

# Galois Theory of Differential & Difference Schemes

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AVEIRO, 12/09/2025 

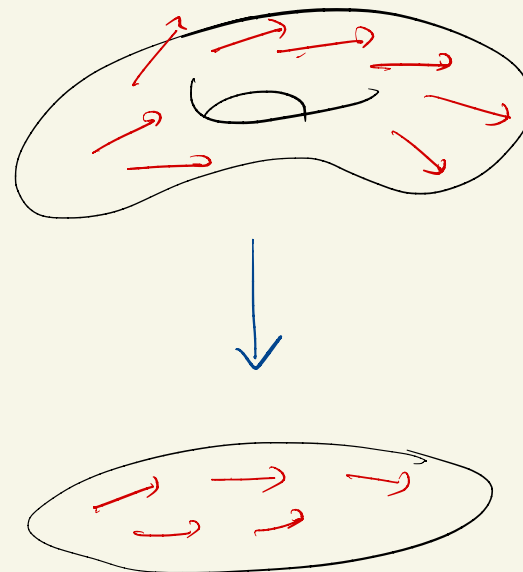
Classical Picard-Vessiot

1883 - 2023



Noohi -  $\mathcal{T}$ ,

2024 -



# CLASSICAL PICARD-VESSIOT THEORY

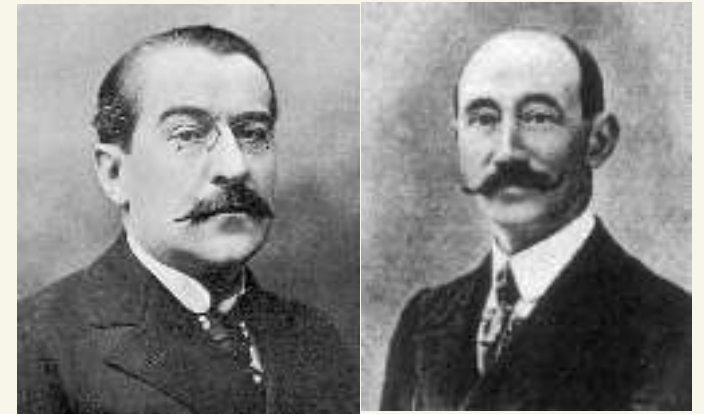
$$(A, \delta_A) \hookrightarrow (L, \delta_L)$$

$$(K, \delta_K) \begin{matrix} \nearrow \\ \uparrow \end{matrix}$$

PV extension of  
differential fields with

• PV ring  $(A, \delta_A)$

•  $k = \text{Const}(K) = \text{Const}(L)$ .



$\rightsquigarrow$  PV Galois group  $G = \text{Gal}^{\text{PV}}(L/K) = \text{Spec}(\underbrace{\text{Const}(A \otimes_K A)}_{\text{Hopf alg / } k})$

$\uparrow$  linear alg. group /  $k$

$\uparrow$  Hopf alg /  $k$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{intermediate differential} \\ \text{field extensions} \end{array} \right\} \xleftrightarrow{1:1} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{closed subgroups} \\ \text{of } G \end{array} \right\}$$

# JANELIDZE'S CATEGORICAL FORMULATION

CATEGORICAL GALOIS THEORY :



$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{S}\text{-Ring}^{\text{op}} & \simeq & \mathcal{S}\text{-Aff} \\ \text{Const} \left( \begin{array}{c} \downarrow \text{red } + \\ \uparrow \end{array} \right) & & (-, 0) \\ \text{Ring}^{\text{op}} & \simeq & \text{Aff} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X = \text{Spec}(A) & \longrightarrow & S = \text{Spec}(k) \\ \text{red } f \downarrow & & \parallel \\ Y = \text{Spec}(K) & \longrightarrow & S \end{array} \quad \text{is GALOIS,} \\ \underline{\text{NOT}} \quad L/K.$$

Categorical Galois group(oid)

$$G = \text{Gal}[f] \simeq \text{Gal}^{\text{PV}}(L/K).$$

Self-splitting:

