EXAMPLES OF STACKS

04SL

Contents

1. Introduction 1
2. Notation 2
3. Examples of stacks 2
4. Quasi-coherent sheaves 2
5. The stack of finitely generated quasi-coherent sheaves 3
6. Finite étale covers 4
7. Algebraic spaces 5
8. The stack of finite type algebraic spaces 6
9. Examples of stacks in groupoids 8
10. The stack associated to a sheaf 8
11. The stack in groupoids of finitely generated quasi-coherent sheaves 8
12. The stack in groupoids of finite type algebraic spaces 8
13. Quotient stacks 9
14. Classifying torsors 9
14.1. Torsors for a sheaf of groups 9
14.3. Variant on torsors for a sheaf 10
14.5. Principal homogeneous spaces 11
14.7. Variant on principal homogeneous spaces 11
14.8. Torsors in fppf topology 12
14.11. Variant on torsors in fppf topology 13
15. Quotients by group actions 13
16. The Picard stack 17
17. Examples of inertia stacks 17
18. Finite Hilbert stacks 18
19. Other chapters 20
References 21

1. Introduction

This is a discussion of examples of stacks in algebraic geometry. Some of them are algebraic stacks, some are not. We will discuss which are algebraic stacks in a later chapter. This means that in this chapter we mainly worry about the descent conditions. See [Vis04] for example.

Some of the notation, conventions and terminology in this chapter is awkward and may seem backwards to the more experienced reader. This is intentional. Please see Quot, Section 2 for an explanation.

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2. Notation

In this chapter we fix a suitable big fppf site $\text{Sch}_{\text{fppf}}$ as in Topologies, Definition 7.6. So, if not explicitly stated otherwise all schemes will be objects of $\text{Sch}_{\text{fppf}}$. We will always work relative to a base $S$ contained in $\text{Sch}_{\text{fppf}}$. And we will then work with the big fppf site $(\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}$, see Topologies, Definition 7.8. The absolute case can be recovered by taking $S = \text{Spec}(\mathbb{Z})$.

3. Examples of stacks

We first give some important examples of stacks over $(\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}$.

4. Quasi-coherent sheaves

We define a category $\text{QCoh}$ as follows:

(1) An object of $\text{QCoh}$ is a pair $(X, \mathcal{F})$, where $X/S$ is an object of $(\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}$, and $\mathcal{F}$ is a quasi-coherent $\mathcal{O}_X$-module, and

(2) a morphism $(f, \varphi) : (Y, \mathcal{G}) \to (X, \mathcal{F})$ is a pair consisting of a morphism $f : Y \to X$ of schemes over $S$ and an $f$-map (see Sheaves, Section 26)

$$\varphi : \mathcal{F} \to \mathcal{G}.$$ 

(3) The composition of morphisms

$$((Z, \mathcal{H}) \xrightarrow{(g, \psi)} (Y, \mathcal{G})) \xrightarrow{(f, \varphi)} (X, \mathcal{F})$$

is $(f \circ g, \psi \circ \varphi)$ where $\psi \circ \varphi$ is the composition of $f$-maps.

Thus $\text{QCoh}$ is a category and

$$p : \text{QCoh} \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}, \quad (X, \mathcal{F}) \mapsto X$$

is a functor. Note that the fibre category of $\text{QCoh}$ over a scheme $X$ is the opposite of the category $\text{QCoh}(\mathcal{O}_X)$ of quasi-coherent $\mathcal{O}_X$-modules. We remark for later use that given $(X, \mathcal{F}), (Y, \mathcal{G}) \in \text{Ob}(\text{QCoh})$ we have

$$\text{Mor}_{\text{QCoh}}((X, \mathcal{F}), (Y, \mathcal{G})) = \prod_{f \in \text{Mor}_S(Y, X)} \text{Mor}_{\text{QCoh}(\mathcal{O}_Y)}(f^*\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{G}).$$

See the discussion on $f$-maps of modules in Sheaves, Section 26. The category $\text{QCoh}$ is not a stack over $(\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}$ because its collection of objects is a proper class. On the other hand we will see that it does satisfy all the axioms of a stack. We will get around the set theoretical issue in Section 5.

Lemma 4.1. A morphism $(f, \varphi) : (Y, \mathcal{G}) \to (X, \mathcal{F})$ of $\text{QCoh}$ is strongly cartesian if and only if the map $\varphi$ induces an isomorphism $f^*\mathcal{F} \to \mathcal{G}$.

Proof. Let $(X, \mathcal{F}) \in \text{Ob}(\text{QCoh})$. Let $f : Y \to X$ be a morphism of $(\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}$. Note that there is a canonical $f$-map $c : \mathcal{F} \to f^*\mathcal{F}$ and hence we get a morphism $(f, c) : (Y, f^*\mathcal{F}) \to (X, \mathcal{F})$. We claim that $(f, c)$ is strongly cartesian. Namely, for any object $(Z, \mathcal{H})$ of $\text{QCoh}$ we have

$$\text{Mor}_{\text{QCoh}}((Z, \mathcal{H}), (Y, f^*\mathcal{F})) = \prod_{g \in \text{Mor}_S(Z, Y)} \text{Mor}_{\text{QCoh}(\mathcal{O}_Z)}(g^*f^*\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{H})$$

$$= \prod_{g \in \text{Mor}_S(Z, Y)} \text{Mor}_{\text{QCoh}(\mathcal{O}_Z)}((f \circ g)^*\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{H})$$

$$= \text{Mor}_{\text{QCoh}}((Z, \mathcal{H}), (X, \mathcal{F})) \times_{\text{Mor}_S(Z, X)} \text{Mor}_S(Z, Y)$$

where we have used Equation (4.0.1) twice. This proves that the condition of Categories, Definition 32.1 holds for $(f, c)$, and hence our claim is true. Now by
Categories, Lemma 32.2 we see that isomorphisms are strongly cartesian and compositions of strongly cartesian morphisms are strongly cartesian which proves the “if” part of the lemma. For the converse, note that given \( (X, F) \) and \( f : Y \to X \), if there exists a strongly cartesian morphism lifting \( f \) with target \( (X, F) \) then it has to be isomorphic to \( (f, c) \) (see discussion following Categories, Definition 32.1). Hence the “only if” part of the lemma holds.

\[ \square \]

Lemma 4.2. The functor \( p : \text{QCoh} \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf} \) satisfies conditions (1), (2) and (3) of Stacks, Definition 4.1.

**Proof.** It is clear from Lemma 4.1 that \( \text{QCoh} \) is a fibred category over \( (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf} \). Given covering \( U = \{ X_i \to X \}_{i \in I} \) of \( (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf} \) the functor

\[ \text{QCoh}(\mathcal{O}_T) \to DD(U) \]

is fully faithful and essentially surjective, see Descent, Proposition 5.2. Hence Stacks, Lemma 4.2 applies to show that \( \text{QCoh} \) satisfies all the axioms of a stack.

\[ \square \]

5. The stack of finitely generated quasi-coherent sheaves

It turns out that we can get a stack of quasi-coherent sheaves if we only consider finite type quasi-coherent modules. Let us denote

\[ p_{fg} : \text{QCoh}_{fg} \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf} \]

the full subcategory of \( \text{QCoh} \) over \( (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf} \) consisting of pairs \( (T, F) \) such that \( F \) is a quasi-coherent \( \mathcal{O}_T \)-module of finite type.

**Lemma 5.1.** The functor \( p_{fg} : \text{QCoh}_{fg} \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf} \) satisfies conditions (1), (2) and (3) of Stacks, Definition 4.1.

**Proof.** We will verify assumptions (1), (2), (3) of Stacks, Lemma 4.3 to prove this. By Lemma 4.1 a morphism \( (Y, \mathcal{G}) \to (X, \mathcal{F}) \) is strongly cartesian if and only if it induces an isomorphism \( f^* F \to \mathcal{G} \). By Modules, Lemma 9.2 the pullback of a finite type \( \mathcal{O}_X \)-module is of finite type. Hence assumption (1) of Stacks, Lemma 4.3 holds. Assumption (2) holds trivially. Finally, to prove assumption (3) we have to show: If \( \mathcal{F} \) is a quasi-coherent \( \mathcal{O}_X \)-module and \( \{ f_i : X_i \to X \} \) is an fppf covering such that each \( f_i^* \mathcal{F} \) is of finite type, then \( \mathcal{F} \) is of finite type. Considering the restriction of \( \mathcal{F} \) to an affine open of \( X \) this reduces to the following algebra statement: Suppose that \( R \to S \) is a finitely presented, faithfully flat ring map and \( M \) an \( R \)-module. If \( M \otimes_R S \) is a finitely generated \( S \)-module, then \( M \) is a finitely generated \( R \)-module. A stronger form of the algebra fact can be found in Algebra, Lemma 82.2.

\[ \square \]

**Lemma 5.2.** Let \( (X, \mathcal{O}_X) \) be a ringed space.

1. The category of finite type \( \mathcal{O}_X \)-modules has a set of isomorphism classes.
2. The category of finite type quasi-coherent \( \mathcal{O}_X \)-modules has a set of isomorphism classes.

