

# CLASSIFYING TOPOS<sup>1</sup>

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The basic facts about the classifying topos of a stack of groupoids were first stated in [3] and are exposed in detail in [4] Ch. VIII. This construction is useful in cohomology theory and has been introduced independently by D. Mumford to study moduli of elliptic curves [7]. Algebraic stacks of groupoids are used in algebraic geometry cf. [1]. Here a simpler and more general approach allows us to treat the case of a stack whose fibers are not supposed to be groupoids. As a by-product we get the existence of fibered products in the bicategory of topos. This result was first announced by M. Hakim several years ago but was never published. I suspect that any written proof would have to deal with rather subtle technical difficulties about finite limits which are overcome here by the results of §1.

If  $\mathbf{S}$  is a site we use the word *stack* for the french *champ* [4] and *prestack* for *prechamp* (a prestack is merely a fibered category over the underlying category of the site) and *split stack* for *champ scindé*. Up to equivalence a split stack can be viewed as a sheaf of categories over  $\mathbf{S}$  (or a category-object of the corresponding topos) satisfying some extra condition namely the patching of objects. As usual we choose and fix a universe  $\mathcal{U}$ . For clarity it should be recalled that a  $\mathcal{U}$ -topos is a special case of  $\mathcal{U}$ -site [5] and that any category can be viewed as a site such that any presheaf is a sheaf and prestack is a stack.

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<sup>2</sup>Toposes , algebraic geometry and logic , Lecture Notes in Maths., vol.274 , Springer , 1972.

## 1. Left exact stacks

A category is left exact if it admits finite limits. A functor  $f : A \longrightarrow B$  between left exact categories  $A$  and  $B$  is left exact if it preserves finite limits. A site is said to be left exact if the underlying category is so. A stack  $C$  over a site  $\mathbf{S}$  is said to be left exact if its fibers are left exact and if for any map  $f : T \longrightarrow S$  in  $\mathbf{S}$  the inverse image functor induced by  $f$  between the fibers of  $C$  is left exact.

Lemma (1.1). — *A stack  $C$  over a left exact site  $\mathbf{S}$  is left exact if and only if the underlying category and the structural functor  $p : C \longrightarrow \mathbf{S}$  are left exact.*

The proof rests on the fact that a commutative square of  $C$  whose projection is cartesian in  $\mathbf{S}$  is cartesian as soon as two opposite sides are  $\mathbf{S}$ -cartesian.

Lemma (1.2). — *A morphism  $m : A \longrightarrow B$  between two left exact stacks is left exact if and only if for any  $S \in |\mathbf{S}|^3$  the functor  $m_S : A_S \longrightarrow B_S$  induced by  $m$  between the fibers at  $S$  is left exact.*

Proposition (1.3). — *Let  $f : \mathbf{S}' \longrightarrow \mathbf{S}$  be a morphism between two sites (e.g. two topos). Then the direct image (resp. inverse image) of a left exact stack and of a left exact morphism of stacks over  $\mathbf{S}'$  (resp.  $\mathbf{S}$ ) is left exact.*

1.3.1. The direct image of a stack being nothing but pull-back along the underlying functor  $f^* : \mathbf{S} \longrightarrow \mathbf{S}'$  of  $f$ , preserves the fibers, hence the left exactness. To treat the case of the inverse image by  $f$  of a stack over  $\mathbf{S}$  we will use the following characterisation<sup>4</sup> of left-exactness.

1.3.2. First let  $I$  be a finite category. For any stack  $F$  over  $\mathbf{S}$  let  $F^I$  be the prestack whose fiber at  $S \in |\mathbf{S}|$  is the category of functors from  $I$  to the fiber  $F_S$ . One checks easily that this is a stack provided with a morphism of stacks (constant diagrams)

$$(1) \quad cF : F \longrightarrow F^I$$

Furthermore  $F$  is left exact if and only if for any finite category  $I$   $cF$  admits a right adjoint in the bicategory of stacks. The if part is obvious since such an adjoint

<sup>3</sup>The set of objects of a category  $C$  is denoted by  $|C|$

<sup>4</sup>“characterisation” in the original.

