

# Moduli problems of vector bundles

Bowen Liu<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>liubw22@mails.tsinghua.edu.cn

## CONTENTS

Preface	2
Assumptions	2
1. Moduli problems	3
1.1. Functors of points	3
1.2. Moduli problems	4
1.3. Fine moduli spaces	5
1.4. Coarse moduli spaces	7
2. Algebraic stack	9
2.1. Motivation and definition	9
References	11

## PREFACE

It's a learning note for moduli problems of vector bundles. The main reference for moduli space and geometric invariant theory is [\[Hos16\]](#), and the main reference for algebraic stack is [\[Hei10\]](#).

**Assumptions.**

- (1)  $k$  always denotes an algebraically closed field;
- (2) By a scheme we always mean a finite type scheme over  $k$ ;
- (3) By a variety we always mean a reduced separated scheme over  $k$ ;

## 1. MODULI PROBLEMS

### 1.1. Functors of points.

**Definition 1.1.1.** The *functor of points* of a scheme  $X$  is a contravariant functor  $h_X := \text{Hom}(-, X): \text{Sch} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ , and a morphism of schemes  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  induces a natural transformation of functors  $h_f: h_X \rightarrow h_Y$ , given by

$$\begin{aligned} h_f(Z): h_X(Z) &\rightarrow h_Y(Z) \\ g &\mapsto f \circ g, \end{aligned}$$

where  $Z$  is a scheme.

**Definition 1.1.2.** The contravariant functors from  $\text{Sch}$  to  $\text{Set}$  are called *presheaves* on  $\text{Sch}$ . The category of presheaves on  $\text{Sch}$  is denoted by  $\text{Psh}(\text{Sch}) = \text{Fun}(\text{Sch}^{\text{op}}, \text{Set})$ .

**Example 1.1.1.** For a scheme  $X$ ,  $h_X(\text{Spec } k) = \text{Hom}(\text{Spec } k, X)$  is the set of  $k$ -valued points of  $X$ .

**Lemma 1.1.1** (Yoneda lemma). Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be any category. Then for any  $C \in \mathcal{C}$  and any presheaf  $\mathcal{F} \in \text{Psh}(\mathcal{C})$ , there is a bijection

$$\{\text{natural transformations } \eta: h_C \rightarrow \mathcal{F}\} \longleftrightarrow \mathcal{F}(C),$$

which is given by  $\eta \mapsto \eta_C(\text{id}_C)$ .

*Proof.* To see the surjectivity: For an object  $s \in \mathcal{F}(C)$ , we define  $\eta: h_C \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$  defined as follows: For  $C' \in \mathcal{C}$ , consider

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_{C'}: h_C(C') &\rightarrow \mathcal{F}(C') \\ f &\mapsto \mathcal{F}(f)(s). \end{aligned}$$

- (1) It's well-defined: Since  $\mathcal{F}$  is a contravariant functor, then for  $f: C' \rightarrow C$ , we have  $\mathcal{F}(f): \mathcal{F}(C) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(C')$ , and thus  $\mathcal{F}(f)(s) \in \mathcal{F}(C')$ .
- (2) It's a natural transformation: Since if we take  $g: C'' \rightarrow C'$ , and consider the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} h_C(C') & \xrightarrow{\eta_{C'}} & \mathcal{F}(C') \\ \downarrow h_C(g) & & \downarrow \mathcal{F}(g) \\ h_C(C'') & \xrightarrow{\eta_{C''}} & \mathcal{F}(C''). \end{array}$$

For arbitrary  $f: C' \rightarrow C \in h_C(C')$ , note that

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_{C''} \circ h_C(g) &= \eta_{C''}(f \circ g) \\ &= \mathcal{F}(f \circ g)(s) \\ &= \mathcal{F}(g) \circ \mathcal{F}(f)(s) \\ &= \mathcal{F}(g) \circ \eta_{C'}(f). \end{aligned}$$

Thus above diagram commutes, that is,  $\eta$  is a natural transformation.