**Proof.** Part (2) follows from part (1) as the category in (2) is a full subcategory of the category in (1). Consider any open covering \( U : X = \bigcup_{i \in I} U_i \). Denote \( j_i : U_i \to X \) the inclusion maps. Consider any map \( r : I \to \mathbb{N} \). If \( \mathcal{F} \) is an \( \mathcal{O}_X \)-module whose restriction to \( U_i \) is generated by at most \( r(i) \) sections from \( \mathcal{F}(U_i) \), then \( \mathcal{F} \) is a quotient of the sheaf

\[ \mathcal{H}_{U,r} = \bigoplus_{i \in I} j_{i!} \mathcal{O}_{U_i}^{\oplus r(i)} \]
By definition, if $\mathcal{F}$ is of finite type, then there exists some open covering with $\mathcal{U}$ whose index set is $I = X$ such that this condition is true. Hence it suffices to show that there is a set of possible choices for $\mathcal{U}$ (obvious), a set of possible choices for $r : I \to \mathbf{N}$ (obvious), and a set of possible quotient modules of $\mathcal{H}_U$ for each $U$ and $r$. In other words, it suffices to show that given an $\mathcal{O}_X$-module $\mathcal{H}$ there is at most a set of isomorphism classes of quotients. This last assertion becomes obvious by thinking of the kernels of a quotient map $\mathcal{H} \to \mathcal{F}$ as being parametrized by a subset of the power set of $\prod_{U \subset X \text{ open}} \mathcal{H}(U)$.

**Lemma 5.3.** There exists a subcategory $\mathcal{QCoh}_{fg, small} \subset \mathcal{QCoh}_{fg}$ with the following properties:

1. the inclusion functor $\mathcal{QCoh}_{fg, small} \to \mathcal{QCoh}_{fg}$ is fully faithful and essentially surjective, and
2. the functor $p_{fg, small} : \mathcal{QCoh}_{fg, small} \to (\mathcal{Sch}/S)_{fppf}$ turns $\mathcal{QCoh}_{fg, small}$ into a stack over $(\mathcal{Sch}/S)_{fppf}$.

**Proof.** We have seen in Lemmas 5.1 and 5.2 that $p_{fg} : \mathcal{QCoh}_{fg} \to (\mathcal{Sch}/S)_{fppf}$ satisfies (1), (2) and (3) of Stacks, Definition 4.1 as well as the additional condition (4) of Stacks, Remark 4.9. Hence we obtain $\mathcal{QCoh}_{fg, small}$ from the discussion in that remark.

We will often perform the replacement

$$\mathcal{QCoh}_{fg} \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{QCoh}_{fg, small}$$

without further remarking on it, and by abuse of notation we will simply denote $\mathcal{QCoh}_{fg}$ this replacement.

**Remark 5.4.** Note that the whole discussion in this section works if we want to consider those quasi-coherent sheaves which are locally generated by at most $\kappa$ sections, for some infinite cardinal $\kappa$, e.g., $\kappa = \aleph_0$.

### 6. Finite étale covers

We define a category $\mathcal{FÉt}$ as follows:

1. An object of $\mathcal{FÉt}$ is a finite étale morphism $Y \to X$ of schemes (by our conventions this means a finite étale morphism in $(\mathcal{Sch}/S)_{fppf}$).
2. A morphism $(b, a) : (Y \to X) \to (Y' \to X')$ of $\mathcal{FÉt}$ is a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
Y & \xrightarrow{b} & Y' \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
X & \xrightarrow{a} & X'
\end{array}$$

in the category of schemes.

Thus $\mathcal{FÉt}$ is a category and

$$p : \mathcal{FÉt} \to (\mathcal{Sch}/S)_{fppf}, \quad (Y \to X) \mapsto X$$

is a functor. Note that the fibre category of $\mathcal{FÉt}$ over a scheme $X$ is just the category $\mathcal{FÉt}_X$ studied in Fundamental Groups, Section 5.
Lemma 6.1. The functor
\[ p : \text{FÉt} \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}} \]
defines a stack in groupoids over \((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}\).

Proof. Fppf descent for finite étale morphisms follows from Descent, Lemmas 34.1, 20.23, and 20.29. Details omitted. □

7. Algebraic spaces

04SP We define a category \(\text{Spaces}\) as follows:

1. An object of \(\text{Spaces}\) is a morphism \(X \to U\) of algebraic spaces over \(S\), where \(U\) is representable by an object of \((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}\), and
2. A morphism \((f, g) : (X \to U) \to (Y \to V)\) is a commutative diagram

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \\
| & & | \\
U & \xrightarrow{g} & V
\end{array}
\]

of morphisms of algebraic spaces over \(S\).

Thus \(\text{Spaces}\) is a category and
\[ p : \text{Spaces} \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}, \quad (X \to U) \mapsto U \]
is a functor. Note that the fibre category of \(\text{Spaces}\) over a scheme \(U\) is just the category \(\text{Spaces}/U\) of algebraic spaces over \(U\) (see Topologies on Spaces, Section 2). Hence we sometimes think of an object of \(\text{Spaces}\) as a pair \(X/U\) consisting of a scheme \(U\) and an algebraic space \(X\) over \(U\). We remark for later use that given \((X/U), (Y/V) \in \text{Ob}(\text{Spaces})\) we have

\[
\text{Mor}_{\text{Spaces}}(X/U, Y/V) = \coprod_{g \in \text{Mor}_{S}(U, V)} \text{Mor}_{\text{Spaces}/U}(X, U \times_{g, V} Y)
\]

The category \(\text{Spaces}\) is almost, but not quite a stack over \((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}\). The problem is a set theoretical issue as we will explain below.

Lemma 7.1. A morphism \((f, g) : X/U \to Y/V\) of \(\text{Spaces}\) is strongly cartesian if and only if the map \(f\) induces an isomorphism \(X \to U \times_{g, V} Y\).

Proof. Let \(Y/V \in \text{Ob}(\text{Spaces})\). Let \(g : U \to V\) be a morphism of \((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}\). Note that the projection \(p : U \times_{g, V} Y \to Y\) gives rise a morphism \((p, g) : U \times_{g, V} Y/U \to Y/V\) of \(\text{Spaces}\). We claim that \((p, g)\) is strongly cartesian. Namely, for any object \(Z/W\) of \(\text{Spaces}\) we have

\[
\text{Mor}_{\text{Spaces}}(Z/W, U \times_{g, V} Y/U) = \coprod_{h \in \text{Mor}_{S}(W, U)} \text{Mor}_{\text{Spaces}/W}(Z, W \times_{h, U} U \times_{g, V} Y)
\]

\[
= \coprod_{h \in \text{Mor}_{S}(W, U)} \text{Mor}_{\text{Spaces}/W}(Z, W \times_{g \circ h, V} Y)
\]

\[
= \text{Mor}_{\text{Spaces}}(Z/W, Y/V) \times_{\text{Mor}_{S}(W, V)} \text{Mor}_{S}(W, U)
\]

where we have used Equation (7.0.1) twice. This proves that the condition of Categories, Definition 32.1 holds for \((p, g)\), and hence our claim is true. Now by Categories, Lemma 32.2 we see that isomorphisms are strongly cartesian and compositions of strongly cartesian morphisms are strongly cartesian which proves the “if” part of the lemma. For the converse, note that given \(Y/V\) and \(g : U \to V\), if
there exists a strongly cartesian morphism lifting \( g \) with target \( Y/V \) then it has to be isomorphic to \((p, g)\) (see discussion following Categories, Definition 32.1). Hence the 'only if' part of the lemma holds. □

**Lemma 7.2.** The functor \( p : \text{Spaces} \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}} \) satisfies conditions (1) and (2) of Stacks, Definition 4.1.

**Proof.** It is follows from Lemma 7.1 that \( \text{Spaces} \) is a fibred category over \((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}\) which proves (1). Suppose that \( \{U_i \to U\}_{i \in I} \) is a covering of \((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}\). Suppose that \( X, Y \) are algebraic spaces over \( U \). Finally, suppose that \( \varphi_i : X_{U_i} \to Y_{U_i} \) are morphisms of \( \text{Spaces}/U \) such that \( \varphi_i \) and \( \varphi_j \) restrict to the same morphisms \( X_{U_i \times_U U_j} \to Y_{U_i \times_U U_j} \) of algebraic spaces over \( U_i \times_U U_j \). To prove (2) we have to show that there exists a unique morphism \( \varphi : X \to Y \) over \( U \) whose base change to \( U_i \) is equal to \( \varphi_i \). As a morphism from \( X \) to \( Y \) is the same thing as a map of sheaves this follows directly from Sites, Lemma 26.4.

