be an alg. stack then $\mathcal{X} \xrightarrow{\pi} X$ is a c.m.s. if

(i) π is a bijection on geom. pts. [Same underlying topology]

(ii) π is initial among maps to schemes. [If \mathcal{X} is a moduli stack X approximates \mathcal{X} .]

Thm (Keel-Mori) If \mathcal{X} is a sep'd D.M. stack \exists

coarse moduli space $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow X$.

E.g. $X=S$ $G \curvearrowright S$ then $[X/G] = BG$ is the stack of G -torsors 5

This is algebraic. When G/S is f.e.t. $\Rightarrow BG$ is Deligne-Mumford.

E.g. $[A^1/(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})]$ when $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \curvearrowright A^1$ $x \mapsto x^2$, then $\text{space} \xrightarrow{x} A^1 \xrightarrow{x} x^2$ (stable energy)

$\text{stab}_0(x) = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$. $\text{map}(x) \rightarrow [A^1/(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})] \xrightarrow{\text{cm}}$ $\text{map}(x^2) = A^1$ isom away from 0.

E.g. $[A^2/(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})]$ $k[x,y] \rightarrow k[x,y]$ $\begin{matrix} x \mapsto x \\ y \mapsto -y \end{matrix}$ $A^2 \rightarrow [A^2/(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})] \rightarrow \text{Spec}(k[x,y^2]) \cong \text{Spec}(k[a,b,e]) / (e^2-ab)$ smooth. lms. (not smooth.)

stabilizer only at origin.

E.g. Given $X, L \in \text{Pic}(X), s \in H^0(X, L)$, we can form the root stack associated to (X, L, s)

$$\sqrt{(X, L, s)} = \left\{ (T \rightarrow X, \mathfrak{m}, \sigma \in H^0(T, \mathfrak{m}), \phi) \mid \begin{matrix} \mathfrak{m}^{\text{on}} \xrightarrow{\sigma} L \\ \sigma^{\text{on}} \mapsto s \end{matrix} \right\} \quad (\mathfrak{m}, \sigma, \phi)$$

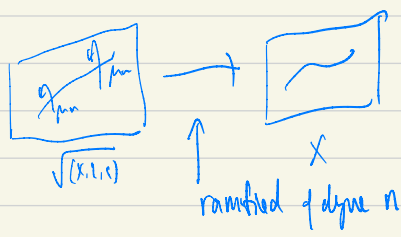
s'pose $x: \text{Spec } k \rightarrow X = V(S)$ then

$$\begin{matrix} k \rightarrow k & \text{must be identity b/c } \sigma \neq 0 \\ \mathfrak{o} \rightarrow \mathfrak{o} \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} (\mathfrak{m}, \sigma, \phi) \\ \downarrow \gamma \\ (\mathfrak{m}', \sigma', \phi') \\ \gamma: \mathfrak{m} \rightarrow \mathfrak{m}' \\ \gamma(\sigma) = \sigma' \\ \mathfrak{m}^{\text{on}} \xrightarrow{\sigma} \mathfrak{m}^{\text{on}} \\ \phi \downarrow \sqrt{\quad} \downarrow \phi' \\ L \end{matrix}$$

elsewhere we have

$k \rightarrow k$ $\mathfrak{o} \rightarrow \mathfrak{o}$ no condition, so stabilizer here is n everywhere



Thus a quasi-coherent sheaf on $BG \iff$ a representation of G

So EX i) $\text{Pic}(B\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}) = \text{Hom's from } \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow G_m = n\text{th roots of unity}$ ii) $\text{Pic}(B\mathbb{G}_m) = \text{Hom's from } G_m \rightarrow G_m \text{ } z \mapsto z^n = \mathbb{Z}$

E.g.: $[X/G]$ a coherent sheaf is coherent sheaf \mathcal{F}_X on X equipped w/ a G -action s.t. it is compatible w/ the action on X .

i.e. \mathcal{F} is a G -equivariant sheaf. For a v.b. this can be simplified a G -equivariant structure on a v.b. V on X is the "lift" of

the action: $V \times G \xrightarrow{mv} V$ s.t. $V \times G \xrightarrow{mv} V$
 $\downarrow (\pi, \text{id}) \hookrightarrow \Gamma \pi$ (i.e. $V \rightarrow X$ equiv.)
 $X \times G \xrightarrow{m_X} X$

This is an instance of the **PRINCIPLE** The geometry of $[X/G]$ is the G -equivariant geometry of X .

E.g.: What is $\text{Pic}([A'/\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}])$? What are the $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ -equivariant

line bundles on A' ? We have only $L \cong A' \times A' \xrightarrow{\bar{\sigma}} A' \times A'$
 $\downarrow \pi \hookrightarrow \downarrow \pi$
 $A' \xrightarrow{\sigma} A'$
 $(a,b) \mapsto (-a, \bar{\sigma}(b))$

$\bar{\sigma}$ must be linear so $\bar{\sigma}(b)$ can be b or $-b$ when b then

we get $L_1 \cong -b$ L_2 .
 $A' \times A' \xrightarrow{\text{id}} A' \times A'$ $A' \times A' \xrightarrow{\text{id}} A' \times A'$
 $(a,b) \mapsto (a,b)$ $(a,b) \mapsto (a,b)$
 $(a,b) \mapsto (-a,b)$ $(a,b) \mapsto (-a,-b)$