By construction, we have

$$\eta_C(\text{id}_C) = \mathcal{F}(\text{id}_C)(s) = s.$$

This proves the surjectivity.

To see the injectivity: Suppose we have two natural transformation  $\eta, \eta' : h_C \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$  such that  $\eta_C(\text{id}_C) = \eta'_C(\text{id}_C)$ . Then if we want to show  $\eta = \eta'$ , it suffices to show for arbitrary  $C' \in \mathcal{C}$ , we have  $\eta_{C'} = \eta'_{C'}$ . Let  $g : C' \rightarrow C$ . Then we have the following commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} h_C(C) & \xrightarrow{\eta_C} & \mathcal{F}(C) \\ \downarrow h_C(g) & & \downarrow \mathcal{F}(g) \\ h_C(C') & \xrightarrow{\eta_{C'}} & \mathcal{F}(C'). \end{array}$$

It follows that

$$\mathcal{F}(g) \circ \eta_C(\text{id}_C) = \eta_{C'} \circ h_C(g)(\text{id}_C) = \eta_{C'}(g),$$

and by the same argument one has  $\mathcal{F}(g) \circ \eta'_C(\text{id}_C) = \eta'_{C'}(g)$ . Hence

$$\eta_{C'}(g) = \mathcal{F}(g) \circ \eta_C(\text{id}_C) = \mathcal{F}(g) \circ \eta'_C(\text{id}_C) = \eta'_{C'}(g).$$

This completes the proof.  $\square$

**Corollary 1.1.1.** The functor  $h : \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \text{Psh}(\mathcal{C})$  is fully faithful.

*Proof.* A functor is called fully faithful if for every  $C, C' \in \mathcal{C}$ , there is the following bijection

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{C}}(C, C') \leftrightarrow \text{Hom}_{\text{Psh}(\mathcal{C})}(h_C, h_{C'}).$$

Then take  $\mathcal{F} = h_{C'}$  in Yoneda lemma to conclude.  $\square$

**Definition 1.1.3.** A presheaf  $\mathcal{F} \in \text{Psh}(\mathcal{C})$  is called *representable* if there exists an object  $C \in \mathcal{C}$  and a natural isomorphism  $\mathcal{F} \cong h_C$ .

So it's natural to ask if every presheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  is representable by a scheme  $X$ ? The answer is negative, as we will see. However, we are quite interested in answering this question for special functors, known as moduli functor.

**1.2. Moduli problems.** A moduli problem is a classification problem: we have a collection of objects and we want to classify them up to some equivalence. In fact, we want more than this: we want a moduli space encodes how these objects vary continuously in families.

**Definition 1.2.1.** A *naive moduli problem* (in algebraic geometry) is a collection  $\mathcal{A}$  of objects (in algebraic geometry) and an equivalence relation  $\sim$  on  $\mathcal{A}$ .

**Example 1.2.1.**

1. Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be the set of  $k$ -dimensional linear subspaces of an  $n$ -dimensional vector space and  $\sim$  be equality.
2. Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be the collection of vector bundles on a fixed scheme  $X$  and  $\sim$  be the relation given by isomorphism of vector bundles.

Our aim is to find a scheme  $M$  whose  $k$ -points are in bijection with equivalence classes  $\mathcal{A}/\sim$ . Furthermore, we want  $M$  to also encode how these objects vary continuously in "families".