**Remark 7.3.** Ignoring set theoretical difficulties\footnote{The difficulty is not that \( \text{Spaces} \) is a proper class, since by our definition of an algebraic space over \( S \) there is only a set worth of isomorphism classes of algebraic spaces over \( S \). It is rather that arbitrary disjoint unions of algebraic spaces may end up being too large, hence lie outside of our chosen "partial universe" of sets.} \( \text{Spaces} \) also satisfies descent for objects and hence is a stack. Namely, we have to show that given

1. an fppf covering \( \{U_i \to U\}_{i \in I} \),
2. for each \( i \in I \) an algebraic space \( X_i/U_i \), and
3. for each \( i,j \in I \) an isomorphism \( \varphi_{ij} : X_i \times_U U_j \to U_i \times_U X_j \) of algebraic spaces over \( U_i \times_U U_j \)

there exists an algebraic space \( X/U \) and isomorphisms \( X_{U_i} \cong X_i \) over \( U_i \) recovering the isomorphisms \( \varphi_{ij} \). First, note that by Sites, Lemma 26.4 there exists a sheaf \( X \) on \((\text{Sch}/U)_{\text{fppf}}\) recovering the \( X_i \) and the \( \varphi_{ij} \). Then by Bootstrap, Lemma 11.1 we see that \( X \) is an algebraic space (if we ignore the set theoretic condition of that lemma). We will use this argument in the next section to show that if we consider only algebraic spaces of finite type, then we obtain a stack.

8. The stack of finite type algebraic spaces

It turns out that we can get a stack of spaces if we only consider spaces of finite type. Let us denote

\[ p_{ft} : \text{Spaces}_{ft} \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}} \]

the full subcategory of \( \text{Spaces} \) over \((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}\) consisting of pairs \( X/U \) such that \( X \to U \) is a morphism of finite type.

**Lemma 8.1.** The functor \( p_{ft} : \text{Spaces}_{ft} \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}} \) satisfies the conditions (1), (2) and (3) of Stacks, Definition 4.1.

**Proof.** We are going to write this out in ridiculous detail (which may make it hard to see what is going on).

We have seen in Lemma 7.1 that a morphism \((f, g) : X/U \to Y/V\) of \( \text{Spaces} \) is strongly cartesian if the induced morphism \( f : X \to U \times_V Y \) is an isomorphism. Note that if \( Y \to V \) is of finite type then also \( U \times_V Y \to U \) is of finite type, see Morphisms of Spaces, Lemma 23.3. So if \((f, g) : X/U \to Y/V\) of \( \text{Spaces} \) is strongly cartesian in \( \text{Spaces} \) and \( Y/V \) is an object of \( \text{Spaces}_{ft} \) then automatically also \( X/U \)
is an object of \( \text{Spaces}_{ft} \), and of course \((f, g)\) is also strongly cartesian in \( \text{Spaces}_{ft} \). In this way we conclude that \( \text{Spaces}_{ft} \) is a fibred category over \((\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf}\). This proves (1).

The argument above also shows that the inclusion functor \( \text{Spaces}_{ft} \to \text{Spaces} \) transforms strongly cartesian morphisms into strongly cartesian morphisms. In other words \( \text{Spaces}_{ft} \to \text{Spaces} \) is a 1-morphism of fibred categories over \((\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf}\).

Let \( U \in \text{Ob}((\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf}) \). Let \( X, Y \) be algebraic spaces of finite type over \( U \). By Stacks, Lemma \[2.3\] we obtain a map of presheaves

\[
\text{Mor}_{\text{Spaces}_{ft}}(X, Y) \to \text{Mor}_{\text{Spaces}}(X, Y)
\]

which is an isomorphism as \( \text{Spaces}_{ft} \) is a full subcategory of \( \text{Spaces} \). Hence the left hand side is a sheaf, because in Lemma \[7.2\] we showed the right hand side is a sheaf. This proves (2).

To prove condition (3) of Stacks, Definition \[4.1\] we have to show the following:

Given

1. a covering \( \{ U_i \to U \}_{i \in I} \) of \((\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf}\),
2. for each \( i \in I \) an algebraic space \( X_i \) of finite type over \( U_i \), and
3. for each \( i, j \in I \) an isomorphism \( \varphi_{ij} : X_i \times_U U_j \to U_i \times_U X_j \) of algebraic spaces over \( U_i \times_U U_j \) satisfying the cocycle condition over \( U_i \times_U U_j \times_U U_k \),

there exists an algebraic space \( X \) of finite type over \( U \) and isomorphisms \( X_{U_i} \cong X_i \) over \( U_i \) recovering the isomorphisms \( \varphi_{ij} \). This follows from Bootstrap, Lemma \[11.3\] part (2). By Descent on Spaces, Lemma \[10.10\] we see that \( X \to U \) is of finite type which concludes the proof.

\[\square\]

04UE Lemma 8.2. There exists a subcategory \( \text{Spaces}_{ft, small} \subset \text{Spaces}_{ft} \) with the following properties:

1. the inclusion functor \( \text{Spaces}_{ft, small} \to \text{Spaces}_{ft} \) is fully faithful and essentially surjective, and
2. the functor \( p_{ft, small} : \text{Spaces}_{ft, small} \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf} \) turns \( \text{Spaces}_{ft, small} \) into a stack over \((\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf}\).

Proof. We have seen in Lemmas \[8.1\] that \( p_{ft} : \text{Spaces}_{ft} \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf} \) satisfies (1), (2) and (3) of Stacks, Definition \[4.1\] The additional condition (4) of Stacks, Remark \[4.9\] holds because every algebraic space \( X \) over \( S \) is of the form \( U/R \) for \( U, R \in \text{Ob}((\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf}) \), see Spaces, Lemma \[9.1\] Thus there is only a set worth of isomorphism classes of objects. Hence we obtain \( \text{Spaces}_{ft, small} \) from the discussion in that remark.

We will often perform the replacement

\[
\text{Spaces}_{ft} \rightsquigarrow \text{Spaces}_{ft, small}
\]

without further remarking on it, and by abuse of notation we will simply denote \( \text{Spaces}_{ft} \) this replacement.

04UF Remark 8.3. Note that the whole discussion in this section works if we want to consider those algebraic spaces \( X/U \) which are locally of finite type such that the inverse image in \( X \) of an affine open of \( U \) can be covered by countably many affines. If needed we can also introduce the notion of a morphism of \( \kappa \)-type (meaning some bound on the number of generators of ring extensions and some bound on the
cardinality of the affines over a given affine in the base) where \( \kappa \) is a cardinal, and then we can produce a stack

\[
\text{Spaces}_\kappa \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf}
\]

in exactly the same manner as above (provided we make sure that \( \text{Sch} \) is large enough depending on \( \kappa \)).

9. Examples of stacks in groupoids

The examples above are examples of stacks which are not stacks in groupoids. In the rest of this chapter we give algebraic geometric examples of stacks in groupoids.

10. The stack associated to a sheaf

Let \( F : (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf}^{\text{opp}} \to \text{Sets} \) be a presheaf. We obtain a category fibred in sets

\[
p_F : \mathcal{S}_F \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf},
\]

see Categories, Example 37.3. This is a stack in sets if and only if \( F \) is a sheaf, see Stacks, Lemma 6.3.

11. The stack in groupoids of finitely generated quasi-coherent sheaves

Let \( p : \mathcal{Q}\text{Coh}_{\text{fg}} \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf} \) be the stack introduced in Section 5 (using the abuse of notation introduced there). We can turn this into a stack in groupoids \( p' : \mathcal{Q}\text{Coh}_{\text{fg}}' \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf} \) by the procedure of Categories, Lemma 34.3, see Stacks, Lemma 5.3. In this particular case this simply means \( \mathcal{Q}\text{Coh}_{\text{fg}}' \) has the same objects as \( \mathcal{Q}\text{Coh}_{\text{fg}} \) but the morphisms are pairs \((f, g) : (U, \mathcal{F}) \to (U', \mathcal{F}')\) where \( g \) is an isomorphism \( g : f^* \mathcal{F}' \to \mathcal{F} \).