$\lambda$  induces an adjoint to each functor  $cF_S$ ,  $S \in |\mathbf{S}|$ , induced by  $cF$  on the fibers at  $S$  and since  $\lambda$  is cartesian. The only if part is no more difficult than (1.2). Since the property of having a right adjoint is preserved by morphisms of bicategories and since the inverse image of stacks is such a morphism [4] p.88, it remains to show the following.

**Lemma (1.3.3).** — *One has a natural equivalence  $e : f^*(F^I) \longrightarrow f^*(F)^I$  such that  $ef(cF) = cf^*(F)$ .*

According to [4] p.88, the inverse image of a stack  $F$  is given by the formula

$$(1) \quad f^*(F) = Af^{-1}(LF)$$

where  $LF$  is the free split stack associated to  $F$  [4] p.39, where  $f^{-1}$  denotes the inverse image of  $LF$  as category-object of the topos  $\tilde{\mathbf{S}}$  and where  $A$  stands for “associated stack”. Since there is a natural equivalence  $f \longrightarrow LF$  and  $L$  is a morphism of bicategories we get a natural equivalence of split stack  $L(F^I) \text{ to } (LF)^I$ .

Since the functor “inverse image of sheaves of sets” is left exact one gets a natural isomorphism  $f^{-1}((LF)^I) \xrightarrow{\sim} (f^{-1}(LF))^I$  and it remains to find, for any prestack  $G$  over  $\mathbf{S}'$  a natural equivalence  $A(G^I) \longrightarrow (AG)^I$ . One has a commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G & \xrightarrow{a} & AG \\ cG \downarrow & & \downarrow cAG \\ G^I & \xrightarrow{a^I} & (AG)^I \end{array}$$

where  $a$  is the structural map of  $AG$ . According to [4] p.77 it suffices to show that  $a^I$  is “bicouvrant” [4] p.72, which is an easy consequence of the fact that  $a$  has this property. Q.E.D..

**Corollary (1.4).** — *Let  $F$  and  $F'$  be left exact stacks on  $\mathbf{S}$  and  $\mathbf{S}'$ ,  $m : F \longrightarrow f_*(F')$  be a morphism of stacks and  $m' : f^*(F) \longrightarrow F'$  the morphism associated to  $m$  by the universal property of the inverse image. Then  $m$  is left exact if and only if  $m'$  is.*

This is a formal consequence of (1.3).

## 2. Classifying topos of a stack

Proposition (2.1). — *Let  $\mathbf{S}$  be a left exact  $\mathfrak{U}$ -site and  $C$  a prestack over  $\mathbf{S}$  whose fibers are equivalent to categories which belong to  $\mathfrak{U}$  ( $C$  is said to be small). Let us denote by  $J$  the coarsest topology on  $C$  such that the projection  $p : C \longrightarrow \mathbf{S}$  is a comorphism [5] III 3.1, and by  $C - \mathbf{S}$  the category of sheaves on  $C$  for  $J$  with values in  $\mathfrak{U}$ .*

- (1)  *$J$  is defined by the pretopology whose covering families are those  $(m_i : C_i \longrightarrow C)$ ,  $i \in I \in \mathfrak{U}$ , such that each  $m_i$  is  $\mathbf{S}$ -cartesian and such that  $p(m_i)$ ,  $i \in I$ , is a covering family.*
- (2)  *$C - \mathbf{S}$  is a  $\mathfrak{U}$ -topos and the morphism  $\pi : C - \mathbf{S} \longrightarrow \mathbf{S}$  defined by  $p$  is essential (i.e.  $\pi^*$  has a left adjoint  $\pi_!$ ). If  $C$  is left exact then  $\pi_!$  is left exact.*
- (3) *If  $\mathbf{S}$  is a  $\mathfrak{U}$ -topos and  $C$  is a stack, then the Yoneda functor  $\varepsilon : C \longrightarrow C - \mathbf{S}$  is full and faithful and the composite  $C \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} C - \mathbf{S} \xrightarrow{\pi_!} \mathbf{S}$  is equal to  $p$ .*