**Definition 1.2.2.** Let  $(\mathcal{A}, \sim)$  be a naive moduli problem. Then a *moduli problem* is given by

1. sets  $\mathcal{A}_S$  of families over  $S$  and an equivalence relation  $\sim_S$  on  $\mathcal{A}_S$  for all schemes  $S$ .
2. pullback maps  $f^*: \mathcal{A}_S \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_T$ , for every morphism of schemes  $f: T \rightarrow S$ , such that
  - (1)  $(\mathcal{A}_{\text{Spec } k}, \sim_{\text{Spec } k}) = (\mathcal{A}, \sim)$ ;
  - (2) For the identity  $\text{id}: S \rightarrow S$  and any family  $\mathcal{F}$  over  $S$ , we have  $\text{id}^* \mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}$ ;
  - (3) For a morphism  $f: T \rightarrow S$  and equivalent families  $\mathcal{F} \sim_S \mathcal{G}$ , we have  $f^* \mathcal{F} \sim_T f^* \mathcal{G}$ .
  - (4) For morphisms  $f: T \rightarrow S$ ,  $g: S \rightarrow R$ , and a family  $\mathcal{F}$  over  $R$ , we have an equivalence

$$(g \circ f)^* \mathcal{F} \sim_T f^* g^* \mathcal{F}$$

**Notation 1.2.1.** For a family  $\mathcal{F}$  over  $S$  and a point  $s: \text{Spec } k \rightarrow S$ ,  $\mathcal{F}_s := s^* \mathcal{F}$  denotes the corresponding family over  $\text{Spec } k$ .

**Corollary 1.2.1.** A moduli problem defines a functor  $\mathcal{M} \in \text{Psh}(\text{Sch})$ , given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}(S) &:= \{\text{families over } S\} / \sim_S \\ \mathcal{M}(f: T \rightarrow S) &:= f^*: \mathcal{M}(S) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}(T) \end{aligned}$$

**Example 1.2.2.** Consider the naive moduli problem given by vector bundles on a fixed scheme  $X$  up to isomorphism. Then this can be extended in two different ways. The natural notion for a family over  $S$  is a locally free sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  over  $X \times S$  which is flat over  $S$ , but there are two possible ways to define relations:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F} \sim'_S \mathcal{G} &\iff \mathcal{F} \cong \mathcal{G} \\ \mathcal{F} \sim_S \mathcal{G} &\iff \mathcal{F} \cong \mathcal{G} \otimes \pi_S^* \mathcal{L} \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathcal{L}$  is a line bundle  $\mathcal{L} \rightarrow S$  and  $\pi_S: X \times S \rightarrow S$ .

**1.3. Fine moduli spaces.** The ideal is when there is a scheme that represents our given moduli functor.

**Definition 1.3.1.** Let  $\mathcal{M}: \text{Sch} \rightarrow \text{Set}$  be a moduli functor. Then a scheme  $M$  is a *fine moduli space* for  $\mathcal{M}$  if it represents  $\mathcal{M}$ .

*Remark 1.3.1.* To be explicit, the scheme  $M$  is a fine moduli space for the moduli functor  $\mathcal{M}$  if there is a natural isomorphism  $\eta: \mathcal{M} \rightarrow h_M$ . Thus for every scheme  $S$ , we have a bijection

$$\eta_S: \mathcal{M}(S) = \{\text{families over } S\} / \sim_S \longleftrightarrow h_M(S) = \{\text{morphisms } S \rightarrow M\}$$

In particular, if  $S = \text{Spec } k$ , then the  $k$ -points of  $M$  are in bijection with the set  $\mathcal{A}/\sim$ . Moreover, if  $T \rightarrow S$  is a morphism between schemes, then the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathcal{M}(S) & \xrightarrow{\eta_S} & h_M(S) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
\mathcal{M}(T) & \xrightarrow{\eta_T} & h_M(T).
\end{array}$$

**Definition 1.3.2.** Let  $M$  be a fine moduli space for  $\mathcal{M}$ . Then the family  $\mathcal{U} \in \mathcal{M}(M)$ , determined by  $\mathcal{U} := \eta_M^{-1}(\text{id}_M)$ , is called the *universal family*.