12. The stack in groupoids of finite type algebraic spaces

Let \( p : \text{Spaces}_{\text{ft}} \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf} \) be the stack introduced in Section 8 (using the abuse of notation introduced there). We can turn this into a stack in groupoids \( p' : \text{Spaces}_{\text{ft}}' \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf} \) by the procedure of Categories, Lemma 34.3, see Stacks, Lemma 5.3. In this particular case this simply means \( \text{Spaces}_{\text{ft}}' \) has the same objects as \( \text{Spaces}_{\text{ft}} ', i.e., finite type morphisms \( X \to U \) where \( X \) is an algebraic space over \( S \) and \( U \) is a scheme over \( S \). But the morphisms \((f, g) : X/U \to Y/V \) are now commutative diagrams

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
X & \overrightarrow{f} & Y \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
U & \overrightarrow{g} & V
\end{array}
\]

which are cartesian.
13. Quotient stacks

Let \((U, R, s, t, c)\) be a groupoid in algebraic spaces over \(S\). In this case the quotient stack

\[ [U/R] \rightarrow (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf} \]

is a stack in groupoids by construction, see Groupoids in Spaces, Definition [19.1]. It is even the case that the \(\text{Isom}\)-sheaves are representable by algebraic spaces, see Bootstrap, Lemma [11.5]. These quotient stacks are of fundamental importance to the theory of algebraic stacks.

A special case of the construction above is the quotient stack

\[ [X/G] \rightarrow (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf} \]

associated to a datum \((B, G/B, m, X/B, a)\). Here

1. \(B\) is an algebraic space over \(S\),
2. \((G, m)\) is a group algebraic space over \(B\),
3. \(X\) is an algebraic space over \(B\), and
4. \(a : G \times_B X \rightarrow X\) is an action of \(G\) on \(X\) over \(B\).

Namely, by Groupoids in Spaces, Definition [19.1] the stack in groupoids \([X/G]\) is the quotient stack \([X/G \times_B X]\) given above. It behooves us to spell out what the category \([X/G]\) really looks like. We will do this in Section 15.

14. Classifying torsors

We want to carefully explain a number of variants of what it could mean to study the stack of torsors for a group algebraic space \(G\) or a sheaf of groups \(G\).

14.1. Torsors for a sheaf of groups. Let \(G\) be a sheaf of groups on \((\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf}\). For \(U \in \text{Ob}((\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf})\) we denote \(G|_U\) the restriction of \(G\) to \((\text{Sch}/U)_{fppf}\). We define a category \(G\text{-Torsors}\) as follows:

1. An object of \(G\text{-Torsors}\) is a pair \((U, F)\) where \(U\) is an object of \((\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf}\) and \(F\) is a \(G|_U\)-torsor, see Cohomology on Sites, Definition [4.1].

2. A morphism \((U, F) \rightarrow (V, H)\) is given by a pair \((f, \alpha)\), where \(f : U \rightarrow V\) is a morphism of schemes over \(S\), and \(\alpha : f^{-1}H \rightarrow F\) is an isomorphism of \(G|_U\)-torsors.

Thus \(G\text{-Torsors}\) is a category and

\[ p : G\text{-Torsors} \rightarrow (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf}, \quad (U, F) \mapsto U \]

is a functor. Note that the fibre category of \(G\text{-Torsors}\) over \(U\) is the category of \(G|_U\)-torsors which is a groupoid.

Lemma 14.2. Up to a replacement as in Stacks, Remark [4.9] the functor

\[ p : G\text{-Torsors} \rightarrow (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf} \]

defines a stack in groupoids over \((\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf}\).

Proof. The most difficult part of the proof is to show that we have descent for objects. Let \(\{U_i \rightarrow U\}_{i \in I}\) be a covering of \((\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf}\). Suppose that for each \(i\) we are given a \(G|_{U_i}\)-torsor \(F_i\), and for each \(i, j \in I\) an isomorphism \(\varphi_{ij} : F_i|_{U_i \times_U U_j} \rightarrow F_j|_{U_i \times_U U_j}\) of \(G|_{U_i \times_U U_j}\)-torsors satisfying a suitable cocycle condition on \(U_i \times_U U_j \times_U U_k\). Then by Sites, Section [20] we obtain a sheaf \(F\) on \((\text{Sch}/U)_{fppf}\) whose restriction to each \(U_i\) recovers \(F_i\) as well as recovering the descent data. By the equivalence of
categories in Sites, Lemma 26.5 the action maps \( \mathcal{G}|_{U_i} \times F_i \rightarrow F_i \) glue to give a map \( a : \mathcal{G}|_{U_i} \times F \rightarrow F \). Now we have to show that \( a \) is an action and that \( F \) becomes a \( \mathcal{G}|_{U_i} \)-torsor. Both properties may be checked locally, and hence follow from the corresponding properties of the actions \( \mathcal{G}|_{U_i} \times F_i \rightarrow F_i \). This proves that descent for objects holds in \( \mathcal{G}/\mathcal{B} \)-Torsors. Some details omitted. \( \square \)

04UL 14.3. Variant on torsors for a sheaf. The construction of Subsection 14.1 can be generalized slightly. Namely, let \( \mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{B} \) be a map of sheaves on \( (\text{Sch}/\mathcal{S})_{fppf} \) and let

\[
m : \mathcal{G} \times_{\mathcal{B}} \mathcal{G} \longrightarrow \mathcal{G}
\]

be a group law on \( \mathcal{G}/\mathcal{B} \). In other words, the pair \( (\mathcal{G}, m) \) is a group object of the topos \( \text{Sh}((\text{Sch}/\mathcal{S})_{fppf})/\mathcal{B} \). See Sites, Section 30 for information regarding localizations of topoi. In this setting we can define a category \( \mathcal{G}/\mathcal{B}\text{-Torsors} \) as follows (where we use the Yoneda embedding to think of schemes as sheaves):

1. An object of \( \mathcal{G}/\mathcal{B}\text{-Torsors} \) is a triple \( (U, b, \mathcal{F}) \) where
   a. \( U \) is an object of \( (\text{Sch}/\mathcal{S})_{fppf} \),
   b. \( b : U \rightarrow \mathcal{B} \) is a section of \( \mathcal{B} \) over \( U \), and
   c. \( \mathcal{F} \) is a \( U \times_{\mathcal{B}} \mathcal{G} \)-torsor over \( U \).
2. A morphism \( (U, b, \mathcal{F}) \rightarrow (U', b', \mathcal{F}') \) is given by a pair \( (f, g) \), where \( f : U \rightarrow U' \) is a morphism of schemes over \( \mathcal{S} \) such that \( b = b' \circ f \) and \( g : f^{-1} \mathcal{F}' \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \) is an isomorphism of \( U \times_{\mathcal{B}} \mathcal{G} \)-torsors.

Thus \( \mathcal{G}/\mathcal{B}\text{-Torsors} \) is a category and

\[
p : \mathcal{G}/\mathcal{B}\text{-Torsors} \longrightarrow (\text{Sch}/\mathcal{S})_{fppf}, \quad (U, b, \mathcal{F}) \mapsto U
\]

is a functor. Note that the fibre category of \( \mathcal{G}/\mathcal{B}\text{-Torsors} \) over \( U \) is the disjoint union over \( b : U \rightarrow \mathcal{B} \) of the categories of \( U \times_{\mathcal{B}} \mathcal{G} \)-torsors, hence is a groupoid.

In the special case \( \mathcal{B} = \mathcal{S} \) we recover the category \( \mathcal{G}/\mathcal{S}\text{-Torsors} \) introduced in Subsection 14.1.

04UM Lemma 14.4. Up to a replacement as in Stacks, Remark 4.9 the functor

\[
p : \mathcal{G}/\mathcal{B}\text{-Torsors} \longrightarrow (\text{Sch}/\mathcal{S})_{fppf}
\]

defines a stack in groupoids over \( (\text{Sch}/\mathcal{S})_{fppf} \).

