

## LECTURE 17

### 1. $E(F)$ as the quotient of $E \times_S F$ by an equivalence relation

**1.1.** As before, let  $\pi: E \rightarrow X$  be a  $G$ -torsor, and  $F \rightarrow S$  a locally quasi-affine  $G$ -space, and  $F_{X'} := X' \times_S F$ . The last time we stated without proof that  $E(F)$  is realisable as  $F_{X'}/R_\theta$  where  $X' \rightarrow X$  is a trivialising fpqc cover of  $E \rightarrow X$ ,  $\theta: G_{X'} \xrightarrow{\sim} E_{X'}$  a trivialisation, and  $R_\theta$  given by the equivalence relations

$$(1.1.1) \quad ((x'_1, f_1) R_\theta(T) (x'_2, f_2)) \iff p(x'_1) = p(x'_2) \text{ and } f_1 = g_\theta(x'_1, x'_2) f_2.$$

Let us postpone the (easy) proof to the next lecture. However note that if  $X' = E$  with the trivialising cover  $X' \rightarrow X$  being  $E \xrightarrow{\pi} X$ , and if the trivialisation  $\theta$  is given by the orbit  $\psi = \psi_\delta$  map of the diagonal section  $\delta: E \rightarrow E \times_X E$ , i.e. the map

$$\psi: (e, g) \mapsto (e, eg)$$

from  $G_E$  to  $E \times_X E$ , then the above description shows that

$$(1.1.2) \quad E(F) = (E \times_S F) / \sim$$

where the equivalence relation  $\sim$  is given by  $(e, f) \sim (eg, g^{-1}f)$  for appropriate  $e, f$ , and  $g$ . Indeed for two  $T$ -valued point  $e, e^*: T \rightrightarrows E$ ,  $e^* = eg$  for some  $g \in G(T)$  if and only if  $\pi(e) = \pi(e^*)$  and in this case  $g$  is unique. In fact,  $p(e) = p(e^*)$  implies that  $e^* = eg_\psi(e, e^*)$  and this defines the unique  $g$  such that  $e^* = eg$ . Thus, we have the equality

$$g_\psi(e, eg) = g$$

where  $\psi$  is the ‘‘diagonal trivialisation’’ on  $E \times_X E \rightarrow E$  (via the first projection). It follows that on  $(E \times_S F)(T)$  we have  $(e, f) \sim (e^*, f^*)$  if and only if  $e^* = eg$  for some  $g \in G(T)$ , necessarily unique, and for this  $g$ ,  $f = gf^*$ . Thus  $(e, gf^*) \sim (eg, f^*)$ , or, equivalently,  $(e, f) \sim (eg, g^{-1}f)$ .

**1.2.** Let  $\pi: E \rightarrow X$  and  $F \rightarrow S$  be as above. To lighten notation, write  $E' = E_{X'}$  and  $E'' = E_{X''}$  and let the respective maps to  $X'$  and  $X''$  be  $\pi': E' \rightarrow X'$  and  $\pi'': E'' \rightarrow X''$ . With  $F \rightarrow S$  as above, we have associated fibre spaces  $\pi_F: E(F) \rightarrow X$ ,  $\pi'_F: E'(F) \rightarrow X'$ , and  $\pi''_F: E''(F) \rightarrow X''$ . It is immediate (from the construction of  $E(F)$  via the trivialization  $\theta$ ) that  $E'(F) = X' \times_X E(F)$  and  $E''(F) = X'' \times_X E(F)$  and that under these identifications,  $\pi'_F = X' \times_X \pi_F$ , and  $\pi''_F = X'' \times_X \pi_F = X'' \times_{X'} \pi'_F$ . For  $i = 1, 2$ , let

$$q_i^F: E''(F) \rightarrow E'(F)$$

be the base change of  $p_i: X'' \rightarrow X'$  under the map  $\pi'_F: E'(F) \rightarrow X'$ , and let

$$q^F: E'(F) \rightarrow E(F)$$

be the base change of  $p: X' \rightarrow X$  by the map  $\pi: E(F) \rightarrow X$ . We then have a cartesian square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E''(F) & \xrightarrow{q_2^F} & E'(F) \\ q_1^F \downarrow & \square & \downarrow q^F \\ E'(F) & \xrightarrow{q^F} & E(F) \end{array}$$