*Remark 1.3.2.* For any  $\mathcal{F} \in \mathcal{M}(S)$ , that is, a family over a scheme  $S$ , it corresponds to a morphism  $f: S \rightarrow M$ . On the other hand, the family  $f^*\mathcal{U}$  corresponds to the morphism  $\text{id}_M \circ f$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
f^*\mathcal{U} \in \mathcal{M}(S) & \xrightarrow{\eta_S} & h_M(S) \ni \text{id}_M \circ f \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
\mathcal{U} \in \mathcal{M}(M) & \xrightarrow{\eta_T} & h_M(M) \ni \text{id}_M.
\end{array}$$

This shows families  $f^*\mathcal{U}$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  correspond to the same morphism, and thus

$$f^*\mathcal{U} \sim_S \mathcal{F}.$$

This shows any family is equivalent to a family obtained by pulling back the universal family, and that's why  $\mathcal{U}$  is called the universal family.

**Proposition 1.3.1.** If a fine moduli space for moduli functor  $\mathcal{M}$  exists, then it is unique up to a unique isomorphism.

*Proof.* Suppose  $(M, \eta), (M', \eta')$  are two fine moduli spaces for the moduli functor  $\mathcal{M}$ . Then they are related by unique isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned}
\eta'_M \circ (\eta_M)^{-1}(\text{id}_M) &: M \rightarrow M', \\
\eta_{M'} \circ (\eta'_{M'})^{-1}(\text{id}_{M'}) &: M' \rightarrow M.
\end{aligned}$$

□

**Example 1.3.1.** In this example let's show that the projective space  $\mathbb{P}^n$  can be interpreted as a fine moduli space for the moduli problem of lines through the origin  $V := \mathbb{A}^{n+1}$ . Firstly, we need to clarify the definition of the moduli functor in this setting. A family of lines through the origin in  $V$  over a scheme  $S$  is a line bundle  $\mathcal{L}$  over  $S$  which is a subbundle of the trivial vector bundle  $V \times S$  over  $S$ , and two families are equivalent if and only if they are equal.

There is a tautological line bundle  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(-1) \subseteq V \times \mathbb{P}^n$ , and the dual line bundle  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(1)$  is generated by global sections  $x_0, \dots, x_n$ . Given any morphism  $f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ , the line bundle  $f^*\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(1)$  is generated by the global sections  $f^*(x_0), \dots, f^*(x_n)$ . Hence there is a surjection  $\mathcal{O}_S^{\oplus n+1} \twoheadrightarrow f^*\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(1)$ . Dualize the above surjection we obtain an inclusion  $\mathcal{L} := f^*\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(-1) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{O}_S^{\oplus n+1} = V \times S$ . This provides a family of lines through the origin in  $V$  over  $S$ .

Conversely, let  $\mathcal{L} \subseteq V \times S$  be a family of lines through the origin in  $V$  over  $S$ . Then dualize this inclusion this provides a surjection  $q: V^* \times S \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{L}^*$ . The vector

bundle  $V^* \times S$  is globally generated by the global sections  $\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_n$  corresponding to the dual basis of the standard basis on  $V$ . In particular, it provides a unique morphism

$$f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$$

$$s \mapsto [q \circ \sigma_0(s), \dots, q \circ \sigma_n(s)],$$

and  $f^* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(-1) = \mathcal{L} \subseteq V \times S$  by [Har77, Theorem 7.1].

Hence, there is a bijective correspondence between morphisms  $S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$  and families of lines through the origin in  $V$  over  $S$ , and this bijection has functoriality. In particular, the projective space  $\mathbb{P}^n$  is a fine moduli space for this moduli problem and tautological line bundle is the universal family.

**Example 1.3.2.** The Grassmannian variety  $\text{Gr}(d, n)$  is a fine moduli space for the moduli problem of  $d$ -dimensional linear subspaces of a fixed vector space  $V = \mathbb{A}^n$ .