*Proof.* (1) is an easy consequence of the definition of a comorphism and of the observation made in the proof of (1.1). Let  $S_a$ ,  $a \in A \in \mathfrak{U}$ , be a family of generators of  $\mathbf{S}$  and  $G_a$ ,  $a \in A$ , be a subset of  $|C_{S_a}|$  which both belongs to  $\mathfrak{U}$  and contains an element of each isomorphism class of objects of the fiber  $C_{S_a}$ . The union of the  $G_a$  is a generator of the site  $(C, J)$ , hence this one is a  $\mathfrak{U}$ -site and  $C - \mathbf{S}$  is a  $\mathfrak{U}$ -topos. Using (1) one sees easily that for any sheaf  $F$  on  $\mathbf{S}$ ,  $F p$  is a sheaf on  $C$  hence  $\pi^*(F) = F p$ , hence  $\pi^*$  has a left adjoint hence  $\pi$  is essential. The last assertion of (2) follows from the fact that when  $C$  is left exact,  $p$  is the underlying functor of a morphism of sites  $\mathbf{S} \longrightarrow C$ . The first assertion of (3) follows readily from (1) and the patching condition for morphisms in  $C$ . For any  $S \in |\mathbf{S}|$ , and any  $c \in |C_S|$  one has

$$\mathrm{Hom}(\pi_! \varepsilon(c), S) = \mathrm{Hom}(\varepsilon(c), \pi^*(S)) = \pi^*(S)(c) = \mathrm{Hom}(p(c), S)$$

by adjunction, Yoneda and the formula  $\pi^* F = F p$ , and this concludes the proof.

2.2. Under the assumptions of (2.1),  $C - \mathbf{S}$  is called the *classifying topos of the (pre)stack  $C$* . Note that a morphism of stacks  $m : C \longrightarrow C'$  is a comorphism of sites and induces a morphism of topos  $m - \mathbf{S} : C - \mathbf{S} \longrightarrow C' - \mathbf{S}$ . If  $m$  is an equivalence, then so is  $m - \mathbf{S}$ . If  $C$  is a split stack one can define a split stack

$C^\vee$  whose fibers are the opposites of the fibers of  $C$ . Note that the underlying category of  $C^\vee$  is *not* the opposite  $C^\circ$  of  $C$ . Let us consider the category

$$(1) \quad B_C(\mathbf{S}) = \text{St}_s(C^\vee, \text{SH}(\mathbf{S}))$$

of morphisms of stacks  $F : C^\vee \longrightarrow \text{SH}(\mathbf{S})$ , where  $\text{SH}(\mathbf{S})$  is the split stack whose fiber at  $S \in |\mathbf{S}|$  is the category of sheaves on  $\mathbf{S}/S$  (equivalent to  $\mathbf{S}/S$  since  $\mathbf{S}$  is a topos). One has a natural functor

$$(2) \quad \tau^* : \mathbf{S} \longrightarrow B_C(\mathbf{S}), \quad \tau^*(S)(c) = \varepsilon(S \times p(c)),$$

where  $\varepsilon$  is the Yoneda functor of  $\mathbf{S}/S$ .

**Proposition (2.3).** — *If  $\mathbf{S}$  is a  $\mathcal{U}$ -topos and  $C$  a split stack one has an equivalence of categories*

$$(1) \quad b : B_C(\mathbf{S}) \longrightarrow C - \mathbf{S}, \quad b(F)(c) = F(c)(p(c))$$

*and an isomorphism of functors  $b\tau^* \xrightarrow{\sim} \pi^*$ .*

**2.3.1.** Note that this proposition proves that  $B_C(\mathbf{S})$  is a  $\mathcal{U}$ -topos equivalent to  $C - \mathbf{S}$  even when  $C$  is not split since one can replace  $C$  by an equivalent split stack. Furthermore, by the universal property of the associated stack,  $B_C(\mathbf{S})$  is equivalent to  $B_{C'}(\mathbf{S})$  when  $C$  is the stack associated to some prestack  $C'$ .