Next, recall we have an isomorphism

$$\theta_F: F_{X'} \xrightarrow{\sim} E'(F)$$

of fibre-spaces over  $X'$  with structure group  $G$  such that the induced automorphism

$$\psi_{12} := p_1^*(\theta_F)^{-1} \circ p_2^*(\theta_F)$$

of the  $X''$ -schemes  $F_{X''}$  is given by

$$(x'', f) \mapsto (x'', g_\theta(x'')f).$$

For  $i = 1, 2$ , let

$$r_i: E''(F) \rightarrow F_{X'}$$

be the map  $r_i = \theta_F^{-1} \circ q_i^F$  and

$$s: F_{X'} \rightarrow E(F)$$

the natural map arising from the construction of  $E(F)$  (by making  $F_{X'}$  “descend” from  $X'$  to  $X$  along  $p: X' \rightarrow X$ ). Note  $s = q^F \circ \theta_F$ . We therefore have a cartesian diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E''(F) & \xrightarrow{r_2} & F_{X'} \\ r_1 \downarrow & \square & \downarrow s \\ F_{X'} & \xrightarrow{s} & E(F) \end{array}$$

Thus  $E''(F)$  is an equivalence relation on  $F_{X'}$ . The two cartesian diagrams above fit into the following expanded commutative diagram, in which we write  $\theta^{(i)}$  as a shorthand for the typographically inconvenient symbol  $p_i^*(\theta_F)$ , for  $i = 1, 2$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & F_{X''} & \longrightarrow & F_{X'} \\ & \psi_{12} \curvearrowright & \downarrow \theta^{(2)} \wr & \nearrow r_2 & \downarrow \wr \theta_F \\ F_{X''} & \xrightarrow{\theta^{(1)}} & E''(F) & \xrightarrow{q_2^F} & E'(F) \\ \downarrow & \nearrow r_1 & \downarrow q_1^F & \square & \downarrow q^F \\ F_{X'} & \xrightarrow{\theta_F} & E'(F) & \xrightarrow{q^F} & E(F) \\ & \curvearrowleft s & & & \end{array}$$

Using this, it is not hard to see that if  $s(x'_1, f_1) = s(x'_2, f_2)$  for two valued points  $(x'_1, f_1)$  and  $(x'_2, f_2)$  of  $F_{X'}$  with the same source, (i.e., the two points determine a unique point of  $E''(F)$ ) then (a)  $p(x'_1) = p(x'_2)$  and (b)  $f_1 = g_\theta(x'_1, x'_2)f_2$ . Conversely, if  $(x'_1, f_1)$  and  $(x'_2, f_2)$  (valued points of on  $F_{X'}$  with the same source) satisfy (a) and (b), then necessarily  $s(x'_1, f_1) = s(x'_2, f_2)$ . This just means that  $E''(F)$  represents the equivalence the functor  $R_\theta$ , whence  $R_\theta$  is a scheme-theoretic

equivalence relation. Since the map  $s: F_{X'} \rightarrow E(F)$  is a fpqc, it follows from earlier discussions that  $E(F) = F_{X'}/R_\theta$ . We will give details of the proof of  $R_\theta = E''(F)$  in the next lecture.

## 2. Principal Bundles and the space $E(G/H)$

Let us return to the topological situation. So,  $G$  is a topological group and all topological spaces (including  $G$ ) in this section are Hausdorff, and all actions of  $G$  on topological spaces are continuous.

**2.1. The principal bundle  $G \rightarrow G/H$ .** Suppose  $H$  is a closed subgroup of  $G$ . The space  $G/H$  has a natural structure of a topological space, via the quotient topology induced from  $G$  and the natural map  $p_H: G \rightarrow G/H$ . This means that  $G/H$  has the coarsest topology which makes  $p_H: G \rightarrow G/H$  continuous. In even simpler terms, a subset  $S \subset G/H$  is an open subset if and only if  $p^{-1}(S)$  is open in  $G$ , and this defines a topology on  $G/H$ . Recall that a continuous map  $f: V \rightarrow W$  is said to have *local sections* if each point  $w \in W$  has an open neighborhood  $U$  and a continuous section of the map  $f(U) \rightarrow U$  induced by restricting  $f$  to  $f^{-1}(U)$ .