Proof. This proof is a repeat of the proof of Lemma 14.2. The reader is encouraged to read that proof first since the notation is less cumbersome. The most difficult part of the proof is to show that we have descent for objects. Let \( \{U_i \rightarrow U\}_{i \in I} \) be a covering of \( (\text{Sch}/\mathcal{S})_{fppf} \). Suppose that for each \( i \) we are given a pair \( (b_i, \mathcal{F}_i) \) consisting of a morphism \( b_i : U_i \rightarrow \mathcal{B} \) and a \( U_i \times_{\mathcal{B}} \mathcal{G} \)-torsor \( \mathcal{F}_i \), and for each \( i, j \in I \) we have \( b_{ij}|_{U_i \times_{\mathcal{S}} U_j} = b_j|_{U_i \times_{\mathcal{S}} U_j} \) and we are given an isomorphism \( \varphi_{ij} : \mathcal{F}_i|_{U_i \times_{\mathcal{S}} U_j} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_j|_{U_i \times_{\mathcal{S}} U_j} \) of \( (U_i \times_{\mathcal{S}} U_j) \times_{\mathcal{B}} \mathcal{G} \)-torsors satisfying a suitable cocycle condition on \( U_i \times_{\mathcal{S}} U_j \times_{\mathcal{S}} U_k \). Then by Sites, Section 26 we obtain a sheaf \( \mathcal{F} \) on \( (\text{Sch}/\mathcal{U})_{fppf} \) whose restriction to each \( U_i \) recovers \( \mathcal{F}_i \) as well as recovering the descent data. By the sheaf axiom for \( \mathcal{B} \) the morphisms \( b_i \) come from a unique morphism \( b : U \rightarrow \mathcal{B} \). By the equivalence of categories in Sites, Lemma 26.5 the action maps \( (U_i \times_{\mathcal{B}} \mathcal{G}) \times_{\mathcal{U}} \mathcal{F}_i \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_i \) glue to give a map \( (U \times_{\mathcal{B}} \mathcal{G}) \times \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \). Now we have to show that this is an action and that \( \mathcal{F} \) becomes a \( U \times_{\mathcal{B}} \mathcal{G} \)-torsor. Both properties may be checked locally, and hence follow from the corresponding properties of the actions on the \( \mathcal{F}_i \). This proves that descent for objects holds in \( \mathcal{G}/\mathcal{B}\text{-Torsors} \). Some details omitted. \( \square \)
04UN 14.5. Principal homogeneous spaces. Let $B$ be an algebraic space over $S$. Let $G$ be a group algebraic space over $B$. We define a category $G$-Principal as follows:

1. An object of $G$-Principal is a triple $(U, b, X)$ where
   (a) $U$ is an object of $(\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf}$,
   (b) $b : U \to B$ is a morphism over $S$, and
   (c) $X$ is a principal homogeneous $G_U$-space over $U$ where $G_U = U \times_{b,B} G$.

   See Groupoids in Spaces, Definition 9.3.

2. A morphism $(U, b, X) \to (U', b', X')$ is given by a pair $(f, g)$, where $f : U \to U'$ is a morphism of schemes over $B$, and $g : X \to U \times_{f,U'} X'$ is an isomorphism of principal homogeneous $G_U$-spaces.

Thus $G$-Principal is a category and $p : G$-Principal $\to (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf}$, $(U, b, X) \mapsto U$ is a functor. Note that the fibre category of $G$-Principal over $U$ is the disjoint union over $b : U \to B$ of the categories of principal homogeneous $U \times_{b,B} G$-spaces, hence is a groupoid.

In the special case $S = B$ the objects are simply pairs $(U, X)$ where $U$ is a scheme over $S$, and $X$ is a principal homogeneous $G_U$-space over $U$. Moreover, morphisms are simply cartesian diagrams

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
X & \xrightarrow{g} & X' \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
U & \xrightarrow{f} & U'
\end{array}
$$

where $g$ is $G$-equivariant.

04UP Remark 14.6. We conjecture that up to a replacement as in Stacks, Remark 4.9 the functor

$$
p : G$-Principal $\to (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf}
$$

defines a stack in groupoids over $(\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf}$. This would follow if one could show that given

1. a covering $\{U_i \to U\}_{i \in I}$ of $(\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf}$,
2. an group algebraic space $H$ over $U$,
3. for every $i$ a principal homogeneous $H_{U_i}$-space $X_i$ over $U_i$, and
4. $H$-equivariant isomorphisms $\varphi_{ij} : X_{i,U_i \times_{U_j} U_j} \to X_{j,U_i \times_{U_j} U_j}$ satisfying the cocycle condition,

there exists a principal homogeneous $H$-space $X$ over $U$ which recovers $(X_i, \varphi_{ij})$. The technique of the proof of Bootstrap, Lemma 11.8 reduces this to a set theoretical question, so the reader who ignores set theoretical questions will “know” that the result is true. In https://math.columbia.edu/~dejong/wordpress/?p=591 there is a suggestion as to how to approach this problem.

04UQ 14.7. Variant on principal homogeneous spaces. Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $B = S$. Let $G$ be a group scheme over $B = S$. In this setting we can define a full subcategory $G$-Principal-Schemes $\subset G$-Principal whose objects are pairs $(U, X)$ where $U$ is an object of $(\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf}$ and $X \to U$ is a principal homogeneous $G$-space over $U$ which is representable, i.e., a scheme.
It is in general not the case that $G$-Principal-Schemes is a stack in groupoids over $(\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}$. The reason is that in general there really do exist principal homogeneous spaces which are not schemes, hence descent for objects will not be satisfied in general.

14.8. Torsors in fppf topology. Let $B$ be an algebraic space over $S$. Let $G$ be a group algebraic space over $B$. We define a category $G$-Torsors as follows:

1. An object of $G$-Torsors is a triple $(U, b, X)$ where
   (a) $U$ is an object of $(\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}},$
   (b) $b : U \to B$ is a morphism, and
   (c) $X$ is an fppf $G_U$-torsor over $U$ where $G_U = U \times_{b, B} G$.

   See Groupoids in Spaces, Definition 9.3

2. A morphism $(U, b, X) \to (U', b', X')$ is given by a pair $(f, g)$, where $f : U \to U'$ is a morphism of schemes over $B$, and $g : X \to U \times_{f, U'} X'$ is an isomorphism of $G_U$-torsors.

Thus $G$-Torsors is a category and

$$p : G\text{-Torsors} \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}, \quad (U, a, X) \mapsto U$$

is a functor. Note that the fibre category of $G$-Torsors over $U$ is the disjoint union over $b : U \to B$ of the categories of fppf $U \times_{b, B} G$-torsors, hence is a groupoid.

In the special case $S = B$ the objects are simply pairs $(U, X)$ where $U$ is a scheme over $S$, and $X$ is an fppf $G_U$-torsor over $U$. Moreover, morphisms are simply cartesian diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
X & \xrightarrow{g} & X' \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
U & \xrightarrow{f} & U'
\end{array}$$

where $g$ is $G$-equivariant.

Lemma 14.9. Up to a replacement as in Stacks, Remark 4.9 the functor $p : G\text{-Torsors} \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}$ defines a stack in groupoids over $(\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}$.

Proof. The most difficult part of the proof is to show that we have descent for objects, which is Bootstrap, Lemma 11.8. We omit the proof of axioms (1) and (2) of Stacks, Definition 5.1.

Lemma 14.10. Let $B$ be an algebraic space over $S$. Let $G$ be a group algebraic space over $B$. Denote $G$, resp. $B$ the algebraic space $G$, resp. $B$ seen as a sheaf on $(\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}$. The functor

$$G\text{-Torsors} \to G/B\text{-Torsors}$$

which associates to a triple $(U, b, X)$ the triple $(U, b, X')$ where $X'$ is $X$ viewed as a sheaf is an equivalence of stacks in groupoids over $(\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}$.

Proof. We will use the result of Stacks, Lemma 4.8 to prove this. The functor is fully faithful since the category of algebraic spaces over $S$ is a full subcategory of the category of sheaves on $(\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}$. Moreover, all objects (on both sides) are locally trivial torsors so condition (2) of the lemma referenced above holds. Hence the functor is an equivalence.
14.11. Variant on torsors in fppf topology. Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $B = S$. Let $G$ be a group scheme over $B = S$. In this setting we can define a full subcategory $G$-Torsors-Schemes $\subset G$-Torsors whose objects are pairs $(U, X)$ where $U$ is an object of $(\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}$ and $X \to U$ is an fppf $G$-torsor over $U$ which is representable, i.e., a scheme.

It is in general not the case that $G$-Torsors-Schemes is a stack in groupoids over $(\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}$. The reason is that in general there really do exist fppf $G$-torsors which are not schemes, hence descent for objects will not be satisfied in general.

15. Quotients by group actions

At this point we have introduced enough notation that we can work out in more detail what the stacks $[X/G]$ of Section 13 look like.

Situation 15.1. Here

1. $S$ is a scheme contained in $\text{Sch}_{\text{fppf}}$,
2. $B$ is an algebraic space over $S$,
3. $(G, m)$ is a group algebraic space over $B$,
4. $\pi : X \to B$ is an algebraic space over $B$, and
5. $a : G \times_B X \to X$ is an action of $G$ on $X$ over $B$.