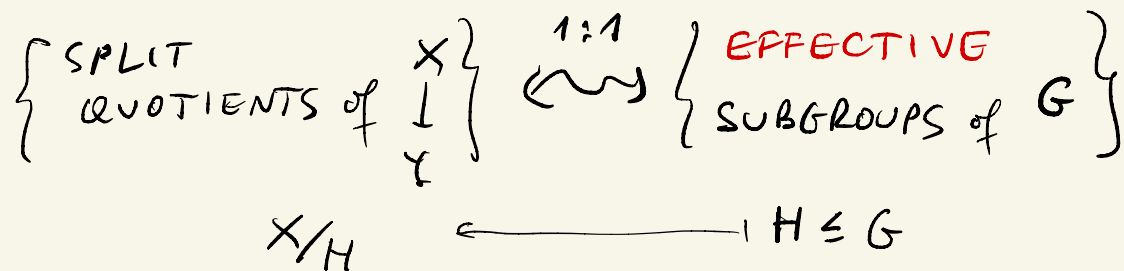
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Const}(X \times_Y X) & \uparrow & \\ X \times_Y X & \simeq & X \times_{(S, 0)} (G, 0) \end{array} \quad \leftarrow \text{Tensor relation}$$

Equivalence :

$$\text{Split}[f] \simeq \text{Aff}^G$$

objects in  $\mathcal{S}\text{-Aff}_Y$  split by  $f$  ↗ ↖  $G$ -actions in  $\text{Aff}_S$

# CARBONI-JANELIDZE-MAGID CORRESPONDENCE



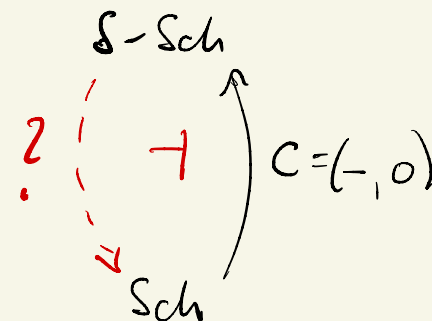
**MASUOKA** (Sept 2023): Does Categorical Galois theory recover classical PV correspondence?



Answer: NO!  $H \leq G$  is effective on  $\text{Aff}$  iff  $G/H$  affine scheme.

In general  $G/H$  can be **QUASI-PROJECTIVE**.

$\leadsto$  We must work with **GENERAL DIFFERENTIAL SCHEMES**.



# DIFFERENTIAL SCHEMES

$S$  - scheme

$S$  - differential scheme :  $(X, (\mathcal{O}_X, \delta_X))$ , where  $(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \in \text{Sch}/S$

$$\delta_X \in \text{Der}_S(\mathcal{O}_X, \mathcal{O}_X).$$

 a vector field on  $X$ .

$\rightsquigarrow$  category

$\delta\text{-Sch}_S$

Functor

$$C : \text{Sch}/S \longrightarrow \delta\text{-Sch}_S$$

$$(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \longmapsto (X, (\mathcal{O}_X, 0))$$

# CATEGORICAL SCHEME OF LEAVES

[inspired by BARDAVID]

If  $\gamma: (X, \delta_X) \rightarrow (Q, o) = C(Q)$  is universal from  $X$  to  $C$ , i.e.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (X, \delta_X) & \xrightarrow{\gamma} & C(Q) \\ & \searrow \gamma' & \swarrow \exists! \\ & C(Q') & \end{array}$$

then  $Q = \pi_0(X, \delta_X)$



- rarely exists

- $\pi_0$  PARTIAL left adjoint to  $C$

- in general

$$\pi_0(\text{Spec}(A, \delta_A)) \neq \text{Spec}(\text{const}(A, \delta_A))$$

# AN INTERLUDE: INTERNAL PRECATEGORIES

$\mathcal{A}$  - a category.

a precategory  $\mathbb{C} \in \text{PreCat}(\mathcal{A})$  is a diagram in  $\mathcal{A}$

$$C_2 \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{r_0} \\ \xrightarrow{m} \\ \xrightarrow{r_1} \end{array} C_1 \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{d_0} \\ \xleftarrow{n} \\ \xrightarrow{d_1} \end{array} C_0$$

s.t.

$$d_0 r_1 = d_1 r_0$$

$$d_0 m = d_0 r_0$$

$$d_1 m = d_1 r_1$$

$$d_0 n = \text{id}_{C_0}$$

$$d_1 n = \text{id}_{C_0}$$

$\mathbb{C}$  is a category if  $C_2 \cong_{C_0} C_1 \times C_1$

Example :