**Lemma 2.1.1.** *The continuous map  $p_H: G \rightarrow G/H$  is  $H$ -equivariant for the right action of  $H$  on  $G$  and the trivial action of  $H$  on  $G/H$ . Moreover,  $p_H: G \rightarrow G/H$  is a principal  $H$ -bundle with this right action of  $H$  on  $G$ , if and only if  $p_H$  has local sections.*

*Proof.* Every principal bundle has local sections, for trivialisations are equivalent to sections. Thus we only have to prove that if  $p_H: G \rightarrow G/H$  has local sections, then it is a principal  $H$ -bundle. Suppose  $\mathcal{U} = \{U_\alpha\}$  is a cover of  $X$  and for each index  $\alpha$  we have continuous sections  $\sigma_\alpha: U_\alpha \rightarrow p_H^{-1}(U_\alpha)$  of the map  $p_H^{-1}(U_\alpha) \rightarrow U_\alpha$  induced by  $\alpha$ . For each  $\alpha$  the map

$$U_\alpha \times H \xrightarrow{\varphi_\alpha} p_H^{-1}(U_\alpha)$$

given by

$$(u, h) \mapsto \sigma_\alpha(u)h$$

is clearly a bijective map at the level of sets. It is continuous because  $\sigma_\alpha$  is continuous and multiplication in  $G$  is continuous on  $G \times G$ . To see the inverse is continuous, we examine the inverse more closely. If  $g \in p_H^{-1}(U_\alpha)$ , and we write  $u = p_H(g)$  then  $g$  and  $\sigma(u)$  lie on the same fibre of  $p$ , namely the coset  $gH$ . It follows that there is a unique  $h (=h_\alpha(g))$  in  $H$  such that  $\sigma_\alpha(u)h = g$ . The inverse map is then  $g \mapsto (p_H(g), h_\alpha(g))$ . It is clear that  $g \mapsto h_\alpha(g)$  is a continuous map from  $p_H^{-1}(U_\alpha)$  to  $H$ . Indeed  $h_\alpha(g) = (\sigma_\alpha(p(g)))^{-1}g$ , exhibiting  $h_\alpha$  as a composite of continuous maps on  $G$ . This gives local trivialisations. Since  $p_H: G \rightarrow G/H$  is  $H$ -equivariant and has local trivialisations, we are done by Problem (12) of your Mid-Term exam.  $\square$

**Remark 2.1.2.** It may be instructive to work out the 1-cocycles arising from the  $\sigma_\alpha$  in the proof of the lemma. For two indices  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , define

$$h_{\alpha\beta}: U_{\alpha\beta} \rightarrow H$$

by

$$h_{\alpha\beta}(u) = \sigma_\alpha(u)^{-1}\sigma_\beta(u)$$

for  $u \in U_{\alpha\beta}$ . Again, since  $\sigma_\alpha(u)$  and  $\sigma_\beta(u)$  lie in the same coset of  $H$  (recall, fibres of  $p$  are cosets of  $H$ ), therefore  $h_{\alpha\beta}$  does indeed take values in  $H$ . Moreover, it is continuous since taking inverses and multiplication are continuous operations. Obviously  $(h_{\alpha\beta})$  is a 1-cocycle.