#### 1.4. Coarse moduli spaces.

**Definition 1.4.1.** A coarse moduli space for a moduli functor  $\mathcal{M}$  is a scheme  $M$  and a natural transformation of functors  $\eta: \mathcal{M} \rightarrow h_M$  such that

- (1)  $\eta_{\text{Spec } k}: \mathcal{M}(\text{Spec } k) \rightarrow h_M(\text{Spec } k)$  is bijective;
- (2) For any scheme  $N$  and natural transformation  $v: \mathcal{M} \rightarrow h_N$ , there exists a unique morphism of schemes  $f: M \rightarrow N$  such that  $v = h_f \circ \eta$ , where  $h_f: h_M \rightarrow h_N$  is the corresponding natural transformation of presheaves.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{M} & \xrightarrow{\eta} & h_M \\ & \searrow v & \swarrow h_f \\ & h_N & \end{array}$$

*Remark 1.4.1.* A coarse moduli space for  $\mathcal{M}$  is unique up to unique isomorphism, which can be determined by the universal property (2) in the definition.

**Proposition 1.4.1.** Let  $(M, \eta)$  be a coarse moduli space for a moduli problem  $\mathcal{M}$ . Then  $(M, \eta)$  is a fine moduli space if and only if

- (1) there exists a family  $\mathcal{U}$  over  $M$  such that  $\eta_M(\mathcal{U}) = \text{id}_M$ ;
- (2) for families  $\mathcal{F}$  and  $\mathcal{G}$  over a scheme  $S$ , we have  $\mathcal{F} \sim_S \mathcal{G}$  if and only if  $\eta_S(\mathcal{F}) = \eta_S(\mathcal{G})$ .

*Proof.* If  $(M, \eta)$  is a fine moduli space, then (1) and (2) satisfy automatically. Conversely, suppose  $(M, \eta)$  is a coarse moduli space satisfying (1) and (2). In order to show the natural transformation  $\eta$  is a natural isomorphism, it suffices to show that for any scheme  $S$ ,  $\eta_S: \mathcal{M}(S) \rightarrow h_M(S)$  is an isomorphism. The condition (2) implies the injectivity. For any morphism  $f: S \rightarrow M$ , the family  $\mathcal{F} := f^* \mathcal{U}$  over  $S$  satisfies  $\eta_S(\mathcal{F}) = f$ , and this shows the surjectivity.  $\square$

**Lemma 1.4.1.** Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a moduli problem and suppose there exists a family  $\mathcal{F}$  over  $\mathbb{A}^1$  such that  $\mathcal{F}_s \sim \mathcal{F}_1$  for all  $s \neq 0$  and  $\mathcal{F}_0 \not\sim \mathcal{F}_1$ . Then for any scheme  $M$  and natural transformation  $\eta: \mathcal{M} \rightarrow h_M$ , we have  $\eta_{\mathbb{A}^1}(\mathcal{F}): \mathbb{A}^1 \rightarrow M$  is constant. In particular, there is no coarse moduli space for this moduli problem.



*Proof.* Suppose there is a natural transformation  $\eta: \mathcal{M} \rightarrow h_M$ . Then  $\eta$  sends the family  $\mathcal{F}$  over  $\mathbb{A}^1$  to a morphism  $f: \mathbb{A}^1 \rightarrow M$ . For any  $s: \text{Spec } k \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1$ , the functoriality implies  $f \circ s = \eta_{\text{Spec } k}(\mathcal{F}_s)$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{F} \in \mathcal{M}(\mathbb{A}^1) & \xrightarrow{\eta_{\mathbb{A}^1}} & h_M(\mathbb{A}^1) \ni f \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathcal{F}_s := s^* \mathcal{F} \in \mathcal{M}(\text{Spec } k) & \xrightarrow{\eta_{\text{Spec } k}} & h_M(\text{Spec } k) \ni f \circ s. \end{array}$$