Kernel pair groupoid of

$$f: X \rightarrow Y \text{ in } \mathcal{A}$$

$G_f$  :

$$X \times_Y X \times_Y X \rightrightarrows X \times_Y X \rightrightarrows X$$

$$\in \text{Cat}(\mathcal{A})$$

# INDEXED DATA

PSEUDOFUNCTOR  $\mathcal{P} : \mathcal{A}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{CAT}$

- for  $x \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $\mathcal{P}(x)$  is a category
- for  $x \xrightarrow{f} y$  in  $\mathcal{A}$ ,  $f^* = \mathcal{P}(f) : \mathcal{P}(y) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(x)$  functor
- + coherence

## EXAMPLES:

①  $\mathcal{A} = \text{Ring}^{\text{op}}$   
 $\mathcal{P}(R) = R\text{-Mod}$

②  $\mathcal{A} = \text{Sch}$   
 $\mathcal{P}(X) = \text{QCoh}(X)$

③  $\mathcal{A} = \text{Sch}$   
 $\mathcal{P}(X) = \left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} \mathcal{O} \\ \downarrow \\ \mathcal{L} \end{smallmatrix} / X : \mathcal{L} \text{ quasiprojective} \right\}$

# LAX PRECATEGORY ACTIONS : ABSTRACT DESCENT DATA

$$\mathbb{C} \in \text{PreCat}(\mathcal{A})$$

$$\mathcal{P} : \mathcal{A}^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \text{CAT} \quad \text{pseudofunctor}$$

Category of  $(\text{lex})$   $\mathbb{C}$ -actions in  $\mathcal{P}$  :

$$P = (P_0, \gamma) \in \mathcal{P}_{\text{lex}}^{\mathbb{C}}, \text{ where}$$

$$\bullet \quad P_0 \quad \text{in } \mathcal{P}(C_0)$$

$$\bullet \quad d_1^* P_0 \xrightarrow{\gamma} d_0^* P_0 \quad \text{in } \mathcal{P}(C_1)$$

+ cocycle condition in  $\mathcal{P}(C_2)$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 n^* d_1^* P_0 & \xrightarrow{n^* \varphi} & n^* d_0^* P_0 \\
 \nwarrow \sim & & \nearrow \sim \\
 & P_0 & 
 \end{array}
 \quad \leftarrow \text{in } \mathcal{P}(C_0)$$

$$[n^* \varphi \simeq \text{id}]$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & m^* d_1^* P_0 & \xrightarrow{m^* \varphi} & m^* d_0^* P_0 & \leftarrow \text{in } \mathcal{P}(C_2) \\
 & \nearrow \sim & & \searrow \sim & \\
 r_1^* d_1^* P_0 & & \text{COCYCLE CONDITION} & & r_0^* d_0^* P_0 \\
 \searrow r_1^* \varphi & & & & \nearrow r_0^* \varphi \\
 & r_1^* d_0^* P_0 & \xrightarrow{\sim} & r_0^* d_1^* P_0 & 
 \end{array}$$

$$[r_0^* \varphi \circ r_1^* \varphi \simeq m^* \varphi]$$

# A FIBRATIONAL VIEW OF PRECATEGORY ACTIONS

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{P} : \mathcal{A}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{CAT} & \rightsquigarrow & \tilde{\mathcal{P}} = \int \mathcal{P} \\ & & \downarrow \\ & & \mathcal{A} \end{array}$$

$$\mathbb{C} \in \text{PreCat}(\mathcal{A})$$

$$\mathcal{P} \in \mathcal{P}_{\text{lex}}^{\mathbb{C}} \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \begin{array}{cccc} \mathcal{P} \dots & \mathcal{P}_2 & \xrightarrow{\quad} \xrightarrow{\quad} \mathcal{P}_1 & \xrightarrow{\quad} \xrightarrow{\quad} \mathcal{P}_0 \in \text{PreCat}(\tilde{\mathcal{P}}) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathbb{C} \dots & \mathbb{C}_2 & \xrightarrow{\quad} \xrightarrow{\quad} \mathbb{C}_1 & \xrightarrow{\quad} \xrightarrow{\quad} \mathbb{C}_0 \end{array}$$

" $\rightarrow$ " CARTESIAN in  $\tilde{\mathcal{P}}$   
 $\xrightarrow{\quad}$  ARBITRARY

# PRECATEGORICAL DESCENT

$f: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{D}$  morphism in  $\text{Precat}(\mathcal{A})$

$P: \mathcal{A}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{CAT}$  pseudofunctor.