**2.2. The space  $E(G/H)$  and the space  $E/H$ .** Let  $\pi: E \rightarrow X$ , and  $H$  be as above, and assume  $p_H: G \rightarrow G/H$  has local sections. Now  $G$  acts on  $G/H$  and hence we get the associated fibre bundle  $\varpi: E(G/H) \rightarrow X$ . Clearly if  $E$  is the trivial principal bundle  $X \times G$ , then  $E(G/H) = X \times (G/H)$  by construction of  $E(F)$  via 1-cocycles. However,  $X \times (G/H) = (X \times G)/H$ . Thus  $E(G/H) = E/H$  in this case. In the general case, suppose  $\mathcal{U} = \{U_\alpha\}$  is an open cover and we have  $G$ -trivialisations

$$\varphi_\alpha: G_{U_\alpha} \xrightarrow{\sim} \pi^{-1}(U_\alpha) = U_\alpha \times_X E$$

giving rise to the 1-cocycle  $(g_{\alpha\beta})$ . Then

$$E = \coprod_{\alpha} (U_\alpha \times G)/R$$

for the equivalence relation  $R$  induced by  $(g_{\alpha\beta})$ . If  $X' = \coprod_{\alpha} U_\alpha$ , then the principal  $G$ -bundle  $E_{X'} \rightarrow X'$  is a trivial torsor, and  $E_{X'}(G/H)$  is therefore isomorphic to  $X' \times (G/H) = (X' \times G)/H$ . The 1-cocycle  $(g_{\alpha\beta})$  gives rise to an equivalence  $R_H$  relation on  $(X' \times G)/H$  and  $E(G/H)$  has a realisation as  $(X' \times G/H)/R_H$ . Since both  $R$  and  $R_H$  arise from  $(g_{\alpha\beta})$  and the left action of  $G$  on  $X' \times G$  commutes with the right action of  $G$ , it is not hard to see that the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \coprod_{\alpha} U_{\alpha} \times G & \xrightarrow{\text{modulo } R} & E \\ \text{modulo } H \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{modulo } H \\ (\coprod_{\alpha} U_{\alpha} \times G)/H & \xrightarrow{(\text{modulo } R)/H} & E/H \\ \parallel & & \parallel \\ \coprod_{\alpha} U_{\alpha} \times (G/H) & \xrightarrow{\text{modulo } R_H} & E(G/H) \end{array}$$

The net result is that we have  $E(G/H) = E/H$ .

There is a more canonical way of seeing this which is perhaps more illustrative. Let  $\varepsilon \in G$  be the identity element, and  $\xi_0 \in G/H$  the image of  $\varepsilon$  under the natural map  $p: G \rightarrow G/H$ . We have a natural continuous map

$$\varpi: E \rightarrow E(G/H)$$

given by

$$e \mapsto [e, \xi_0].$$

Note that  $[e, \xi_0] = [e', \xi_0]$  if and only if there is an element (necessarily unique)  $g \in G$  such that  $(e', \xi_0) = (eg, g^{-1}\xi_0)$ . This forces the equation  $g\xi_0 = \xi_0$ , i.e.,  $g \in H$ . Thus  $\varpi(e) = \varpi(e')$  if and only if they are in the same  $H$ -orbit. It follows that

$$(2.2.1) \quad E(G/H) = E/H$$

and under this identification  $\varpi: E \rightarrow E(G/H)$  is the quotient map  $E \rightarrow E/H$ . Let

$$t: E/H \rightarrow X$$

denote the resulting fibre bundle with fibre  $G/H$ . We then have a commutative diagram

$$(2.2.2) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} E & & \\ \pi \downarrow & \searrow \varpi & \\ & & E/H \\ & \swarrow t & \\ & & X \end{array}$$

**Proposition 2.2.3.** *Suppose  $p_H: G \rightarrow G/H$  has local sections. The space  $E$  is a principal  $H$ -bundle over  $E(G/H) = E/H$ .*

*Proof.* Clearly  $\varpi: E \rightarrow E/H$  is  $H$ -equivariant for the trivial  $H$ -action on  $E/H$ . Let  $\mathcal{W} = \{W_i\}$  be a trivializing cover for the principal  $H$ -bundle  $p_H: G \rightarrow G/H$ . Let  $\mathcal{U} = \{U_\alpha\}$  be a trivializing cover for the principal  $G$ -bundle  $\pi: E \rightarrow X$ . Then  $\mathcal{U}$  is also a trivializing cover for the fibre-bundle  $t: E/H \rightarrow X$ . It follows that on  $t^{-1}(U_\alpha)$  we can find an open cover  $\mathcal{V} = \{V_{\alpha i}\}$  such that each  $V_{\alpha i}$  is homeomorphic to  $U_\alpha \times W_i$ , and  $\varpi^{-1}(V_{\alpha i}) \rightarrow V_{\alpha i}$  is a trivial principal  $H$ -bundle. From Problem (12) of the mid-term, the result follows.  $\square$