Observe that if V is a v.b. on $[X/G]$ $\xi \in \text{stab}(x)$ for $x \in X(G)$ then $\text{stab}(x)$ acts on V_x b/c the lift of $\sigma \in \text{stab}(x)$ to V

processes the fiber V_x (by commutativity)
 what happens here? $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} = \text{Stab}(0) \curvearrowright (L_1)_0$ but by

inclusion on $(L_2)_0$. So $\text{Pic}([A'/\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}]) = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$
 $L_1 \leftarrow [\mathcal{O}_X] = \text{id}$
 $L_2 \leftarrow \text{nontrivial det.}$

$$\text{Spec}(k[x]) \rightarrow [A'/\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}] \xrightarrow{\text{id}} \text{Spec}(k[x^2])$$

It follows from G-S $[A'/\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}] \cong \overline{\text{Spec}(k[x^2], x^2)} \cong \overline{\text{Spec}(k[x^2], x^2)}$ & in fact L_2 defines
 the "universal" roof of $\mathcal{O}_{A', 2}$.

Assume char(k) $\neq 2, 3$

Ex: $G_m \curvearrowright \mathbb{A}^2$ $x(a, b) = (x^4 a, x^6 b)$ $\{$ let $\Delta = V(4a^2 - 27b^3)$

$$\mathcal{M} = [\underbrace{\mathbb{A}^2 \cdot V(\Delta)}_B / G_m] \rightarrow B \times G_m$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} B \times A^1 & \xrightarrow{G_m} & B \times A^1 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ B & \longrightarrow & B \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} B \times A^1 \times G_m \rightarrow \text{fixed} \\ (a, b, z, \lambda) \mapsto (\lambda^2 a, \lambda^3 b, \lambda c) \end{array}$$

what are the possible actions? Note that any action / B

induces a rep of $M_4 = \text{Stab}(a, 0)$ $\{$ $M_6 = \text{Stab}(0, b)$ $\}$
 $\mu_2 = \text{Stab}(a, b)$ (the remaining orbits)
 Given L we can look at

the induced rep of μ_4 & μ_6 to get a hom. $\text{Pic}(\mathcal{M}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$

but in fact there is a condition, the reps

on μ_2 must all be the same b/c
 $\underline{\text{Hom}}(\mu_2, \mathbb{R}, G_m \curvearrowright \mathbb{R}) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})_{\mathbb{R}}$ for any ring $\mathbb{R} \Rightarrow$

$\phi \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/12\mathbb{Z}$
 $\text{Pic}(\mathcal{M}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$
 $\text{Hom}(\mu_4, \mathbb{R}) \quad \text{Hom}(\mu_6, \mathbb{R})$
 \downarrow restrict to
 $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \quad \mu_2$

(Therp. 1) $G \xrightarrow{\Delta} G \times G$ is rep'ble by algebraic spaces
 $a \mapsto (a, a)$

[$\Leftrightarrow \exists$ $\mathcal{U} \subseteq G(T)$, $\text{Isom}_{\mathcal{U}}(a, b) \rightarrow T$ is rep'ble by an alg. space / T]

2) \exists smooth surjection $U \xrightarrow{\phi} G$ (U's called an atlas of G)

Examples: - Any \exists étale $U \xrightarrow{\phi} G$ in algebraic space.

Idea: Same as manifolds, the local geometry of F or G can be studied on $U \xrightarrow{\phi} G \cong X$ scheme then the quotient exists

as an algebraic space $\{ X \rightarrow X/G \text{ is étale. [closed under finite quotients]} \}$
smooth schemes / $k = \mathbb{C}$

- Let $D \subset X$ be a Cartier divisor s.t. $N_{D/X} = \mathcal{O}_X(D)|_D$ is antiample then \exists a contraction in the category of alg. spaces i.e. $\exists \bar{X}$ alg. space

$$\begin{array}{ccc} D & \longrightarrow & X \longleftarrow X \cdot D \\ \downarrow & \square & \downarrow \square \downarrow \\ \text{pt} & \xrightarrow{p} & \bar{X} \longleftarrow \bar{X} \cdot p \end{array}$$

- If $X \xrightarrow{f} S$ proper + flat then Hilb $_{X/S} \rightarrow S$ is rep'ble [closed under Hilbert "schemes"]

Examples of algebraic stacks

① (i) $BGL_n = \text{Vect}_n \quad T \mapsto$ gp'd. of vect. bundles of rk n on T

Pf: Need to show $I = \text{Isom}_T(V_1, V_2) \rightarrow T$ is rep'ble by a scheme $\forall T \in \text{Vect}_n(T)$. But $I \rightarrow T$ is Zar.-locally on $T \cong \text{Isom}(\mathcal{O}^{\oplus n}, \mathcal{O}^{\oplus n}) \cong GL_n \times \text{scheme}$.

$\Rightarrow \Delta: BGL_n \rightarrow BGL_n \times BGL_n$ is rep'ble by affine schemes. ✓

(ii) Is there a smooth atlas?

$$I = \text{Isom}(\mathcal{O}^{\oplus n}, \mathcal{O}^{\oplus n}) \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbb{Z} \\ \downarrow \quad \square \quad \downarrow \text{trivial } \mathcal{O}^{\oplus n} \\ T \quad \xrightarrow{\Delta} \quad BGL_n$$

$I \rightarrow T$ is Zar.-locally on T is. to GL_n , \Rightarrow since GL_n is smooth $\Rightarrow \phi$ is a smooth cover