•  $f$  is descent for  $P$  if  $f^*: P^{\mathbb{D}} \rightarrow P^{\mathbb{C}}$  is  $f$ - $f$ .

• effective descent

————  $\hookrightarrow$  ————

equivalence

# CLASSICAL DESCENT

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & & \mathcal{P}(X) \\ f \downarrow \text{ in } \mathcal{A} & \rightsquigarrow & \uparrow f^* \\ Y & & \mathcal{P}(Y) \end{array}$$

Question : which  $P \in \mathcal{P}(X)$  are of form  
 $P \simeq f^* Q$  for some  $Q \in \mathcal{P}(Y)$  ?

Recall  $G_f \in \text{Cat}(\mathcal{A})$  :

$$X \underset{Y}{\times} X \underset{Y}{\times} X \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{d_2} \\ \xrightarrow{d_1} \end{array} X \underset{Y}{\times} X \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{d_0} \\ \xleftarrow{d_1} \end{array} X$$

Such a  $P \in \mathcal{P}(X)$  has a glueing morphism  $d_1^* P \xrightarrow{\varphi} d_0^* P$  in  $\mathcal{P}(X \underset{Y}{\times} X)$   
 + a cocycle condition in  $\mathcal{P}(X \underset{Y}{\times} X \underset{Y}{\times} X)$ .

$\rightsquigarrow$  category of descent data

$$\text{DD}_{\mathcal{P}}(f)$$

# CLASSICAL vs PRECATEGORICAL DESCENT

Refined question: when is

$$f^*: \mathcal{P}(Y) \longrightarrow \mathrm{DD}_\mathcal{P}(f)$$

- an equivalence ( $f$  **effective descent**)

- fully faithful ( $f$  **descent**)

- faithful ( $f$  **pre-descent**) ?

Note:

$$\mathrm{DD}_\mathcal{P}(f) \simeq \mathcal{P}^{G_f}$$

w  $f$  is classically descent / effective descent

iff the  $\mathrm{Precat}(\mathcal{A})$ -morphism

$$G_f \longrightarrow G_{\mathrm{id}_Y} = \Delta(Y) \text{ is.}$$

# DIFFERENTIAL SCHEMES AS PRECATEGORY ACTIONS

PRECATEGORY in  $Sch/S$

$\mathbb{D}(S) :$

$$S[\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2]_{(\epsilon_1^L, \epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \epsilon_2^L)} \begin{matrix} \rightrightarrows \\ \rightrightarrows \\ \rightrightarrows \end{matrix} S[\epsilon]_{(\epsilon^L)} \begin{matrix} \rightrightarrows \\ \rightrightarrows \\ \rightrightarrows \end{matrix} S$$

Key observation :

$$\delta\text{-}Sch_S \simeq (Sch/S)^{\mathbb{D}(S)}$$

$$(X, \delta_x) \longleftrightarrow X = (x_2 \rightrightarrows x_1 \rightrightarrows x_0)$$

CATEGORICAL SCHEME of LEAVES  $\longleftrightarrow$  CONNECTED COMPONENTS :

$$\pi_0(X, \delta_x) := \pi_0(X) = \text{coeq}(x_1 \rightrightarrows x_0)$$

$\uparrow$  when it exists in  $Sch$ .

# DIFFERENTIAL DESCENT

$$\mathcal{P} : (\text{Sch}/S)^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \text{CAT} \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{S}\text{-}\mathcal{P} : (\mathcal{S}\text{-}\text{Sch}_S)^{\text{op}} \longrightarrow \text{CAT}$$

$$(X, \delta_X) \longmapsto \mathcal{P}^{\#} \quad \swarrow \text{precategory } \mathcal{X} \text{ actions in } \mathcal{P}.$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} (X, \delta_X) & & \mathcal{X} \cdots X_2 \rightrightarrows X_1 \rightrightarrows X_0 & & \\ f \downarrow & \rightsquigarrow & \downarrow & f_2 \downarrow & \downarrow f_1 \quad \downarrow f_0 \\ (Y, \delta_Y) & & \mathcal{Y} \cdots Y_2 \rightrightarrows Y_1 \rightrightarrows Y_0 & & \end{array}$$

Th  $f$  is effective descent for  $\mathcal{S}\text{-}\mathcal{P}$  if  $f_0$  effective descent for  $\mathcal{P}$ ,  
 $f_1$  descent for  $\mathcal{P}$ ,  
 and  $f_2$  pre-descent for  $\mathcal{P}$ .