Furthermore, Lawvere and Tierney have introduced for any category-object  $E$  of the topos  $\mathbf{S}$ , the topos of objects of  $\mathbf{S}$  provided with operations of  $E$ . One can prove that this topos is equivalent to  $B_C(\mathbf{S})$  where  $C$  is the split prestack defined by  $E$  hence also equivalent to  $C' - \mathbf{S}$ , where  $C'$  is the stack generated by  $C$ . Thus we have three constructions of the classifying topos.

**2.3.2.** For any split stack  $D$ , any map  $f : T \longrightarrow S$  in  $\mathbf{S}$  and any  $s \in |D_S|$  we denote by  $s^f$  the inverse image of  $s$  by  $f$  and by  $s_f : s^f \longrightarrow s$  the cartesian map given by the splitting. To define  $b$  completely one must define for any  $m : c \longrightarrow c'$  in  $C$  an application  $b(F)(m) : b(F)(c') \longrightarrow b(F)(c)$ . Let  $f = p(m)$ ,  $f : S' \longrightarrow S$ . Since  $C$  is split there is a canonical factorisation  $c' \xrightarrow{m'} c^f \xrightarrow{c_f} c$ . Since  $F$  is cartesian one has a canonical isomorphism  $i : F(c^f) \longrightarrow F(c)^f$  which for the values at  $S'$  (or rather  $\text{Id}_{S'}$ ) of these sheaves induces a bijection  $j : F(c^f)(S') \longrightarrow$

$F(c)(f)$  and we take for  $b(F)(m)$  the composite

$$F(c)(S) \xrightarrow{f(c)(\dot{f})} F(c)(f) \xrightarrow{j^{-1}} F(c^f)(S') \xrightarrow{f(m')(S')} F(c')(S')$$

where  $\dot{f} : f \rightarrow \text{Id}_S$  is the terminal map in  $\mathbf{S}/S$ . It is easily checked that  $b(F)$  is a functor, recalling that the underlying category of  $C^\vee$  is not the underlying category of  $C^\circ$ . The sheaf axiom for  $b(F)$  is verified by using (2.1 (1)): for a given family  $(c_i \rightarrow c)$  it is a consequence of the fact that  $F(c)$  is a sheaf and  $F$  a cartesian functor. The functoriality with respect to  $F$  is obvious. To prove that  $b$  is an equivalence one constructs explicitly a functor

$$a : C - \mathbf{S} \longrightarrow \mathbf{B}_C(\mathbf{S}), \quad a(G)(c)(f) = G(c^f),$$

where  $a \in |F|$  and  $f : T \rightarrow p(c)$  is a map in  $\mathbf{S}$ .

**Proposition (2.4).** — *Let  $f : S' \rightarrow S$  be a morphism of  $\mathcal{U}$ -topos and let  $C$  be a left exact stack over  $\mathbf{S}$ . One has an equivalence of categories*

- (1)  $\text{Top}_{\mathbf{S}}(\mathbf{S}, C - \mathbf{S}) \longrightarrow \text{Stex}_{\mathbf{S}}(C, f_* \text{SH}(S'))^\circ$ , where the domain is the category of morphisms of  $\mathbf{S}$ -topos  $n : S' \rightarrow S$ , where  $f_* \text{SH}(S')$  is the direct image by  $f$  of the stack of sheaves over  $\mathbf{S}$  (its fiber at  $S \in |\mathbf{S}|$  is the category of sheaves over  $S'/f^*(S)$ ) and where the codomain is the opposite of the category of left exact morphisms of stacks  $C \rightarrow f_* \text{SH}(S')$ .