Since for  $s \neq 0$ ,  $\mathcal{F}_s = \mathcal{F}_1 \in \mathcal{M}(\text{Spec } k)$ , so that  $f|_{\mathbb{A}^1 \setminus \{0\}}$  is constant. Let  $m: \text{Spec } k \rightarrow M$  be the  $k$ -valued point corresponding to the equivalent class for  $\mathcal{F}_1$  under  $\eta$ . Since  $M$  is a scheme of finite type, the  $k$ -valued points of  $M$  are closed, and thus their preimages must also be closed. Then, as  $\mathbb{A}^1 \setminus \{0\} \subseteq f^{-1}(m)$ , the closure  $\mathbb{A}^1$  of  $\mathbb{A}^1 \setminus \{0\}$  must also be contained in  $f^{-1}(m)$ . In other words,  $f$  is the constant map from  $\mathbb{A}^1$  to the  $k$ -valued point  $m$  of  $M$ . This shows  $\eta_{\text{Spec } k}: \mathcal{M}(\text{Spec } k) \rightarrow h_M(\text{Spec } k)$  is not a bijection, since  $\mathcal{F}_0 \neq \mathcal{F}_1$  in  $\mathcal{M}(\text{Spec } k)$ , but these non-equivalent objects correspond to the same  $k$ -point  $m$  in  $M$ .  $\square$

Above lemma provides a pathological behavior, which is called *jumping phenomenon*, for a moduli problem not to admit a coarse moduli space.

**Example 1.4.1.** Consider the moduli problem of classifying endomorphisms of a  $n$ -dimensional  $k$ -vector space. To be explicit, a family over a scheme  $S$  is a rank  $n$  vector bundle  $\mathcal{F}$  with an endomorphism  $\phi$ , and  $(\mathcal{F}, \phi) \sim_S (\mathcal{G}, \phi')$  if there exists an isomorphism  $h: \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$  such that  $h \circ \phi = \phi' \circ h$ .

For  $n \geq 2$ , we can construct families which exhibit the jumping phenomenon. For example, let  $n = 2$ . Then consider the family over  $\mathbb{A}^1$  given by  $(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{A}^1}^{\oplus 2}, \phi)$ , where for  $s \in \mathbb{A}^1$ ,

$$\phi_s = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & s \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

For  $s, t \neq 0$ , these matrices are similar and thus  $\phi_s \sim \phi_t$ . However,  $\phi_0 \not\sim \phi_1$  as these two matrices have different Jordan form.

## 2. ALGEBRAIC STACK

### 2.1. Motivation and definition.

**Definition 2.1.1.** A *stack*  $\mathcal{M}$  is a sheaf of groupoids:

$$\mathcal{M}: \text{Sch} \rightarrow \text{Groupoids},$$

that is, an assignment

- (1) for any scheme  $T$ ,  $\mathcal{M}(T)$  is a category in which all morphisms are isomorphisms.
- (2) for any morphism  $f: X \rightarrow Y$ , a functor  $f^*: \mathcal{M}(Y) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}(X)$ .
- (3) for any pair of composable morphisms  $X \xrightarrow{f} Y \xrightarrow{g} Z$ , a natural transformation  $\varphi_{f,g}: f^* \circ g^* \Rightarrow (g \circ f)^*$ . These natural transformations have to be associative for composition, in particular we assume this natural transformation to be the identity, if one of the  $f, g$  is identity,

satisfying the following gluing conditions:

- (a) Given a covering<sup>2</sup>  $\{U_i\}$  of  $T$ , objects  $\mathcal{E}_i \in \mathcal{M}(U_i)$  and isomorphisms  $\varphi_{ij}: \mathcal{E}_i|_{U_i \cap U_j} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_j|_{U_i \cap U_j}$  satisfying a cocycle condition on three-fold intersections, there exists an object  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathcal{M}(T)$ , unique up to isomorphisms, together with isomorphisms  $\psi_i: \mathcal{E}|_{U_i} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_i$  such that  $\varphi_{ij} = \psi_j \circ \psi_i^{-1}$ .
- (b) Given a covering  $\{U_i\}$  of  $T$ , objects  $\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F} \in \mathcal{M}(T)$  and morphisms  $\varphi_i: \mathcal{E}|_{U_i} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}|_{U_i}$  such that  $\varphi|_{U_i \cap U_j} = \varphi_j|_{U_i \cap U_j}$ , there is a unique morphism  $\varphi: \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$  such that  $\varphi|_{U_i} = \varphi_i$ .