In this situation we construct a category $[[X/G]]$ as follows:

1. An object of $[[X/G]]$ consists of a quadruple $(U, b, P, \phi : P \to X)$ where
   a. $U$ is an object of $(\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}$,
   b. $b : U \to B$ is a morphism over $S$,
   c. $P$ is an fppf $G_U$-torsor over $U$ where $G_U = U \times_{b, B} G$, and
   d. $\phi : P \to X$ is a $G$-equivariant morphism fitting into the commutative diagram

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
P & \xrightarrow{\phi} & X \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
U & \xrightarrow{b} & B
\end{array}
\]

2. A morphism of $[[X/G]]$ is a pair $(f, g) : (U, b, P, \phi) \to (U', b', P', \phi')$ where
   $f : U \to U'$ is a morphism of schemes over $B$ and $g : P \to P'$ is a $G$-equivariant morphism over $f$ which induces an isomorphism $P \cong U \times_{f, U'} P'$, and has the property that $\phi = \phi' \circ g$. In other words $(f, g)$ fits into the following commutative diagram

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
P & \xrightarrow{g} & P' \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
U & \xrightarrow{f} & U' \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
X & \xrightarrow{\phi} & B \\
\phi' & \downarrow & \\
\end{array}
\]

The notation $[[X/G]]$ with double brackets serves to distinguish this category from the stack $[X/G]$ introduced earlier. In Proposition 15.3 we show that the two are canonically equivalent. Afterwards we will use the notation $[X/G]$ to indicate either.
In Situation 15.1 there exists a canonical equivalence

\[ p : [[X/G]] \rightarrow (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}, \quad (U, b, P, \varphi) \mapsto U \]

is a functor. Note that the fibre category of $[[X/G]]$ over $U$ is the disjoint union over $b \in \text{Mor}_S(U, B)$ of fppf $U \times_{b, B} G$-torsors $P$ endowed with a $G$-equivariant morphism to $X$. Hence the fibre categories of $[[X/G]]$ are groupoids.

Note that the functor

\[ [[X/G]] \rightarrow \text{G-Torsors}, \quad (U, b, P, \varphi) \mapsto (U, b, P) \]

is a 1-morphism of categories over $(\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}$.

**Lemma 15.2.** Up to a replacement as in Stacks, Remark 4.9 the functor

\[ p : [[X/G]] \rightarrow (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}} \]

defines a stack in groupoids over $(\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}$.

**Proof.** The most difficult part of the proof is to show that we have descent for objects. Suppose that $\{U_i \rightarrow U\}_{i \in I}$ is a covering in $(\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}$. Let $\xi_i = (U_i, b_i, P_i, \varphi_i)$ be objects of $[[X/G]]$ over $U_i$, and let $\varphi_{ij} : \text{pr}_i^*\xi_j \rightarrow \text{pr}_j^*\xi_j$ be a descent datum. This in particular implies that we get a descent datum on the triples $(U_i, b_i, P_i)$ for the stack in groupoids $\text{G-Torsors}$ by applying the functor $[[X/G]] \rightarrow \text{G-Torsors}$ above. We have seen that $\text{G-Torsors}$ is a stack in groupoids (Lemma 14.9). Hence we may assume that $b_i = b|_{U_i}$ for some morphism $b : U \rightarrow B$, and that $P_i = U_i \times_U P$ for some fppf $G_U = U \times_{b, B} G$-torsor $P$ over $U$. The morphisms $\varphi_i$ are compatible with the canonical descent datum on the restrictions $U_i \times_U P$ and hence define a morphism $\varphi : P \rightarrow X$. (For example you can use Sites, Lemma 26.5 or you can use Descent on Spaces, Lemma 6.2 to get $\varphi$.) This proves descent for objects. We omit the proof of axioms (1) and (2) of Stacks, Definition 5.1. \[ \square \]

**Proposition 15.3.** In Situation 15.1 there exists a canonical equivalence

\[ [X/G] \rightarrow [[X/G]] \]

of stacks in groupoids over $(\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}$.

**Proof.** We write this out in detail, to make sure that all the definitions work out in exactly the correct manner. Recall that $[X/G]$ is the quotient stack associated to the groupoid in algebraic spaces $(X, G \times_B X, s, t, c)$, see Groupoids in Spaces, Definition 19.1. This means that $[X/G]$ is the stackification of the category fibred in groupoids $[X/pG]$ associated to the functor

\[ (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}} \rightarrow \text{Groupoids}, \quad U \mapsto (X(U), G(U) \times_{B(U)} X(U), s, t, c) \]

where $s(g, x) = x$, $t(g, x) = a(g, x)$, and $c((g, x), (g', x')) = (m(g, g'), x')$. By the construction of Categories, Example 36.1 an object of $[X/pG]$ is a pair $(U, x)$ with $x \in X(U)$ and a morphism $(f, g) : (U, x) \rightarrow (U', x')$ of $[X/pG]$ is given by a morphism of schemes $f : U \rightarrow U'$ and an element $g \in G(U)$ such that $a(g, x) = x' \circ f$. Hence we can define a 1-morphism of stacks in groupoids

\[ F_p : [X/pG] \rightarrow [[X/G]] \]

by the following rules: On objects we set

\[ F_p(U, x) = (U, \pi \circ x, G \times_{B, \pi \circ x} U, a \circ (\text{id}_G \times x)) \]
This makes sense because the diagram

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
G \times_{B, \pi \circ x} U & \xrightarrow{\text{id}_G \times x} & G \times_{B, \pi} X \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \pi \\
U & \xrightarrow{\pi \circ x} & B
\end{array}
\]

commutes, and the two horizontal arrows are $G$-equivariant if we think of the fibre
products as trivial $G$-torsors over $U$, resp. $X$. On morphisms $(f, g) : (U, x) \rightarrow (U', x')$ we set $F_p(f, g) = (f, R_g)$ where $R_g$ denotes right translation by $g$. More precisely, the morphism of $F_p(f, g) : F_p(U, x) \rightarrow F_p(U', x')$ is given by the cartesian diagram

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
G \times_{B, \pi \circ x} U & \xrightarrow{R_{g^{-1}}} & G \times_{B, \pi \circ x'} U' \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
U & \xrightarrow{f} & U'
\end{array}
\]

where $R_{g^{-1}}$ on $T$-valued points is given by

\[R_{g^{-1}}(g', u) = (m(g', i(g)), f(u))\]

To see that this works we have to verify that

\[a \circ (\text{id}_G \times x) = a \circ (\text{id}_G \times x') \circ R_{g^{-1}}\]

which is true because the right hand side applied to the $T$-valued point $(g', u)$ gives the desired equality

\[
a((\text{id}_G \times x')(m(g', i(g)), f(u))) = a(m(g', i(g)), x'(f(u))) = a(g', a(i(g), x'(f(u)))) = a(g', x(u))
\]

because $a(g, x) = x' \circ f$ and hence $a(i(g), x' \circ f) = x$.

By the universal property of stackification from Stacks, Lemma [9.2] we obtain a canonical extension $F : [X/G] \rightarrow [[X/G]]$ of the 1-morphism $F_p$ above. We first prove that $F$ is fully faithful. To do this, since both source and target are stacks in groupoids, it suffices to prove that the $\text{Isom}$-sheaves are identified under $F$. Pick a scheme $U$ and objects $\xi, \xi'$ of $[X/G]$ over $U$. We want to show that

\[F : \text{Isom}_{[X/G]}(\xi, \xi') \rightarrow \text{Isom}_{[[X/G]]}(F(\xi), F(\xi'))\]

is an isomorphism of sheaves. To do this it suffices to work locally on $U$, and hence we may assume that $\xi, \xi'$ come from objects $(U, x), (U, x')$ of $[X/G]$ over $U$: this follows directly from the construction of the stackification, and it is also worked out in detail in Groupoids in Spaces, Section [23]. Either by directly using the description of morphisms in $[X/G]$ above, or using Groupoids in Spaces, Lemma [21.1] we see that in this case

\[\text{Isom}_{[X/G]}(\xi, \xi') = U \times_{(x, x')} U \times_{G} X \times_{X} U \times_{x} X \times_{X} (G \times_{B} X)\]

A $T$-valued point of this fibre product corresponds to a pair $(u, g)$ with $u \in U(T)$, and $g \in G(T)$ such that $a(g, x \circ u) = x' \circ u$. (Note that this implies $\pi \circ x \circ u = \pi \circ x' \circ u$.) On the other hand, a $T$-valued point of $\text{Isom}_{[[X/G]]}(F(\xi), F(\xi'))$ by definition
corresponds to a morphism $u : T \to U$ such that $\pi \circ x \circ u = \pi \circ x' \circ u : T \to B$ and an isomorphism

$$R : G \times_{B, \pi \circ x \circ u} T \to G \times_{B, \pi \circ x' \circ u} T$$

of trivial $G_T$-torsors compatible with the given maps to $X$. Since the torsors are trivial we see that $R = R_{g^{-1}}$ (right multiplication) by some $g \in G(T)$. Compatibility with the maps $a \circ (1_G, x \circ u), a \circ (1_G, x' \circ u) : G \times_B T \to X$ is equivalent to the condition that $a(g, x \circ u) = x' \circ u$. Hence we obtain the desired equality of $\text{Isom}$-sheaves.