Since  $C$  is left exact and  $\varepsilon : C \rightarrow C - \mathbf{S}$  full and faithful, a morphism of topos  $n : S' \rightarrow C - \mathbf{S}$  is nothing but a left exact functor  $n^{-1} : C \rightarrow S'$ ,  $n^{-1} = n^* \varepsilon$ . Furthermore, since  $C$  is left exact there exists a cartesian section  $p^{-1}$  of  $C$  whose value at  $S \in |\mathbf{S}|$  is the terminal object of the fiber  $C_S$  and  $p^{-1}$  of  $C$  is a morphism of sites defining  $\pi : C - \mathbf{S} \rightarrow \mathbf{S}$  since  $\pi^* F = F p$  for any sheaf  $F$  on  $\mathbf{S}$ . Hence an isomorphism of morphisms of topos  $i : \pi \xrightarrow{\sim} f$  is nothing but an isomorphism  $i^{-1} : n^{-1} p^{-1} \xrightarrow{\sim} f^*$ . In other words the category  $\text{Top}_{\mathbf{S}}(S', C - \mathbf{S})^\circ$  is equivalent to the category  $M$  of pairs  $(n^{-1} : C \rightarrow S', i^{-1} : n^{-1} p^{-1} \xrightarrow{\sim} f)$  where  $n^{-1}$  is continuous and left exact. Let  $\text{Arr}(S')$  be the category whose objects are arrows of  $S'$  and let  $b : \text{Arr}(S') \rightarrow S'$ ,  $b(X \rightarrow Y) = Y$ . Since every object  $c \in |C|$  determines a terminal map  $c \rightarrow p^{-1}(p(c))$ , a pair  $(n^{-1}, i^{-1})$  can be viewed as a functor  $n' : C \rightarrow \text{Arr}(S')$  such that  $b n' = f^* p$  and which is left exact (the continuity condition disappears by (2.1 (1))).

Since  $b$  makes a stack over  $\mathbf{S}'$  out of the category  $\text{Arr}(\mathbf{S}')$ , by the very definition of the direct image of a stack,  $n'$  is nothing but a functor  $n'' : C \longrightarrow f_* \text{Arr}(\mathbf{S}')$  and, since  $n'$  is left exact,  $n''$  is  $\mathbf{S}$ -cartesian and left exact, hence an object of  $\text{Stex}_{\mathbf{S}}(C, \text{Arr}(\mathbf{S}'))$ . The conclusion follows since  $\text{Arr}(\mathbf{S}')$  is equivalent to  $\text{SH}(\mathbf{S}')$ .

According to the proof, the morphism of topos  $n : \mathbf{S}' \longrightarrow C - \mathbf{S}$  which corresponds to a left exact morphism of stacks  $n'' : C \longrightarrow f_* \text{Arr}(\mathbf{S}')$  is characterized up to unique isomorphism by the equality  $n^* \varepsilon = d q n''$

$$(2) \quad C \xrightarrow{n''} f_* \text{Arr}(\mathbf{S}') \xrightarrow{q} \text{Arr}(\mathbf{S}') \xrightarrow{d} \mathbf{S}',$$

where  $q$  is the first projection of  $f_* \text{Arr}(\mathbf{S}') = \text{Arr}(\mathbf{S}') \times_{\mathbf{S}'} \mathbf{S}$ ,  $d$  the “domain functor” and  $\varepsilon$  the Yoneda functor.

Corollary (2.5). — If  $C$  is left exact one has an equivalence<sup>5</sup>

$$(1) \quad \text{Top}_{\mathbf{S}}(\mathbf{S}', C - \mathbf{S}) \longrightarrow \text{Stex}_{\mathbf{S}'}(f^*(C), \text{SH}(\mathbf{S}'))^\circ.$$

This follows immediately from (2.4), (1.4) and the universal property of the inverse image  $f^*(C)$  of  $C$ . This gives the *universal property* of  $C - \mathbf{S}$  in the bicategory of  $\mathbf{S}$ -topos.