### 3. Reduction of structure groups

Let  $\pi: E \rightarrow X$  be a principal  $G$ -bundle and  $H$  a closed subgroup of  $G$ . Recall that this principal  $G$ -bundle is said to have a reduction of structure group to  $H$  if there is an open cover  $\mathcal{U} = \{U_\alpha\}$  and 1-cocycle  $(h_{\alpha\beta})$  for  $E \rightarrow X$  with respect to  $\mathcal{U}$  such that the  $h_{\alpha\beta}$  take values in  $H$ .

There is another way of viewing this. If  $\mathcal{H}$  is the sheaf  $U \mapsto \{U \xrightarrow{\psi} H \mid \psi \text{ is continuous}\}$  and  $\mathcal{G}$  the sheaf  $U \mapsto \{U \xrightarrow{\varphi} G \mid \varphi \text{ is continuous}\}$  then we have a natural map

$$h_*: H^1(X, \mathcal{H}) \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{G})$$

for every 1-cocycle with values in  $H$  is a 1-cocycle with values in  $G$  and if two of them are  $H$ -cohomologous, then they are  $G$ -cohomologous. Let  $\zeta \in H^1(X, \mathcal{G})$  be the element defined by the isomorphism class of  $E$ . The structure group of  $E$  is *reducible to  $H$*  if and only if  $\zeta$  is in the image of  $h_*$ . In this case, a specific choice of an element  $\xi \in H^1(X, \mathcal{H})$  such that  $h_*\xi = \zeta$  is a *reduction of structure group of  $E$  to  $H$* .

**Assumption:** From now on we assume that the map  $G \rightarrow G/H$  has *local sections*.

**3.1.** Suppose we are given a 1-cocycle  $(h_{\alpha\beta})$  for  $E \rightarrow X$  with respect to  $\mathcal{U}$  such that the  $h_{\alpha\beta}$  take values in  $H$ . We can construct a principal  $H$ -bundle

$$p: P \rightarrow H$$

from our cocycle, and we have a natural  $H$ -equivariant inclusion of a closed subspace  $i: P \hookrightarrow E$  such that  $\pi \circ i = p$ :

$$(3.1.1) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} P & \xrightarrow{i} & E \\ & \searrow p & \downarrow \pi \\ & & X \end{array}$$

In fact the natural inclusion  $\coprod_{\alpha} U_{\alpha} \times H \hookrightarrow \coprod_{\alpha} U_{\alpha} \times G$  is  $H$ -equivariant for the right and left actions, and since  $P$  and  $E$  are obtained by quotienting by the same cocycle acting on the left, the right action survives the compatible quotienting processes and gives  $i: P \hookrightarrow E$ .

Conversely, given a commutative diagram as above with  $i: P \rightarrow E$  an  $H$ -equivariant inclusion map, identifying  $P$  as a  $H$ -stable closed subspace of  $E$ , we can find local sections  $\sigma_{\alpha}: U_{\alpha} \rightarrow p^{-1}(U_{\alpha})$  of  $p^{-1}(U_{\alpha}) \rightarrow U_{\alpha}$  and maps

$$h_{\alpha\beta}: U_{\alpha\beta} \rightarrow H$$

satisfying

$$\sigma_{\beta}(u) = \sigma_{\alpha}(u)h_{\alpha\beta}(u) \quad (u \in U_{\alpha\beta}).$$

Then  $(h_{\alpha\beta})$  is a 1-cocycle. Now  $i \circ \sigma_{\alpha} = \tau_{\alpha}$  (say) give rise to local sections of  $\pi: E \rightarrow X$ , and since  $i$  is  $H$ -equivariant, the corresponding cocycle is precisely  $(h_{\alpha\beta})$ . In other words we have a reduction of the structure group  $G$  to  $H$ .