# SIMPLICITY & PRECATEGORICAL DESCENT

Def  $(X, \delta_X)$  is **SIMPLE** wrt  $\mathcal{P} : (\text{Sch}/S)^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{CAT}$

if  $\pi_0(X, \delta_X) = \pi_0(\mathbb{X})$  exists and is universal for  $\mathcal{P}$ .

$\leadsto \eta_X :$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \mathbb{X} & \cdots & X_2 & \rightrightarrows & X_1 & \rightrightarrows & X_0 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \Delta(\pi_0(X)) & \cdots & \pi_0(X) & \rightrightarrows & \pi_0(X) & \rightrightarrows & \pi_0(X) \end{array}$$

is of **PRECATEGORICAL DESCENT**,

i.e.

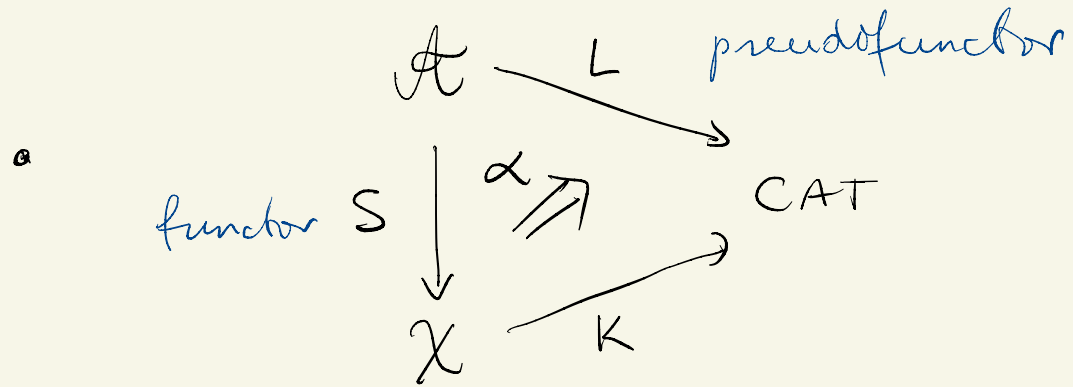
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{P}^{\Delta(\pi_0(X))} & & \mathcal{P}^{\mathbb{X}} \\ \parallel & & \parallel \\ C_X : \mathcal{P}(\pi_0(X)) & \longrightarrow & \delta\text{-}\mathcal{P}(X, \delta_X) \end{array}$$

is fully faithful.

$$Q \longmapsto \eta_X^* Q$$

[ think  $Q \longmapsto (X, \delta_X) \times_{(\pi_0(X), \circ)} (Q, \circ)$  is f.f., i.e.  $X_1 \rightrightarrows X_0 \rightarrow \pi_0(X)$  univ. coeq. ]

# INDEXED CATEGORICAL GALOIS TH. [Borceux-Jenčedra]



•  $X \xrightarrow{f} Y \in \mathcal{A}$  s.t.  $\alpha_X, \alpha_{X \times_Y X}, \alpha_{X \times_Y X \times_Y X}$  f.f.

•  $f$  effective descent wrt  $L$

$\Rightarrow \text{Split}_\alpha(f) \simeq K^{S \cdot G_f}$

# INDEXED FRAMEWORK FOR DIFFERENTIAL GALOIS TH.

that admit  $\bar{\pi}_0$   $\rightarrow$

$$\mathcal{A} \hookrightarrow \delta\text{-Sch}_S$$

$$\bar{\pi}_0 \left( \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \vdash \\ \downarrow \end{array} \right) C$$

$$\mathcal{X} = \text{Sch}/S$$

•  $\mathcal{P} : \mathcal{X}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{CAT}$

$\leadsto \delta\mathcal{P} : \mathcal{A}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{CAT}$

•  $C : \mathcal{P} \circ \bar{\pi}_0 \Rightarrow \delta\mathcal{P}$  pseudonatural

$C_z : \mathcal{P}(\bar{\pi}_0(z)) \rightarrow \delta\mathcal{P}(z)$  as before.