Corollary (2.6). — Let  $C' = f^*(C)$ . One has a commutative square of morphisms of topos

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C - \mathbf{S} & \xleftarrow{C-f} & C' - \mathbf{S}' \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbf{S} & \xleftarrow{f} & \mathbf{S}' \end{array}$$

which is bicartesian.

This means that for any morphism of topos  $g : \mathbf{S}'' \longrightarrow \mathbf{S}'$  the functor given by composition with  $C - f$

$$(2) \quad \text{Top}_{\mathbf{S}'}(\mathbf{S}'', C' - \mathbf{S}') \longrightarrow \text{Top}_{\mathbf{S}}(\mathbf{S}'', C - \mathbf{S})$$

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<sup>5</sup> $\text{Stex}_{\mathbf{S}}(\cdot)$  stands for “category of left exact morphisms of stacks”

is an equivalence. By the very definition of  $C'$  [4] p.87, one has a commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C & \xrightarrow{\varphi^{-1}} & C' \\ p \downarrow & & \downarrow p' \\ \mathbf{S} & \xrightarrow{f^*} & \mathbf{S}' \end{array}$$

where  $\varphi^{-1}$  is cartesian. Furthermore  $\varphi^{-1}$  is left exact by (1.3). By (1.4) and the universal property of  $C' = f^*(C)$ , for any  $g : \mathbf{S}'' \longrightarrow \mathbf{S}'$ , the functor

$$\text{Stex}_{\mathbf{S}'}(C', g_* \text{SH}(\mathbf{S}'')) \longrightarrow \text{Stex}_{\mathbf{S}}(C, f_* g_* \text{SH}(\mathbf{S}'')), \quad u \longrightarrow u\varphi^{-1},$$

is an equivalence. By (2.4) the proof is now an exercise about universal properties in bicategories.

### 3. Generating stack of a $\mathcal{U}$ -topos

The question of defining a relative notion of generators has been raised by Lawvere and Tierney. We propose here an answer in the language of  $\mathcal{U}$ -topos. It is clear that Prop. (3.3) is still valid when working in their framework and that (3.2) is not.

**Definition (3.1).** — *Let  $f : \mathbf{X} \longrightarrow \mathbf{S}$  be a morphism of  $\mathcal{U}$ -topos. A generating stack of  $f$  is a full substack  $C$  of  $F = f_*(\text{Arr}(\mathbf{X}))$  which is small (2.1) and such that, for any  $S \in |\mathbf{S}|$  and any  $x \in |F_S|$ , there exists a covering family  $(S_i \longrightarrow S)$ ,  $i \in I$ , in  $\mathbf{S}$  and for each  $i \in I$  a covering family  $(c_{i,j} \longrightarrow x_i)$  in the fiber  $F_S = \mathbf{X}/f^*(S)$ , with  $c_{i,j} \in |C|$ , where  $x_i$  is the inverse image of  $x$  by  $S_i \longrightarrow S$ . A generating stack  $C$  is said to be left exact if  $C$  and the inclusion functor  $i : C \longrightarrow F$  are left exact.*

Let us recall that the category of arrows of  $\mathbf{X}$  provided with the codomain functor  $\text{Arr}(\mathbf{X}) \longrightarrow \mathbf{X}$  is a stack. Hence its direct image  $F$  is a stack whose fiber at  $S \in |\mathbf{S}|$  is the topos  $\mathbf{X}/f^*(S)$  and the inverse image functor  $F_u : F_S \longrightarrow F_{S'}$  associated to a map  $u : S \hookrightarrow S'$  in  $\mathbf{S}$  is nothing but pull-back along  $f^*(u) : f^*(S') \longrightarrow f^*(S)$ .

Hence  $F$  is a left exact stack and the condition that a full substack  $C$  of  $F$  is left exact is that each fiber  $C_S$  is stable by finite limits in the fiber  $F_S$ .