**Example 2.1.1.** Let  $G$  be an affine algebraic group. Then

$$BG(T) = \{\text{principal } G\text{-bundles on } T\}$$

is the classifying stack of  $G$ .

**Example 2.1.2.** Let  $X$  be a scheme. Then  $\underline{X}(T) := \text{Hom}(T, X)$  is a stack, where  $\text{Hom}(T, X)$  is considered as a category in which the only morphisms are identities. The pullback functor  $f^*$  for  $S \rightarrow T$  is given by composition with  $f$ . Such a stack is called a *representable stack*.

**Example 2.1.3.** Let  $X$  be a scheme and  $G$  be an algebraic group acting on  $X$ . Then the quotient stack  $[X/G]$  is defined by

$$[X/G](T) := \left\{ \begin{array}{c} P \xrightarrow{g} X \\ p \downarrow \\ T \end{array} : P \rightarrow T \text{ is a } G\text{-bundle, } P \rightarrow X \text{ is a } G\text{-equivariant map} \right\}.$$

Morphisms in this category are isomorphisms of  $G$ -bundles commuting with the maps to  $X$ .

---

<sup>2</sup>A covering means one of the following choices: In complex geometry we use the analytic topology. Otherwise we use either the étale topology or the fppf topology. In this case, the intersection  $U_i \cap U_j$  has to be defined as  $U_i \times_X U_j$ .

*Remark 2.1.1.* The quotient stack  $[X/G]$  should catch the properties of the quotient space " $X/G$ ", which may not exist in the category of schemes. Suppose there exists a scheme  $X/G$  together with a  $G$ -bundle map  $X \rightarrow X/G$ . In this case, any diagram in  $[X/G](T)$  defines a map  $\bar{g}: T \rightarrow X/G$  as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} P & \xrightarrow{g} & X \\ p \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ T & \xrightarrow{\bar{g}} & X/G, \end{array}$$

and  $P$  is canonically isomorphic to the pullback of the  $G$ -bundle  $g^*X = X \times_{X/G} T$  over  $T$ . Thus the category  $[X/G](T)$  is canonically equivalent to the set  $X/G(T)$ , which is considered as a category in which the only morphisms are the identities of elements.

**Lemma 2.1.1** (Yoneda lemma). Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a stack. Then for any scheme  $T$  there is a natural equivalence of categories:

$$\text{Mor}_{\text{Stacks}}(\underline{T}, \mathcal{M}) \cong \mathcal{M}(T).$$

Let  $G$  be an affine algebraic group and  $BG$  be the classifying stack. Let  $\text{pt} = \text{Spec } k$  be a point and  $\mathcal{E}$  be a  $G$ -bundle on a scheme  $X$ . By Lemma 2.1.1,  $\mathcal{E}$  defines a morphism  $F_{\mathcal{E}}: \underline{X} \rightarrow BG$  and the trivial bundle defines a morphism  $\text{triv}: \text{pt} \rightarrow BG$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \text{pt} & \\ & \downarrow \text{triv} & \\ X & \xrightarrow{F_{\mathcal{E}}} & BG. \end{array}$$

Let's compute the fiber product of the above diagram.

## REFERENCES

- [Har77] Robin Hartshorne. *Algebraic geometry*, volume No. 52 of *Graduate Texts in Mathematics*. Springer-Verlag, New York-Heidelberg, 1977.
- [Hei10] Jochen Heinloth. Lectures on the moduli stack of vector bundles on a curve. In *Affine flag manifolds and principal bundles*, Trends Math., pages 123–153. Birkhäuser/Springer Basel AG, Basel, 2010.
- [Hos16] Victoria Hoskins. Moduli problems and geometric invariant theory. [https://userpage.fu-berlin.de/hoskins/M15\\_Lecture\\_notes.pdf](https://userpage.fu-berlin.de/hoskins/M15_Lecture_notes.pdf), 2016.