There is yet another way of seeing that principal  $H$ -sub-bundles  $p: P \rightarrow X$  of  $\pi: E \rightarrow X$  give a reduction of structure group of  $E$  to  $H$ . Note that by  $H$ -sub-bundle we mean that  $p: P \rightarrow X$  fits into the diagram (3.1.1) with  $i: P \rightarrow E$   $H$ -equivariant and an inclusion of a closed subspace. Now  $H$  acts on  $G$  from the left by multiplication, and since this action commutes with the right action of  $G$  on  $G$ , the resulting associated fibre bundle  $P(G)$  has a right  $G$ -action on it, and hence is necessarily a principal  $G$ -bundle since it is already locally trivial (using the trivialisations of  $P \rightarrow X$ ). In fact the transition functions for  $P(G)$  are the same as that for  $P$  and hence  $P(G)$  has a reduction of structure group to  $H$ . We shall show that  $P(G) \rightarrow X$  and  $\pi: E \rightarrow X$  are isomorphic as principal  $G$ -bundles. That will show that  $H$ -sub-bundles like  $P$  give rise to reductions of structure groups. To that end, let  $[a, g] \in P(G)$ . Recall  $[a, g] = [a', g']$  if and only if there is an  $h \in H$  such that  $(a', g') = (ah, h^{-1}g)$ . Define

$$P(G) \rightarrow E$$

by

$$[a, g] \mapsto i(a)g.$$

This is clearly well defined (since  $i$  is  $H$ -equivariant),  $G$ -equivariant, and continuous. The inverse map is as follows. Let  $e \in E$  and set  $x = \pi(e)$ . Let  $a \in P$  be any element in the fibre of  $x$  in  $P$ . (Note that if  $a' \in P$  is another element such that  $p(a') = x$  then there is a unique  $h \in H$  such that  $a' = ah$ .) Let  $g \in G$  be the unique element such that  $e = i(a)g$ . The element  $[a, g] \in P(G)$  does not depend on the choice of  $a$  in  $p^{-1}(x)$ , for by the  $H$ -equivariance of  $i$ , we have  $e = i(ah)h^{-1}g$  for  $h \in H$ , and  $[a, g] = [ah, h^{-1}g]$ . The map

$$E \rightarrow P(G)$$

given by  $e \mapsto [a, g]$ , with  $a$  and  $g$  as above, is continuous, and gives the required inverse. Thus

$$P(G) \xrightarrow{\sim} E.$$

**3.2. A particular reduction of structure group.** Diagram (2.2.2) can be expanded to

$$(3.2.1) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} & & t^*E \\ & \tilde{t} \swarrow & \downarrow \tilde{\pi} \\ E & & E/H \\ \pi \downarrow & \searrow \varpi & \\ & & X \\ & \swarrow t & \end{array}$$

where  $t^*E$  is a short-hand for  $E/H \times_X E$  and  $\tilde{t}$  and  $\tilde{\pi}$  are the projections. We have a map

$$\tilde{\sigma}_0: E \rightarrow t^*E$$

given by  $e \mapsto (\varpi(e), e)$ . This is a section, and hence identifies  $E$  as a closed subspace of  $t^*E$ . Clearly  $\tilde{\pi} \circ \tilde{\sigma}_0 = \varpi$ . Further, for  $h \in H$  and  $e \in E$

$$\tilde{\sigma}_0(eh) = (\varpi(eh), eh) = (\varpi(e), eh) = (\varpi(e), e) \cdot h = (\tilde{\sigma}_0(e))h.$$

Thus  $\tilde{\sigma}_0$  is  $H$ -equivariant. Recall that reductions of structure groups are characterized by diagrams such as (3.1.1). Thus  $E \rightarrow E/H$  is a principal  $H$ -sub-bundle of  $t^*E$ , thus giving a reduction of structure group of  $\tilde{\pi}: t^*E \rightarrow E/H$  to  $H$ .