# (PRE-)PICARD-VESSIOT MORPHISMS

Def

$f: (X, \delta_X) \rightarrow (Y, \delta_Y) \in \mathcal{A}$  is

pre-PV for  $\mathcal{P}$ , if:

- (1)  $f$  is effective descent for  $\mathcal{S}\text{-}\mathcal{P}$
- (2)  $X$ ,  $X \times_Y X$ ,  $X \times_Y X \times_Y X$  are simple for  $\mathcal{P}$ ,

Def (for suitable  $\mathcal{P}$ )

$f$  is PV if:

(1)  $\text{---} \parallel \text{---}$

(2)  $X$  simple &  $f \in \text{Split}[f]$ .

self-splitting

# GALOIS PRECATEGORY / GROUPOID

- $f \text{ PV} \Rightarrow f \text{ pre-PV}$

- $f \text{ pre-PV} \rightsquigarrow G_f = (X \underset{f}{\times} X \underset{f}{\times} X \rightrightarrows X \underset{f}{\times} X \rightleftarrows X) \in \text{Cat}(\mathcal{A})$

$$\rightsquigarrow \text{Gal}[f] = \pi_0(G_f) \in \text{PreCat}(\mathcal{X}) \text{ GALOIS PRECATEGORY.}$$

- $f \text{ PV} \Rightarrow \text{Gal}[f] \in \text{Cat}(\mathcal{X}) \text{ GROUPOID.}$

# GALOIS THEORY OF DIFFERENTIAL SCHEMES

Th .  $f$  pre-PV  $\Rightarrow$  equivalence

$$\text{Split}_C[t] \simeq \mathcal{P}^{\text{Gal}[t]}.$$

•  $f$  PV  $\Rightarrow$  RHS : groupoid actions.

Pf  $f$  pre-PV  $\Rightarrow$  (1)  $f$  is effective descent

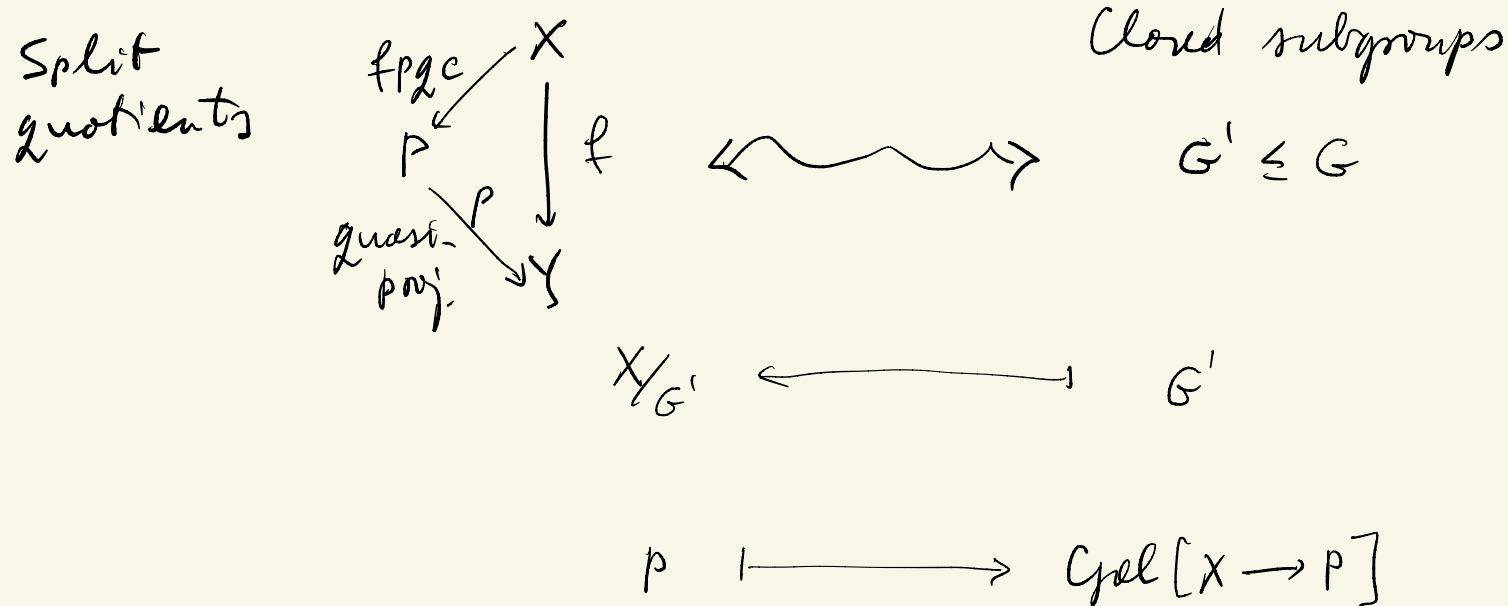
$$(2) \quad X, X \times_Y X, X \times_Y X \times_Y X \text{ simple} \Rightarrow C_X, C_{X \times_Y X}, C_{X \times_Y X \times_Y X} \text{ f.f.}$$