Now that we know that $F$ is fully faithful we see that Stacks, Lemma 14.8 applies. Thus to show that $F$ is an equivalence it suffices to show that objects of $[[X/G]]$ are fppf locally in the essential image of $F$. This is clear as fppf torsors are fppf locally trivial, and hence we win. \qed

**Lemma 15.4.** Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $B$ be an algebraic space over $S$. Let $G$ be a group algebraic space over $B$. Then the stacks in groupoids

$$[[B/G]], \quad [[B/G]], \quad \text{G-Torsors}, \quad \mathcal{G}/B, \text{-Torsors}$$

are all canonically equivalent. If $G \to B$ is flat and locally of finite presentation, then these are also equivalent to $G$-$\text{Principal}$.\]

**Proof.** The equivalence $\text{G-Torsors} \to \mathcal{G}/B, \text{-Torsors}$ is given in Lemma 14.10. The equivalence $[B/G] \to [[B/G]]$ is given in Proposition 15.3. Unwinding the definition of $[[B/G]]$ given in Section 15 we see that $[[B/G]] = \text{G-Torsors}$.

Finally, assume $G \to B$ is flat and locally of finite presentation. To show that the natural functor $\text{G-Torsors} \to G$-$\text{Principal}$ is an equivalence it suffices to show that for a scheme $U$ over $B$ a principal homogeneous $G_U$-space $X \to U$ is fppf locally trivial. By our definition of principal homogeneous spaces (Groupoids in Spaces, Definition 9.3) there exists an fpqc covering $\{U_i \to U\}$ such that $U_i \times_U X \cong G \times_B U_i$ as algebraic spaces over $U_i$. This implies that $X \to U$ is surjective, flat, and locally of finite presentation, see Descent on Spaces, Lemmas 10.6, 10.13, and 10.10. Choose a scheme $W$ and a surjective étale morphism $W \to X$. Then it follows from what we just said that $\{W \to U\}$ is an fpqc covering such that $X_W \to W$ has a section. Hence $X$ is an fppf $G_U$-torsor. \qed

**Remark 15.5.** Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $G$ be an abstract group. Let $X$ be an algebraic space over $S$. Let $G \to \text{Aut}_S(X)$ be a group homomorphism. In this setting we can define $[[X/G]]$ similarly to the above as follows:

1. An object of $[[X/G]]$ consists of a triple $(U, P, \varphi : P \to X)$ where
   (a) $U$ is an object of $(\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf}$,
   (b) $P$ is a sheaf on $(\text{Sch}/U)_{fppf}$ which comes with an action of $G$ that turns it into a torsor under the constant sheaf with value $G$, and
   (c) $\varphi : P \to X$ is a $G$-equivariant map of sheaves.

2. A morphism $(f, g) : (U, P, \varphi) \to (U', P', \varphi')$ is given by a morphism of schemes $f : T \to T'$ and a $G$-equivariant isomorphism $g : P \to f^{-1} P'$ such that $\varphi = \varphi' \circ g$.

In exactly the same manner as above we obtain a functor $[[X/G]] \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{fppf}$.
which turns \([[X/G]]\) into a stack in groupoids over \((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}\). The constant sheaf \(G\) is (provided the cardinality of \(G\) is not too large) representable by \(G_S\) on \((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}\) and this version of \([[X/G]]\) is equivalent to the stack \([[X/G_S]]\) introduced above.

16. The Picard stack

In this section we introduce the Picard stack in complete generality. In the chapter on Quot and Hilb we will show that it is an algebraic stack under suitable hypotheses, see Quot, Section 10.

Let \(S\) be a scheme. Let \(\pi : X \to B\) be a morphism of algebraic spaces over \(S\). We define a category \(\Pic_{X/B}\) as follows:

1. An object is a triple \((U, b, \mathcal{L})\), where
   - \(U\) is an object of \((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}\),
   - \(b : U \to B\) is a morphism over \(S\), and
   - \(\mathcal{L}\) is in invertible sheaf on the base change \(X_U = U \times_{b,B} X\).
2. A morphism \((f, g) : (U, b, \mathcal{L}) \to (U', b', \mathcal{L}')\) is given by a morphism of schemes \(f : U \to U'\) over \(B\) and an isomorphism \(g : f^*\mathcal{L}' \to \mathcal{L}\).

The composition of \((f, g) : (U, b, \mathcal{L}) \to (U', b', \mathcal{L}')\) with \((f', g') : (U', b', \mathcal{L}') \to (U'', b'', \mathcal{L}'')\) is given by \((f \circ f', g \circ f^*(g'))\). Thus we get a category \(\Pic_{X/B}\) and

\[
p : \Pic_{X/B} \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}, \quad (U, b, \mathcal{L}) \mapsto U
\]

is a functor. Note that the fibre category of \(\Pic_{X/B}\) over \(U\) is the disjoint union over \(b \in \text{Mor}_S(U, B)\) of the categories of invertible sheaves on \(X_U = U \times_{b,B} X\). Hence the fibre categories are groupoids.

Lemma 16.1. Up to a replacement as in Stacks, Remark 4.9 the functor

\[
\Pic_{X/B} \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}
\]

defines a stack in groupoids over \((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}\).

Proof. As usual, the hardest part is to show descent for objects. To see this let \(\{U_i \to U\}\) be a covering of \((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}\). Let \(\xi_i = (U_i, b_i, \mathcal{L}_i)\) be an object of \(\Pic_{X/B}\) lying over \(U_i\), and let \(\varphi_{ij} : \text{pr}_b^*\xi_i \to \text{pr}_b^*\xi_j\) be a descent datum. This implies in particular that the morphisms \(b_i\) are the restrictions of a morphism \(b : U \to B\). Write \(X_U = U \times_{b,B} X\) and \(X_i = U_i \times_{b_i,B} X = U_i \times_U U \times_{b,B} X = U_i \times_U X_U\). Observe that \(\mathcal{L}_i\) is an invertible \(\mathcal{O}_{X_i}\)-module. Note that \(\{X_i \to X_U\}\) forms an fpqc covering as well. Moreover, the descent datum \(\varphi_{ij}\) translates into a descent datum on the invertible sheaves \(\mathcal{L}_i\) relative to the fpqc covering \(\{X_i \to X_U\}\). Hence by Descent on Spaces, Proposition 4.1 we obtain a unique invertible sheaf \(\mathcal{L}\) on \(X_U\) which recovers \(\mathcal{L}_i\) and the descent data over \(X_i\). The triple \((U, b, \mathcal{L})\) is therefore the object of \(\Pic_{X/B}\) over \(U\) we were looking for. Details omitted.

17. Examples of inertia stacks

Here are some examples of inertia stacks.

Example 17.1. Let \(S\) be a scheme. Let \(G\) be a commutative group. Let \(X \to S\) be a scheme over \(S\). Let \(a : G \times X \to X\) be an action of \(G\) on \(X\). For \(g \in G\) we
denote \( g : X \to X \) the corresponding automorphism. In this case the inertia stack of \([X/G]\) (see Remark \[15.5\]) is given by
\[
I_{[X/G]} = \coprod_{g \in G} [X^g/G],
\]
where, given an element \( g \) of \( G \), the symbol \( X^g \) denotes the scheme \( X^g = \{ x \in X \mid g(x) = x \} \). In a formula \( X^g \) is really the fibre product
\[
X^g = X \times_{(1,1),X \times_S X,(g,1)} X.
\]
Indeed, for any \( S \)-scheme \( T \), a \( T \)-point on the inertia stack of \([X/G]\) consists of a triple \((P/T, \phi, \alpha)\) consisting of an fpqc \( G \)-torsor \( P \to T \) together with a \( G \)-equivariant isomorphism \( \phi : P \to X \), together with an automorphism \( \alpha \) of \( P \to T \) over \( T \) such that \( \phi \circ \alpha = \phi \). Since \( G \) is a sheaf of commutative groups, \( \alpha \) is, locally in the fpqc topology over \( T \), given by multiplication by some element \( g \) of \( G \). The condition that \( \phi \circ \alpha = \phi \) means that \( \phi \) factors through the inclusion of \( X^g \) in \( X \), i.e., \( \phi \) is obtained by inclusion with that morphism \( P \to X^\gamma \). The above discussion allows us to define a morphism of fibred categories \( I_{[X/G]} \to \coprod_{g \in G} [X^g/G] \) given on \( T \)-points by the discussion above. We omit showing that this is an equivalence.