**Theorem 3.2.2.** *Let  $H$  be a closed subgroup of  $G$  such that the canonical map  $p_H: G \rightarrow G/H$  has local sections. With notations as above, reductions of structure group of the principal  $G$ -bundle  $E$  to  $H$  are in bijective correspondence with sections of the fibre bundle  $t: E/H \rightarrow X$ . Equivalently, such reductions are in bijective correspondence with  $G$ -equivariant continuous maps from  $E$  to  $G/H$ .*

*Proof.* We will prove in the next lecture that sections of  $E/H \xrightarrow{t} X$  are in bijective correspondence with  $G$ -equivariant maps from  $E$  to  $G/H$ . In fact we will prove, more generally, that sections of  $\pi_F: E(F) \rightarrow X$  are in one-to-one correspondence with  $G$ -equivariant maps  $\varphi: E \rightarrow F$ .

Next, we have a commutative diagram which is formally like (3.1.1) namely

$$(3.2.3) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} E & \xrightarrow{\tilde{\sigma}_0} & t^*E \\ & \searrow \varpi & \downarrow \tilde{\pi} \\ & & E/H \end{array}$$

If we have a section  $\sigma: X \rightarrow E/H$  of  $t: E/H \rightarrow X$ , then  $\sigma^*(3.2.3)$  is a diagram of the form (3.1.1) with  $P = \sigma^*E$ ,  $i = \sigma^*\tilde{\sigma}_0$ , etc. Thus we have a reduction of the structure group for  $E$  to  $H$ .

Conversely, suppose we have a reduction of structure group of  $E$  to  $H$ . In other words we have a commutative diagram as in (3.1.1). Since  $p: P \rightarrow X$  is a principal  $H$ -bundle, we have local sections  $s_\alpha: U_\alpha \rightarrow p^{-1}(U_\alpha)$  of  $p$  such that  $\mathcal{U} = \{U_\alpha\}$  forms an open cover of  $X$ . Let  $(h_{\alpha\beta})$  be the corresponding 1-cocycle for the local

trivialisations of  $p: P \rightarrow X$  given by the  $s_\alpha$ . Recall that for a pair of indices  $(\alpha, \beta)$ ,  $h_{\alpha\beta}: U_{\alpha\beta} \rightarrow H$  is the unique map satisfying

$$s_\beta(u) = s_\alpha(u)h_{\alpha\beta}(u) \quad (u \in U_{\alpha\beta}).$$

Let  $\tau_\alpha = i \circ s_\alpha$ . Then  $\tau_\alpha$  is a local section of  $E \rightarrow X$  over  $U_\alpha$ . Moreover, since  $i$  is  $H$ -equivariant, we have

$$\tau_\beta(u) = \tau_\alpha(u)h_{\alpha\beta}(u) \quad (u \in U_{\alpha\beta}).$$

Let  $\sigma_\alpha = \varpi \circ \tau_\alpha: U_\alpha \rightarrow E/H$ . Since  $\varpi(eh) = \varpi(e)$  for all  $e \in E$  and  $h \in H$ , it follows that

$$\sigma_\alpha|_{U_{\alpha\beta}} = \sigma_\beta|_{U_{\alpha\beta}}$$

for all  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ . Thus we get a section

$$\sigma: X \rightarrow E/H$$

of  $t: E/H \rightarrow X$ . □

**Remark 3.2.4.** If  $\varphi: E \rightarrow G/H$  is  $G$ -equivariant, then the corresponding  $H$ -subbundle of  $\pi: E \rightarrow X$  can be obtained directly by setting  $P = \varphi^{-1}(\xi_0)$  where  $\xi_0$  is the distinguished point of  $G/H$ , namely the image of the identity element  $\varepsilon \in G$  under the natural map  $G \rightarrow G/H$ . Since  $\varphi$  is  $G$ -equivariant, and since  $\xi_0$  is  $H$ -invariant, clearly  $P$  is  $H$ -stable. It is not hard to see that  $P \rightarrow X$  is in fact a principal  $H$  bundle and the inclusion of  $P$  into  $E$  is  $H$ -equivariant.

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