$\Rightarrow$  Jonedre's indexed Galois Th. applies.

# APPLICATIONS: QUASI-PROJECTIVE THEORY

- $(K, \delta_K)$  diff. field char 0,  $k = \text{Const}(K)$ ,  $S = \text{Spec}(k)$ ,
- $(X, \delta_X) \xrightarrow{f} (Y, \delta_Y) = \text{Spec}(K, \delta_K)$  quasi-projective integral, only leaf is generic pt.
- $f$  is self-split.

$\Rightarrow f$  is PV,  $G = \text{Gal}[f]$  is an  $S$ -group scheme, correspondence:



$\rightsquigarrow$  unifies linear PV theory and **STRONGLY NORMAL** th. of KOLCHIN.

# EXAMPLE : RELATIVE ELLIPTIC CURVE

$$\Omega_{X/S} = \langle \omega_x, dz \rangle$$

$$\delta_x : dz \mapsto 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} \omega_x &\mapsto z \\ \text{"} \text{ } &\text{"} \\ \text{Id}(x) &= z \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \longrightarrow & E \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ Y & \longrightarrow & S \end{array}$$

$$S[z]$$

$$\delta_Y : dz \mapsto 1$$

Weierstrass  
family of  
elliptic curves

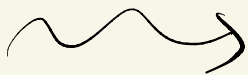
$$y^2 = x^3 + ux + v$$

$$S = \text{Spec}(\mathbb{Q}[u, v, \frac{1}{4u^3 + 27v^2}])$$

$$\Omega_{E/S} = \langle \omega_0 \rangle$$

invariant differential  $\frac{dx}{y}$

$f$  is PV



$$C^{\text{al}}[f] \simeq (E \rightrightarrows S)$$

SPECIALISATION: for  $s \in S(L)$ ,

$$C^{\text{al}}[f_s] \simeq C^{\text{al}}[f]_s \simeq E_s$$

# EXAMPLE : AIRY EQUATION

$$X = \mathbb{A}^1 \times GL_2 = \text{Spec} \left( k \left[ x, u, \frac{1}{\det u} \right] \right) \quad \text{with vector field}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} f \\ \downarrow \\ Y = \mathbb{A}^1 \end{array} \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + u_{21} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_{11}} + u_{22} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_{12}} + x u_{11} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_{21}} + x u_{12} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_{22}} ; \quad \omega \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ x & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$f$  is PV  $\rightsquigarrow$  Galois groupoid

$$\text{Gal}[f] : \pi_0 \left( X \times_Y X \right) \rightrightarrows \pi_0(X)$$

$\parallel \qquad \qquad \parallel$

$$(GL_2 \times GL_2) / SL_2 \rightrightarrows GL_2 / SL_2 \cong G_m$$

isomorphisms between PV extensions

Analogy : Deligne's fundamental groupoid (Cat, Tannakiennes)

## FORTHCOMING WORK

$$\text{Differential Geom. Theory} = \text{(pre)categorical Descent} + \text{Categorical Geom. Theory}$$

→ difference PV-style Geom. Theory [uses lax actions]

→ common generalizations: -  $\sigma$ - $\delta$  theory [Di Vizio-Herdein-Wibmer]

-  $\delta$ - $\delta$  theory [Cassidy-Singer]

- partial case

- Hodge-Schmidt derivatives

- Lie algebra formal actions.