0375 Example 17.2. Let \( f : X \to S \) be a morphism of schemes. Assume that for any \( T \to S \) the base change \( f_T : X_T \to T \) has the property that the map \( \mathcal{O}_T \to f_T_* \mathcal{O}_{X_T} \) is an isomorphism. (This implies that \( f \) is cohomologically flat in dimension 0 (insert future reference here) but is stronger.) Consider the Picard stack \( \mathcal{P}ic_{X/S} \), see Section \[16\] The points of its inertia stack over an \( S \)-scheme \( T \) consist of pairs \((\mathcal{L}, \alpha)\) where \( \mathcal{L} \) is a line bundle on \( X_T \) and \( \alpha \) is an automorphism of that line bundle. I.e., we can think of \( \alpha \) as an element of \( H^0(X_T, \mathcal{O}_{X_T})^\times = H^0(T, \mathcal{O}_T^*) \) by our condition. Note that \( H^0(T, \mathcal{O}_T^*) = G_{m,S}(T) \), see Groupoids, Example \[5.1\] Hence the inertia stack of \( \mathcal{P}ic_{X/S} \) is
\[
I_{\mathcal{P}ic_{X/S}} = G_{m,S} \times_S \mathcal{P}ic_{X/S}.
\]

as a stack over \((\text{Sch}/S)_{fpqc}\).

18. Finite Hilbert stacks

05WA We formulate this in somewhat greater generality than is perhaps strictly needed. Fix a 1-morphism
\[
F : \mathcal{X} \to \mathcal{Y}
\]
of stacks in groupoids over \((\text{Sch}/S)_{fpqc}\). For each integer \( d \geq 1 \) consider a category \( \mathcal{H}_d(\mathcal{X}/\mathcal{Y}) \) defined as follows:

(1) An object \((U, Z, y, x, \alpha)\) where \( U, Z \) are objects of in \((\text{Sch}/S)_{fpqc}\) and \( Z \) is a finite locally free of degree \( d \) over \( U \), where \( y \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{Y}_U) \), \( x \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{X}_Z) \) and \( \alpha : y|_Z \to F(x) \) is an isomorphism.\(^3\)

\(^3\)This means the data gives rise, via the 2-Yoneda lemma (Categories, Lemma \[40.1\]), to a 2-commutative diagram
\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
(\text{Sch}/Z)_{fpqc} & \xrightarrow{x} & \mathcal{X} \\
\downarrow \scriptstyle{\mathcal{Y}} & & \downarrow \scriptstyle{F} \\
(\text{Sch}/U)_{fpqc} & \xrightarrow{y} & \mathcal{Y}
\end{array}
\]
(2) A morphism \((U, Z, y, x, \alpha) \to (U', Z', y', x', \alpha')\) is given by a morphism of
schemes \(f : U \to U'\), a morphism of schemes \(g : Z \to Z'\) which induces an
isomorphism \(Z \to Z' \times_U U'\), and isomorphisms \(b : y \to f^*y', \ a : x \to g^*x'\)
inducing a commutative diagram

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
y|_Z & \alpha & \rightarrow & F(x) \\
\downarrow b|_Z & & & \downarrow F(a) \\
f^*y'|_Z & \alpha' & \rightarrow & F(g^*x')
\end{array}
\]

It is clear from the definitions that there is a canonical forgetful functor

\[ p : \mathcal{H}_d(X/Y) \longrightarrow (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}} \]

which assigns to the quintuple \((U, Z, y, x, \alpha)\) the scheme \(U\) and to the morphism
\((f, g, b, a) : (U, Z, y, x, \alpha) \to (U', Z', y', x', \alpha')\) the morphism \(f : U \to U'\).

**Lemma 18.1.** The category \(\mathcal{H}_d(X/Y)\) endowed with the functor \(p\) above defines
a stack in groupoids over \((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}\).

**Proof.** As usual, the hardest part is to show descent for objects. To see this let
\(\{U_i \to U\}\) be a covering of \((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}\). Let \(\xi_i = (U_i, Z_i, y_i, x_i, \alpha_i)\) be an object
of \(\mathcal{H}_d(X/Y)\) lying over \(U_i\), and let \(\varphi_{ij} : \text{pr}^*_U \xi_i \to \text{pr}^*_U \xi_j\) be a descent datum. First,
observe that \(\varphi_{ij}\) induces a descent datum \((Z_i/U_i, \varphi_{ij})\) which is effective by Descent,
Lemma [34.1] This produces a scheme \(Z/U\) which is finite locally free of degree \(d\)
by Descent, Lemma [20.30] From now on we identify \(Z_i\) with \(Z \times_U U_i\). Next, the
objects \(y_i\) in the fibre categories \(Y_{U_i}\) descend to an object \(y\) in \(Y\) because \(Y\) is a
stack in groupoids. Similarly the objects \(x_i\) in the fibre categories \(X_{Z_i}\) descend to an
object \(x\) in \(X\) because \(X\) is a stack in groupoids. Finally, the given isomorphisms
\[ \alpha_i : (y|_Z)_{Z_i} = y_i|_{Z_i} \longrightarrow F(x_i) = F(x|_{Z_i}) \]
glue to a morphism \(\alpha : y|_Z \to F(x)\) as the \(Y\) is a stack and hence \(\text{Isom}_Y(y|_Z, F(x))\)
is a sheaf. Details omitted. \(\square\)

**Definition 18.2.** We will denote \(\mathcal{H}_d(X/Y)\) the degree \(d\) finite Hilbert stack of \(X\)
over \(Y\) constructed above. If \(Y = S\) we write \(\mathcal{H}_d(X) = \mathcal{H}_d(X/Y)\). If \(X = Y = S\)
we denote it \(\mathcal{H}_d\).

Note that given \(F : X \to Y\) as above we have the following natural 1-morphisms of
stacks in groupoids over \((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{fppf}}\):

\[
\mathcal{H}_d(X) \longrightarrow \mathcal{H}_d(X/Y) \longrightarrow Y
\]

Each of the arrows is given by a "forgetful functor".
Lemma 18.3. The 1-morphism $\mathcal{H}_d(\mathcal{X}/\mathcal{Y}) \to \mathcal{H}_d(\mathcal{X})$ is faithful.

Proof. To check that $\mathcal{H}_d(\mathcal{X}/\mathcal{Y}) \to \mathcal{H}_d(\mathcal{X})$ is faithful it suffices to prove that it is faithful on fibre categories. Suppose that $\xi = (U, Z, y, x, \alpha)$ and $\xi' = (U, Z', y', x', \alpha')$ are two objects of $\mathcal{H}_d(\mathcal{X}/\mathcal{Y})$ over the scheme $U$. Let $(g, b, a), (g', b', a') : \xi \to \xi'$ be two morphisms in the fibre category of $\mathcal{H}_d(\mathcal{X}/\mathcal{Y})$ over $U$. The image of these morphisms in $\mathcal{H}_d(\mathcal{X})$ agree if and only if $g = g'$ and $a = a'$. Then the commutative diagram

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
    y|_Z & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & F(x) \\
    \downarrow{b|_Z, b'|_Z} & & \downarrow{F(a) = F(a')} \\
    y'|_Z & \xrightarrow{\alpha'} & F(g^*x') = F((g')^*x')
\end{array}
$$

implies that $b|_Z = b'|_Z$. Since $Z \to U$ is finite locally free of degree $d$ we see \{$Z \to U$\} is an fppf covering, hence $b = b'$.

19. Other chapters
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples of Stacks</th>
<th>References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(60) The Trace Formula</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(61) Algebraic Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(62) Properties of Algebraic Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(63) Morphisms of Algebraic Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(64) Decent Algebraic Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(65) Cohomology of Algebraic Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(66) Limits of Algebraic Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(67) Divisors on Algebraic Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(68) Algebraic Spaces over Fields</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(69) Topologies on Algebraic Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(70) Descent and Algebraic Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(71) Derived Categories of Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(72) More on Morphisms of Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(73) Flatness on Algebraic Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(74) Groupoids in Algebraic Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(75) More on Groupoids in Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(76) Bootstrap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(77) Pushouts of Algebraic Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(78) Topics in Geometry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(79) Chow Groups of Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(80) Quotients of Groupoids</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(81) More on Cohomology of Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(82) Simplicial Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(83) Duality for Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(84) Formal Algebraic Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(85) Restricted Power Series</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(86) Resolution of Surfaces Revisited</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(87) Deformation Theory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(88) The Cotangent Complex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(89) Deformation Problems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(90) Algebraic Stacks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(91) Examples of Stacks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(92) Sheaves on Algebraic Stacks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(93) Criteria for Representability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(94) Artin’s Axioms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(95) Quot and Hilbert Spaces</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(96) Properties of Algebraic Stacks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(97) Morphisms of Algebraic Stacks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(98) Limits of Algebraic Stacks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(99) Cohomology of Algebraic Stacks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(100) Derived Categories of Stacks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(101) Introducing Algebraic Stacks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(102) More on Morphisms of Stacks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(103) The Geometry of Stacks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(104) Moduli Stacks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(105) Moduli of Curves</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(106) Examples</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(107) Exercises</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(108) Guide to Literature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(109) Desirables</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(110) Coding Style</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(111) Obsolete</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(112) GNU Free Documentation License</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(113) Auto Generated Index</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>