**Proposition (3.2).** — *Any  $\mathbf{S}$ -topos admits a left exact generating stack.*



Let us choose a generator  $S_i$ ,  $i \in I \in \mathfrak{U}$ , of  $\mathbf{S}$  and for each  $i \in I$  a full subcategory  $C_i$  of  $F_{S_i}$  stable by finite limits, generating  $F_{S_i}$  and equivalent to a category which belongs to  $\mathfrak{U}$ . Let us define  $C$  as the full subcategory of  $F$  whose objects of projection  $S \in |\mathbf{S}|$  are those  $x \in |F_S|$  such that there exists a covering family  $(c_a : S_a \longrightarrow S)$ , such that each  $S_a$  is one of the  $S_i$  and the inverse image of  $x$  by  $c_a$  is isomorphic to an object of  $C_i$ . This condition being local on  $\mathbf{S}$ , it is clear that  $C$  is a full substack of  $F$  and even a left exact one since  $F$  is left exact. Furthermore  $C$  is small since for each  $S \in |\mathbf{S}|$  the set of classes of equivalent covering families  $(S_a \longrightarrow S)$  as above belongs to  $\mathfrak{U}$ . Eventually  $C$  is a generating stack since any  $S \in |\mathbf{S}|$  can be covered by the  $S_i$ .

**Proposition (3.3).** — *Let  $\mathbf{S}$  be a  $\mathfrak{U}$ -topos and  $C$  a generating stack of an  $\mathbf{S}$ -topos  $f : \mathbf{X} \longrightarrow \mathbf{S}$ . Then  $C - \mathbf{S}$  is an  $\mathbf{S}$ -topos and there exists an  $\mathbf{S}$ -morphism of topos  $n : \mathbf{X} \longrightarrow C - \mathbf{S}$  such that  $n_* : \mathbf{X} \longrightarrow C - \mathbf{S}$  is full and faithful (in other words  $\mathbf{X}$  is a subtopos of  $C - \mathbf{S}$ ).*

**3.3.1.** We note first that since  $C$  is small,  $C - \mathbf{S}$  is a  $\mathfrak{U}$ -topos. Furthermore there exists a left exact generating stack  $C'$  of  $\mathbf{X}$  containing  $C$  and such that each object of  $C'$  is a finite limit of objects of  $C$ . Hence the inclusion  $C \longrightarrow C'$  induces an equivalence between the  $\mathbf{S}$ -topos  $C - \mathbf{S}$  and  $C' - \mathbf{S}$  and this fact allows us to assume that  $C$  is left exact. Since the inclusion  $i : C \longrightarrow F$ ,  $F = f_* \text{Arr}(\mathbf{X})$ , is left exact one has an  $\mathbf{S}$ -morphism  $n : \mathbf{X} \longrightarrow C - \mathbf{S}$ , (2.4), whose inverse image functor  $n^* : C - \mathbf{S} \longrightarrow \mathbf{X}$  is such that its composition with the Yoneda functor  $\varepsilon : C \longrightarrow C - \mathbf{S}$  is equal to the composite of

$$(1) \quad C \xrightarrow{i} F \xrightarrow{q} \text{Arr}(\mathbf{X}) \xrightarrow{d} \mathbf{X}, \quad (2.4(2)).$$

For any  $c \in |C|$  and any  $X \in |\mathbf{X}|$  one has  $n_*(X)(c) = \text{Hom}(\varepsilon(c), n_*(X)) = \text{Hom}(n^*\varepsilon(c), X) = \text{Hom}(dq_i(c), X) = \text{Hom}_S(i(c), X \times f^*(S))$  where the last set of morphisms is taken in the fiber  $\mathbf{X}/f^*(S)$  of  $F$  with  $S = p(c)$ , and the last equality sign is justified by the definition of  $F$  as a fibered product. Hence the formula

$$(2) \quad n_* : \mathbf{X} \longrightarrow C - \mathbf{S}, \quad n_*(X)(c) = \text{Hom}_S(i(c), X \times f^*(S)), \quad S = p(c).$$

**3.3.2.** To prove that  $n_*$  is full and faithful we will first compose it with the

inverse  $a : C - \mathbf{S} \longrightarrow \mathbf{B}_C(\mathbf{S})$  of (2.3 (1))

$$(3) \quad an_* : \mathbf{X} \longrightarrow \mathbf{B}_C(\mathbf{S}), \quad an_*(X)(c) = \text{Hom}_S(i(c), X \times f^*(S)),$$

$$S = p(c), c \in |C|,$$

the above formula being justified by (2.3 (2)), where  $\text{Hom}_S(u, v)$  stands for the sheaf (over  $S$ ) of  $S$ -morphisms between the objects  $u$  and  $v$  of the fiber at  $S$  of the stack  $F$ . Let us prove that (3) is the effect on the fibers at the terminal object of  $\mathbf{S}$  of a morphism of stacks

$$(4) \quad m : F \longrightarrow \text{ST}(C^V, \text{SH}(\mathbf{S})),$$

where  $\text{ST}(A, B)$  stands for the (split) *stack* or morphisms of stacks between  $A$  and  $B$  (internal Hom in the bicategory of stacks [4] p.57, 77), whose fiber at  $S \in |\mathbf{S}|$  is the category of morphisms  $A/S \longrightarrow B/S$  of stacks over  $\mathbf{S}/S$ . We obtain (4) by composition of

$$(5) \quad F \xrightarrow{y} \text{ST}(F^V, \text{SH}(\mathbf{S})) \xrightarrow{j} \text{ST}(C^V, \text{SH}(\mathbf{S}))$$

where  $j$  is induced by composition with  $i : C \longrightarrow F$  and where  $y$  is a “relative Yoneda functor” defined by

$$(6) \quad y(a)(b) = \text{Hom}_S(b, a^f)$$

where  $f : T \longrightarrow S$  is a map in  $\mathbf{S}$  and  $a \in |F_S|$ ,  $b \in |F_T|$ . One should note that the restriction of  $y$  to the terminal fiber of  $F$  is also the restriction of the composite  $F \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} F - \mathbf{S} \xrightarrow{a} \mathbf{B}_F(\mathbf{S})$ , (2.1(3)), (2.3(2)). By localisation it follows that the restriction of  $y$  to each fiber is full and faithful hence  $y$  is such. On the other hand, since any object of  $F$  can be covered for the canonical topology of  $F$  by objects of  $i(C)$  and since  $i$  is full and faithful it is easy to show that  $j$  is also full and faithful and the conclusion follows.

**Proposition (3.4).** — *Fibered products exist in the bicategory of  $\mathbf{U}$ -topos.*

according to (3.2) and (3.3) any morphism of  $\mathbf{U}$ -topos  $\mathbf{X} \longrightarrow \mathbf{S}$  can be factored in  $\mathbf{X} \xrightarrow{n} C - \mathbf{S} \xrightarrow{\pi} \mathbf{S}$  where  $n_*$  is full and faithful and where  $C$  is a left exact small stack over  $\mathbf{S}$ . By (2.6) the pullback of  $\pi$  along any morphism of  $\mathbf{U}$ -topos

$f : \mathbf{S}' \longrightarrow \mathbf{S}$  exists. On the other hand the pull-back of  $n$  along any morphism of  $\mathcal{U}$ -topos  $\gamma : Y \longrightarrow C - \mathbf{S}$  exists because  $\mathbf{X}$  is a subtopos of  $C - \mathbf{S}$  hence is defined by some topology  $J$  on  $C - \mathbf{S}$  and it suffices to take as a pullback the subtopos of  $Y$  defined by the finest topology  $J'$  on  $Y$  such that the inverse image functor  $\gamma^* : C - \mathbf{S} \longrightarrow Y$  is continuous. The conclusion follows by transitivity of pullback in a bicategory.

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